

The Book of Romans, Lesson 7, Romans 1:9-11, "Be Established"

- ↳ "being established" means to be rendered constant, to be stable, to be made firm so that we aren't easily shaken or moved from our position. Paul's concern for that early church at Rome was that they be established in their faith, know who they were and Who's they were so that they would not swallow things that were not good for them. As young believers, they could be easily tricked into believing false doctrines, Ephesians 4:13-15.
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1. We need to be established, to stand fast and be mature in a desperate way because we live in a very deceitful world.

- ✓ Not only is the world deceitful, but so are our sinful hearts, Jeremiah 17:9. Be warned, not every thought that crosses your mind is from God! "Be established in word and deed." Read all the warnings in 2nd Corinthians 10:5, Jeremiah 17:9, and Romans 12:2, be aware these are not idle warnings. Stuff that comes through our minds comes from one of three sources, our spirit, which is often referred to as the heart, God's Spirit, and the spirit of this world. Be careful, not every word that comes from believers is trustworthy either because they are subject to same influence that we are. Peter was a good guy with all the right intentions but that will never be a guarantee against saying or doing the wrong thing.
- ✓ Peter often spoke from his own spirit, he was often "ready, fire, aim" in his presentations. In the middle of the transfiguration, he volunteers to build three dwellings for Jesus, Elijah and Moses, Luke 9:33. As Jesus was washing the disciples' feet, he refused to let Jesus wash his feet. When Jesus predicts they would all fall away because of the terror of his imprisonment and crucifixion, Peter says "Even if everyone else deserts you, I never will.", Mark 14:29.
- ✓ This is the ideal, led by the Spirit, but we have to be careful that our thoughts and words are in line with God and His truth, Matthew 16:13-17. If Paul took every thought captive, being the man of God that he was, how much more important is it for us to do the same.
- ✓ Peter rebukes the Son of God? Pretty dumb move! But we are capable of the same when we become overconfident in ourselves, Matthew 16:21-23. We can, in our pride, open ourselves up to be used by a "not-so-holy-spirit". Peter, the same guy that Spirit of God had just spoken through, was used by something he never saw coming. How did this happen? He was overconfident in his abilities, he failed to analyze his own words before he spoke them or allowed them have air time in his head. This is why Paul was so concerned that the church be established be able to pick out the things that were not right.

2. How do we become established?

- ✓ There is only one way! It is the Word of God alone that establishes us. No one has ever been established in Christ without the words of Christ. No infant ever grew strong without milk, and neither will any child of God without His Word, 1st Peter 2:2. The Word of God is like filter system, John 17:7. The only way to know the difference between the lie and the truth is to know the truth.

The truth alone inoculates us against the lie. The truth alone filters out the lies and half-truths that sweep the rest of the world away. We need to be resolutely committed to the truth and it will show by what we invest in it. If you aren't reading daily, you're not committed. If you do not have some sort of memorization program, you're not committed, Psalm 1:1-3 and Psalm 119:11, "I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."
