

Building on the right foundation

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By Judith Biggs

BIG SANDY, Texas—My husband and I bought a fixer-upper 13 years ago. If you are considering doing the same thing, here's some advice for you: Don't.

Of course, the price was right. But there were other factors to consider. Since we are do-it-yourself people, we knew ahead of time what kind of time investment was necessary.

Unseen challenges

It was easy to see the things we needed to remodel. The problem was all the things we could not see.

Our challenges began after we expanded the living room. This required taking out a whole section of the outside wall. It was at that time that we discovered that the builder had put untreated wood next to the concrete.

In more places than I care to tell you, the 2-by-4s had turned to sawdust or dirt. Many of the studs were eaten up with rot to varying degrees. Some of the walls had to be completely redone, while others had to be mended.

Spiritual lessons

There are so many spiritual lessons to be learned about the right foundation.

In my own spiritual life I thought I was building on a right foundation.

I started building when I was all of 5 years old. Mamma read the Bible and listened to the preacher. She had to be right. The church I attended had to be right. In many cases Mamma and the church were right. But that is beside the point. I was *not* building on a right foundation.

Through the years I may have looked righteous or even acted righteous with a little remodeling. But what about the foundation?

When my life fell apart and when my church fell apart, I found out that my foundation was rotten.

Little by little I had to shore up the walls and put in a right foundation. This new foundation was based upon God the Father and Christ. I had to build a relationship with Them if I wanted my house to stand up to the storms of life.