

Luke 6:43 “For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit,

Luke 6:44 for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush.

Luke 6:45 The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Luke 6:46 “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?”

Luke 6:47 Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like:

Luke 6:48 he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.

Luke 6:49 But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.”

Luke 6:43-44 “For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit [...]”



A tree grows depending on the quality of its roots. If its roots are “well functioning,” meaning they absorb water and nutrients well, then they can produce plump and juicy fruits. If not, their products can be rotten and in bad shape.

How can we build ourselves from the inside? Our roots need to be healthy. How can we build them? I think, personally, that by reading the Bible, and building a strong foundation based on the Lord’s words and teachings, as well as a solid relationship with the Lord and the saints, we will be able to produce good fruits.

Having bad fruits can also impede the Lord’s teachings to others. If the fruit is bad or rotten, then when others eat it, they will fall ill, and maybe never touch that fruit ever again! So, I believe that when preaching the gospel, or when talking to saints, our roots need to be strong in order to propagate good seeds and good fruits, attracting others towards the Lord.

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The fruits of the divine life ("good tree") and the natural life ("bad tree") are completely different (**Gal. 5:19-23**); what kind of life bears what kind of fruit (**Rom. 6:21-22; 7:4~5**). If we live and work by the life of God ("good tree"), we will naturally reveal spiritual "good fruit"; otherwise, what people can see in us will be from our flesh ("bad tree") and the "bad fruit" produced. Please note that thorn bushes and the bramble bush were what God cursed after man fell (**Gen. 3:18**), and grapes represent the rich life of Christ and figs its testimony. Do our church services produce good fruit?

Words reveal a person's intentions (speaking is the voice of the heart); if our heart accepts any thoughts, we will express them through our mouths. The effect of a person's life comes from the heart (Proverbs 4:23); therefore, the inner intention must be dealt with first, and then there will be normal and mature growth and life on the outside. Therefore, I will be very careful to speak in front of anyone.



Luke 6:45 The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, **for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.**

▪ **The true nature of people's hearts can often be seen when they speak without thinking.**

Based on this point, I must become a good listener first when I serve saints and encourage saints to speak as much as possible. I can understand where they are and try to know them deeply from what they said because they speak from their hearts. On the other hand, I must be careful about what I say to the saints and serve them by Christ inside me and not by the natural man inside me.

▪ **Rethink gospel preaching.**

When I preach the gospel, I talk to the gospel friends. What I say reflects who I truly am. If people do not believe what I say, I need to come to the Lord to repent since at the end of the day, we preach the gospel by who we really are and not by our lips. What I am filled with will flow out, which could be Christ and also bad things. Again, what I say reflects who I really am and what I really care about. In other words, do I depend on who I really am to preach the gospel? What I say must match my heart.

When I preach the gospel, I need to come to the Lord to prepare myself and ask for help from the Lord to purify myself. When I meet gospel friends, I can then testify Christ through what I speak.



Luke 6:46 “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?”

Matt. 7:22-23 generate a critical alert for us. Many times, some seemingly “so-called good” results of our operations, such as demons being cast out and mighty works being performed, were not actually carried out by the leading of the Lord, but rather by our own natural hearts. That does not please the Lord at all. Often, our operations fall into the trap of religion, and not based on the life of Christ.

Matt. 7:22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and **cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works** in your name?’

Matt. 7:23 And then will I declare to them, ‘**I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.**’

Many of us often say "Thank the Lord" and "Praise the Lord" with our mouths, but in our actual living, everything originates with our own minds and ignores the Lord's speaking. The Lord knows that many of us respect Him with only our lips, but our hearts may be far away from Him (**Matt.15:8**). The Lord does not look at people like we do. We often look at their appearance, but He looks at their heart (**1st Sam. 16:7**). “Lord, please grant me a pure heart toward you and every person.”

Luke 6:47 Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them...

Luke 6:48 he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock...

When we hear the words (Greek, *logos*) of the Lord in the Bible, through the brothers and sisters, or through the servants of the Lord, we must first come to the Lord Himself, and realize that the words we are hearing are from the Lord Himself. Otherwise, we may hear many words, but there may be little effect, and we may not obey the words. When we come to the Lord, and then hear His words (*logos*), the words may become *rhema* (the Lord's speaking to us in a particular way).

Hearing the Lord's words and doing them does not come cheaply. It requires building (6:48). If we think we can easily understand the Bible and carry it out, we are mistaken. To hear and do requires digging deep and laying a foundation on the rock (Greek, *petras* = the revelation of Christ). To dig deep may mean to prepare ourselves. For example, in 2021, do I have a plan? How can the church (Greek, *oikia* = house) be more blessed this year? What steps will I take? Whom will I accompany this week, this month? Whom will I email? How many chapters of the Bible will I read? Will I write down the Lord's speaking to me? But I must pray first, individually and with companions. Then, the Lord may give me a plan.

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Luke 6:48 he is like a man building a **house**, who dug deep and laid **the foundation on the rock**. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been **well built**.

Luke 6:49 But **the one who hears and does not do them** is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.”

The rock does not refer to Christ, but the revelation of Jesus Christ. The life and work of the saints must be based on fresh revelations in order to fulfill the will of Christ in a timely manner.

Everything will test the lives and works of the saints. A house (typifying the church) built on a rock that does not collapse is like a building built with gold (the Father's life), silver (the Son's redemption), and precious stones (the Spirit's transformation), which can withstand the test of fire (also the force of the flood upon the stream in **Luke 6:49**). (**1 Cor. 3:12-13**.)

A house that collapses is like a building built with wood, grass, and straw (human natural strength), and will be destroyed by the test of fire. (**1 Cor. 3:12-15**).

How about our church life?



Luke 6:46-49 Build your house on the rock

Yunliang Li

- The four verses warn that each of us should be a true Christian, not only by what we say and what we do, but also by what we are in Jesus Christ. Do we often fall into such a situation that we regularly attend the Lord's meeting, the praise and worship gathering, and even preach the gospel to our friends, but we relegate God to a lower position in our heart?
- I should become the person mentioned in **Luke 6:48** who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. How can I have such a stable foundation in the church life, and even grow into this kind of rock in the church life? Jesus tells us that we should react to the words of God. This reaction is a kind of transformation of our mind. Once we are truly touched by the words of God, the words of God will become functional in ourselves and guide us in our daily life. However, if we don't read the Bible, live in the church life, and participate in the services of the church, it will be very hard for us to really know God.

Luke 6:49 But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the **ground** without a **foundation**. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that **house** was great.”

The ground (Greek, ge = earth) may refer to our natural ideas and opinions. To read the Bible and hear the Lord's words are wonderful. But we may not experience much growth if the words of the Bible are colored by our natural thoughts and desires. For example, we may expect the Lord to bless us with a good job, a good grade or a good house, and even testify in such a way. Such a testimony is not bad. But if our testimony is the same this year and next year, we may not have much growth.

The foundation is the “rock” (v. 48) which is the revelation of Christ for the building up of the church (the “house”). How can we have such a revelation? We need the words of God through the servants of the Lord, older brothers and sisters, and our companions, to train our mind to come to the word, to know Christ, and His desire, and to carry out what He desires (to bless and build the church). Without the revelation of Christ, much of our Bible reading, or one hour of church gathering on Sunday morning, may be “earth” (in our experience) upon which we are building. We may think we love God and have something to testify, but our foundation may still be our “good” or “noble” thoughts of what is right and wrong. Our life-level may not grow that much.