

# EXAMINING OUR FAITH quotes

1 “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.” 2 Corinthians 13:5.

(Picture #1 - with soil)

2 Who represents this sandy soil or ground?

“And **the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground**, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” Genesis 2:7.

Since mankind was formed of the ground, if we build upon this sandy soil, it would symbolize placing our trust in mankind in order to support our entire structure of faith.

Also, in Christ’s parable of the sower (Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23; Mark 4:3-20 ; Luke 8:5-15), the 4 different kinds of ground which the seeds fell upon represents “**the word that was sown in their hearts**” (Mark 4:15).

As the different types of ground represented the soil of the heart of each individual, then this would symbolize placing our trust in ourselves in order to support our entire structure of faith.

Also sandy soil symbolizes:

“...thy people **Israel be as the sand of the sea**”. Isaiah 10:22.

Since the chosen people of Israel were as the sand, then this would symbolize placing our trust in being part of the chosen people of God, or in being members of His church, in order to support our entire structure of faith.

What will happen if we any one of us supports our structure of faith upon any of these things?

“Thus saith the LORD; **Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm**, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.” Jeremiah 17:5.

(Picture #2 - soil removed and rock exposed)

### 3 Who represents this solid Rock?

“...ascribe ye greatness unto our **God. He is the Rock**, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.” Deuteronomy 32:3-4.

“In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion. Deliver me in thy righteousness, and cause me to escape: incline thine ear unto me, and save me. Be thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort: thou hast given commandment to save me; for **thou art my rock** and my fortress.” Psalms 71:1-3.

“...they (children of Israel during the exodus from Egypt) drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and **that Rock was Christ**.” 1 Corinthians 10:4.

(Picture #3 - Christ as Rock)

### 4 To be closely connected with Jesus is the most important thing in our present life.

“**He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life**: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” John 3:36.

“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. **He that hath the Son hath life**; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life....And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. **This is the true God, and eternal life**.” 1 John 5:11-12, 20.

(Picture #4 - foundation)

## 5 Who or what would represent this foundation?

“...the **foundation of the apostles and prophets**”. Ephesians 2:20.

“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, **which is Jesus Christ.**” 1 Corinthians 3:11.

The foundation supporting our faith is Jesus Christ, the truth, the Word of God, and thus the Old Testament (prophets) and the New Testament (apostles).

(Picture #5 - Word of God as foundation)

**6** If we choose to lay our foundation any place other than on God’s inspired word, then it cannot be the truth, and it will crumble, fall and be destroyed because it is not placed upon the solid Rock!

“To the law and to the testimony: **if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.**” Isaiah 8:20.

“...them that dwell in houses of clay, **whose foundation is in the dust...They are destroyed** from morning to evening: they perish for ever without any regarding it. Doth not their excellency which is in them go away? they die, even without wisdom.” Job 4:19-21.

(Picture #6 - pillars)

## 7 What represents these pillars?

“...the **pillar and ground of the truth.**” 1 Timothy 3:15.

The Greek word for “ground” used here is “hedraioma”, and this word translates and means “a support” (Strong’s Exhaustive Greek Concordance, word #1477). And how many of these pillars of truth are there?

“Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath **hewn out her seven pillars**”. Proverbs 7:1.

(Picture #7 - 7 pillars)

8 Out of all of God's word there are 7 particular truths which are major and special doctrines, and thus are of such great importance to the structure of our faith that they are called pillars. These 7 pillars are "hewn out" or carefully carved into shape out of God's word of truth, and who can God use to discover these carefully hewed pillars of truth?

"Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? **them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.** For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little". Isaiah 28:9-10.

What does it mean to be "weaned from the milk"? New-born babies receive all their nutrition from their human mother, which means that all of their nourishment is derived from a human source. It is only after they are weaned and can eat for themselves, that they can subsist on solid non-human food.

"For every **one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.** But **strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age,** even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised **to discern both good and evil.**" Hebrews 5:13-14.

What would it mean to be "drawn from the breasts"? The breasts are connected to a mother, and a woman in Bible prophecy represents a church (see Jeremiah 6:2; Ephesians 5:23-27). So to be drawn from the breasts means to be separated away from the mother church.

This reveals that the individuals which God is able to teach His knowledge and understanding to and be able to discover these properly and carefully hewed pillars out of His word "line upon line; here a little, and there a little" will be those who do not receive all of their knowledge and doctrine from human sources; nor do they remain connected with their corrupt mother church and feed only on what doctrines the church gives them. But they are those who are separated away from all these human sources and are able to study and think for themselves, and God will give these special people all the wisdom needed to understand what is truth.

"If any of you lack wisdom, **let him ask of God,** that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and **it shall be given him.**" James 1:5.

**9** What are these 7 special major supporting pillars of truth?

#1 - The First Angel's Message

#2 - The Second Angel's Message

#3 - The Temple of God in Heaven, or the Heavenly Sanctuary

#4 - The High Priest's Ministration in the Cleansing of this Heavenly Sanctuary

#5 - The Sabbath of the Fourth Commandment of the Decalogue

#6 - The Third Angel's Message

#7 - The Non-Immortality of the Wicked or of the Soul