

Words of Life

(July 20, 2007)

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:58

This verse has long been a favorite of mine. It is an instructional verse Paul is giving to the Corinthians as he is concluding this letter to them. I think one of the reasons I have always loved the verse is the opening phrase instructing the readers to be steadfast and immovable. That is something I have always wanted in my life. I have always wanted to be the kind of Christian that does not waiver in the hard times. I have wanted to be the one who remains so steady that no wave of circumstance, regardless of size, takes me down.

When I read this verse, I always think of a lighthouse. We have all probably seen calendars or cards or paintings of lighthouses during raging storms. They are the picture of strength and invincibility. The sea can be raging, the waves hammering against the rocky shoreline, and the distant clouds ominous. But in the midst of it, there is a sense that the lighthouse will not be moved. It seems to rise up as an extension of the rock and be so secure that it will weather any size wave.

I believe the lighthouse is an excellent picture of what the apostle Paul is saying in this verse. But it is only as we learn how the lighthouse keeps from moving that the illustration comes alive. For you see, the lighthouse tower itself is not strong enough to withstand the tremendous forces of the waves hammering against it. When the storms come and the waves begin pushing on that tower, they actually begin to travel down from the point where they hit to the base. Once they reach the base, the force of the wave is transferred to the foundation. If the foundation moves, the whole building comes down. But if the foundation remains steadfast, the whole building stays intact.

This is EXACTLY what happens to us as Christians. Imagine yourself as that lighthouse tower. Some wave of circumstance hits your life. It may be a big one. So big you can not withstand it. The force upon you is so great that you can almost feel it physically as it begins to search for the foundation you are built upon. If the foundation is your own strength, the whole building will come down. BUT...if the foundation is the word of God, the building CAN NOT come down because the word of God will outlast heaven and earth! (Mat 24:35) This whole earth will one day be dissolved with a fervent heat, but the word of God will outlast the violent destruction. So there is no storm the word of God isn't able to withstand.

The difference between ourselves and the lighthouse is this. The lighthouse doesn't have a brain. So it doesn't get nervous at the size of the waves coming at it. It doesn't become discouraged thinking "why am I always the lighthouse that gets hammered? Why doesn't that lighthouse over there get any of the action?" Also, the lighthouse doesn't get weary from the long storms. It just allows the forces to go right down to the foundation and meet up with the unmovable bedrock. Oh, how we can learn from this brainless lighthouse! Rather than becoming nervous, discouraged, or weary, we must learn to allow the waves to meet the foundation of the word of God. He is able, we are not. As we learn this lesson, we will find tremendous peace in the journey. I certainly have not mastered this in my own life, but I desire to. Let's pray for one another to become as the lighthouse....steadfast and immoveable. Pastor Ted

The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

John 6:63