



# Monthly Devotionals

July

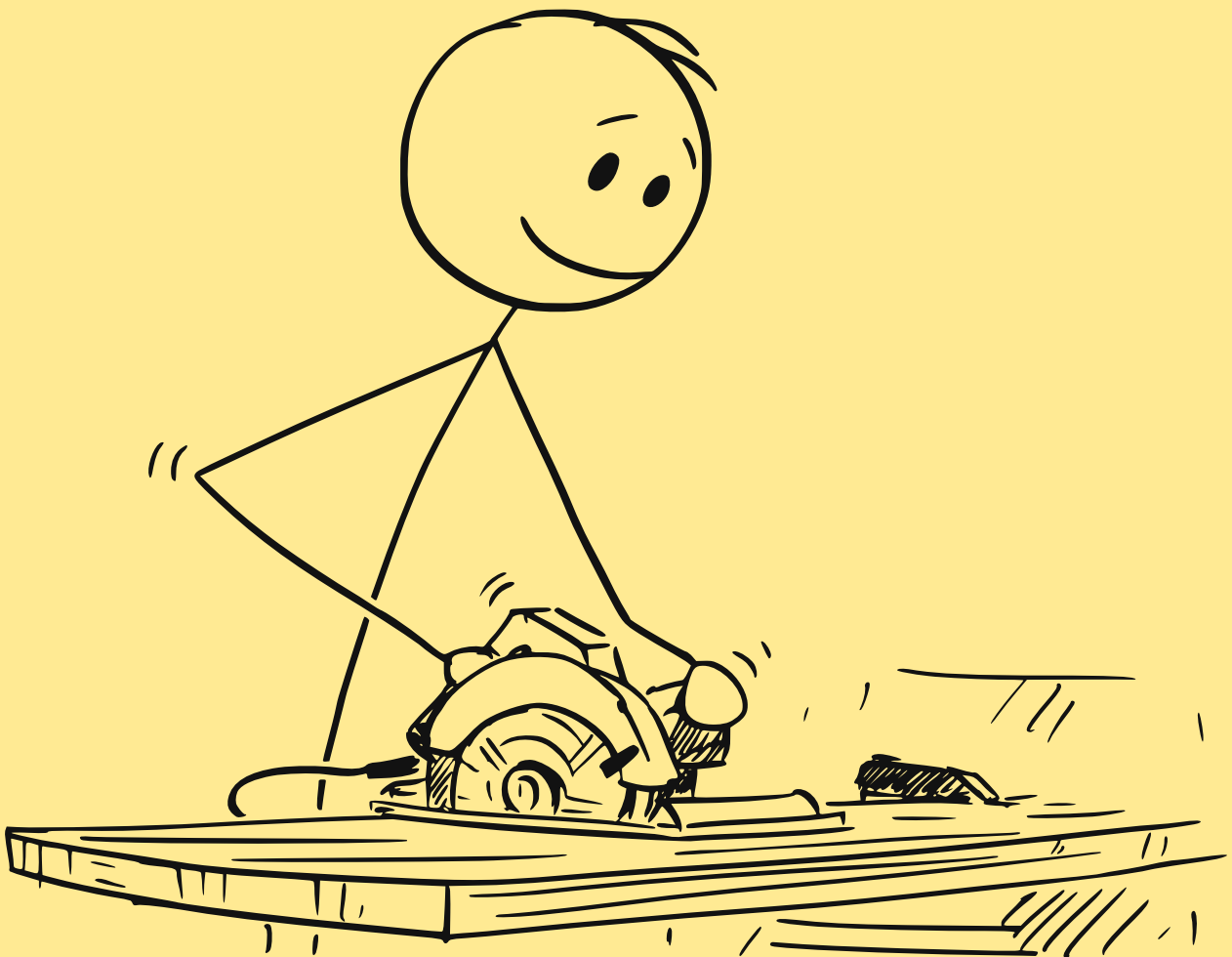
# *Foundation Building*



A Life Built on God

A desire to know God and walk in His will cannot come without self-forgetfulness. This does not mean we do not take care of ourselves but that we should pursue a life centered on God's will, rather than on our own.

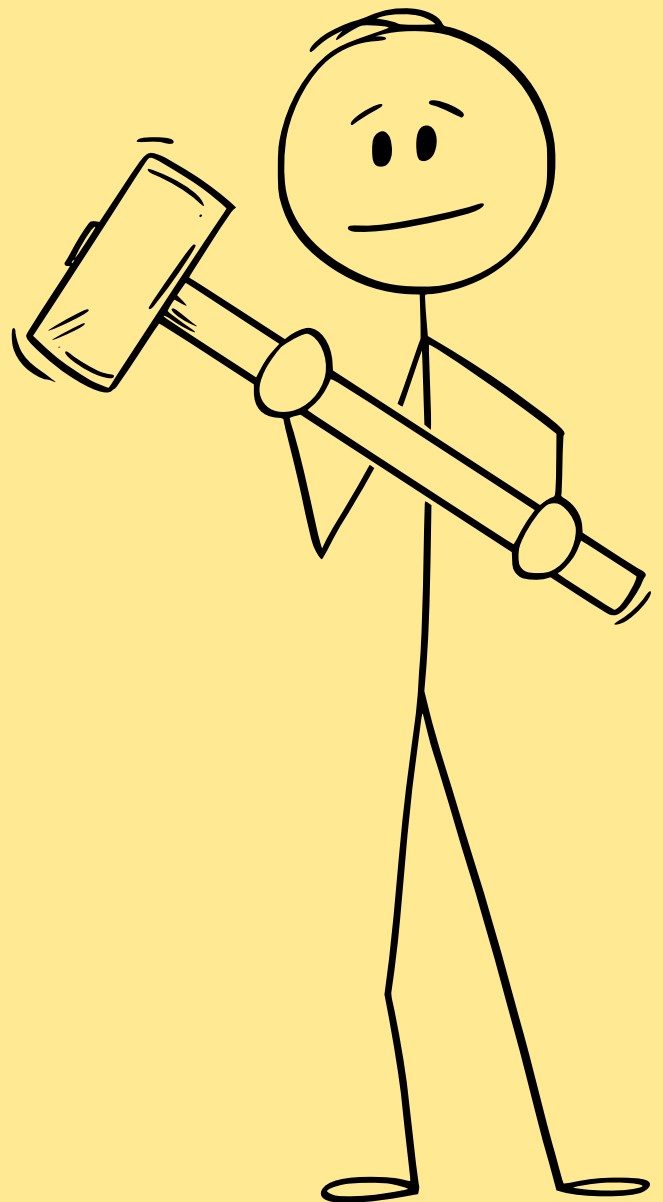
To start building a foundation for spiritual maturity and growth, we each have to address whether Jesus is truly our sole focus and the functioning 'boss' or Lord of our lives. Through this, we can get to know him better, see more of His love and grow in the ability to love Him more.



## **What would be the difference between a self-centered and a God-centered life?**

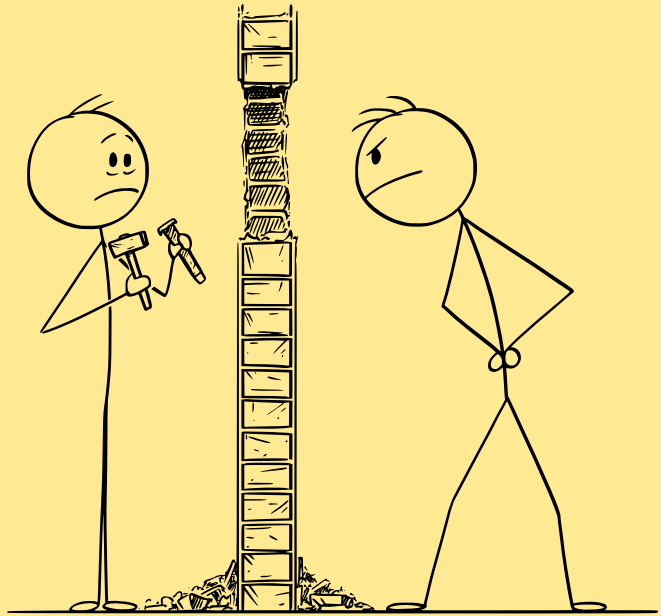
A self-centered person would be: proud of their accomplishments, depending on themselves and their abilities, looking at circumstances from a human perspective, and would seek to be acceptable to the world and its ways.

A God-centered person would be: placing their confidence in God and His ability, being humble before God, seeking first His kingdom and righteousness, and would look for His perspective in every circumstance.



# Genesis 2 & 3

## What do you see?



Countless times across the Bible, we see people act according to their self-focused desires from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Let's read **Genesis 2:16-17** and **3:1-7**.

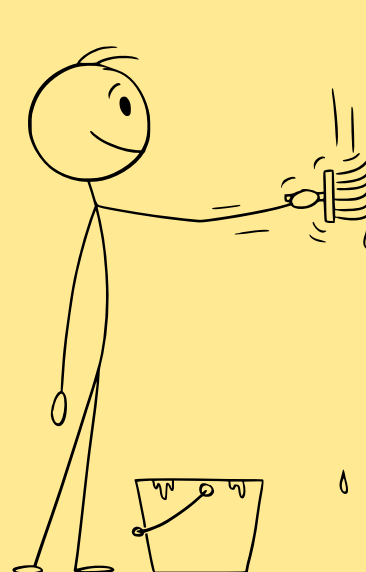
God specifically told Adam and Eve not to eat from the tree. It was a direct command from the Father. Then we see Eve being tempted and in verse 6 of chapter 3, she gives the fruit her attention by focusing on it. She then sees it looks good and she desires the wisdom it would give her. Not only did this lead her astray but Adam too.

Eve wasn't functioning with a foundation built on God. Her sinful actions came from a foundational issue; a focus on her wants and desires.

Having a foundation based on self is a sneaky trap because it makes sense from a human perspective. Say we find ourselves in a situation where we feel disappointed by someone else. It makes sense to react with anger or resentment when we are focused on ourselves, but when we focus on God's perspective over that situation, our outlook can be utterly transformed. By building our foundation on God's principles, we are bound to yield greater fruit.

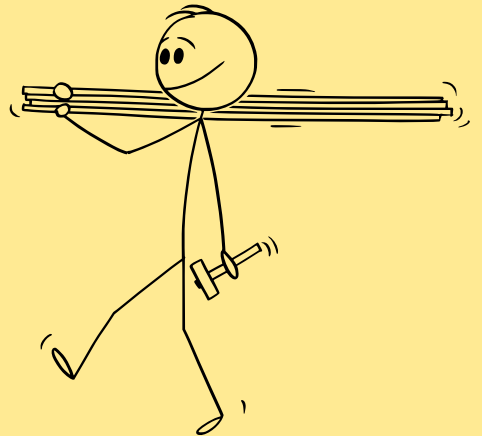
This doesn't mean God is a hard taskmaster who doesn't give us what we need. No, He wants to give us the desires of our hearts, but we must first delight in Him (Psalm 37:4).

“  
**Delight in  
me**



# Key verses

- John 12:23-25
- Numbers 13-14 (focus on the differences between the reactions of the spies and that of Joshua and Caleb)
- Matthew 16:24
- Matthew 6
- Philippians 2



# Prayer Points

Dig deeper with God on:

- What areas in my life are not centered on You?
- How can I repent of these things and then do more for You and Your Kingdom?
- Show me how to wait on You, rather than going ahead with my own plans

