

# *the five* **FOUNDATION STONES**

Build Your Life as You Build the Kingdom • The Stone of Caution

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Proverbs 30:21-23 NIV

**Key question for the series: *What is your life built upon?***

## **Introduction on Caution:**

As we continue on our series, *The Five Foundation Stones*, we have covered the “Stone of Grace”, the “Stone of Wisdom” and the “Stone of Authority”. These first three foundation stones are **progressive** in nature, to help you build a spiritually balanced life, leading to biblical blessing.

The last two stones are **preventative** in nature. As believers in Christ, we desire to progress wisely in our faith journey with the Lord. At the same time, there are evil powers and principalities, ushered by Satan to keep Christians from progress. Preventative wisdom will help us journey cautiously and reverently, that we may overcome the pitfalls, snares and schemes of the Enemy. (John 10:10)

**Key Text: “Under three things the earth trembles under four it cannot bear up: a servant who becomes king, a fool who is full of food, an unloved woman who is married, and a maidservant who displaces her mistress” Proverbs 30:21-23 (NIV)**

## **Definition of Earthquake:**

- Also known as a quake, tremor or temblor, is the result of a sudden release of **energy** in the earth's crust that creates seismic waves.
- Earthquakes are one of the few things that can crack **foundations**.

Why does God use “earthquakes” to warn us?

- There is a negative and destructive energy built into certain **choices** and **actions** that will have **earthquake-like effects** on our lives.

Proverbs 27:12 – “The wise man gives thought to his ways, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.”

## **Building Your Life on the Stone of Caution**

### **Four Cautions in Scripture to Counter Earthquakes:**

#### **1. Unmerited Promotion**

- “Under three things the earth trembles: ***a servant who becomes king...***”
- Some things are meant to serve us and some things are meant to lead us. When we allow what’s meant to serve us to become what’s leading us, an earthquake is on its way.
  - Be careful of what you’re lifting-up and promoting as priority: money, relationships and even family
  - If it’s not in the Word of God, steer clear.

**Key Takeaway: Beware of Idolatry – Idolatry is the practice of making things or people that are meant to serve us into things that lead us.**

#### **2. Unprincipled Prosperity**

- “Under three things the earth trembles: ***...a fool who is full of food...***”
- One of the biggest mysteries of life is the prosperity of a fool. People can experience a certain amount of prosperity, but when it’s not managed wisely, it will fall apart.
  - This happens in our society when **talent** is exalted over **character**
  - Don’t be swayed by Hollywood and “prosperous fools”

**Key Takeaway: Beware of Popularity – Popularity does not equal integrity.**

#### **3. Unrealized Love**

- “Under three things the earth trembles: ***...an unloved woman who is married...***”
- Love the people you are supposed to love first: your family and home.
  - Be verbal about your love towards your family by showing affection and speaking it verbally.
  - Husbands, love your wives well. Wives, love your husbands well.

**Key Takeaway: Beware of Insensitivity – Love them with time, affection and truth, otherwise you’ll have an earthquake on your hands.**

#### **4. Unauthorized Possession**

- “...under four it cannot bear up: ***a maid servant who displaces her mistress.***”
- Unauthorized possessions provide short term pleasure and long term pain
  - “Better a little with the fear of the Lord than great wealth with turmoil” – Proverbs 15:16

**Key Takeaway: Beware of Dishonesty – Don’t steal what does not belong to you: relationships, possessions and positions.**