

## Are You Making Progress Spiritually?

"(v.21) Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. (v.22) On Judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' (v.23) But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'

(v.24) 'Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. (v.25) Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. (v.26) But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. (v.27) When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.'

(v.28) When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, (v.29) for he taught with real authority—quite unlike their teachers of religious law."

Matthew 7:21-29  
New Living Translation

### Statements:

- There are many individuals who do **not** feel they are growing spiritually.
- They are trying . . . they are giving it their best shot, yet they are not growing spiritually.

→ Jesus speaks about different kinds of people.

- Some folks set out to build a house and it falls while other men build a house and it stands.
- Some folks seek to build a life and it stands while others build a life and it falls.

### What is the difference between these persons?

**One thing:** . . . as important as doctrine is, it is not the **factor** which makes the difference.

**Another thing:** . . . as important as worthy aspirations are, it is not the **factor** which makes the difference.

**One last thing:** . . . as important as passion is, it does not **make** a difference.

## HOW CAN YOU TELL THESE BUILDERS APART?

It is the storm which reveals which house is the sound one,  
which spiritual progress is the authentic one.

What is important when the storm comes? Will you have built on your theology? Or  
will you have built on your religious activities? Or will you have built on  
the strength of your goals?  
**That is ALL sand!**

Only that house will stand, only that life will come through the storm  
which is founded on a surrendered will to the will of Jesus the Christ!  
Our will, if we are to have spiritual advance, must be brought into submission to the will of  
Jesus Christ!

That is, one must say with one's will—**LORD** and really mean it!

The difference between these 2 builders who both said, "Lord, Lord",  
is not in the word they used, but in what they understood that word to mean.

It means that we give him reverence for he is God, the Messiah, the Christ!

It means that we call him Master!

It means to call Jesus LORD and to recognize him as my Commander-in-Chief to whom I give  
my submission!

Are you ready to submit your sovereignty to Jesus the Christ this morning?  
Would you like one of us to pray with you about this?