

## Foundation

**Story:** In 1992, category 5 hurricane Andrew destroyed thousands of homes in South Florida. Sixty-five (65) people were killed and between 150,000 to 250,000 people were left homeless. There was a total of 1.4 million people without power after the storm. Some residents were without power for up to six months! In total, the damage caused by Hurricane Andrew in both South Florida and Louisiana totaled \$26 billion dollars, at the time the costliest natural disaster in United States history.

Yet, in one area where the wreckage looked like a war zone, one house remained standing. It was still firmly anchored to its foundation. When a reporter asked the homeowner why his house had not been blown away, he replied, "I built this house myself. I also built it according to the Florida state building code. When the code called for 2" x 6" roof trusses, I used 2" x 6" roof trusses. I was told that a house built according to code could withstand a hurricane—and it did."

What would you say if you were asked about the building you live in? You would most likely talk about what color it is, where it's located, the square footage, or the number of bedrooms. You probably wouldn't tell me about the foundation. You probably don't know anything about the foundation, but it is the most important part of the building. Everything else stands upon that base.

### Questions to consider:

What ways have you or your team taken short cuts in workouts or practice?

Do you always give your best or only when others are looking?

How have you seen the storms of life affect those around you?

How can you prepare for the storms before they come?

When the circumstances around you are going well are you tempted to take things easy?

**Context:** Jesus begins the parable in Matthew 7:24 with the word "therefore," which looks back to the entire Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, He gives the "blueprint" or foundation for all people to live their life. The parable of the wise builder and foolish builder confronts the reader as to the decision of each builder as to what they will do when given the "blueprint".

**Story:** Matthew 7:24-29

1. What is more important, the outside appearance or the foundation of the house?
2. How can you make sure your foundation will stand through the storm?
3. What are some storms you have experienced or storms you have seen others experience?

**Key Verse:** "...the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock." Matthew 7:25

**Anchor to remember:**

- Build your life on a strong foundation
- Attention to details are vital and will allow us to stand the storms of life