Character Comparisons –

You will probably never guess with whom we will be comparing our character to – you are probably thinking Paul or Peter – No we are going to compare our house building to that of the Three little pigs.

There are several comparisons that we can make to be sure we are building a life that can withstand the test of time from the story of the Three Little Pigs -

Just a quick reminder of the Three Little Pig’s Story – The Three Little Pigs were told by their mother it was time for them to go out into the world and seek their fortunes which meant going out and building houses of their own. She warned them to watch out for the Big Bad Wolf. The Three Pigs packed their belongings and left – each going their own way. The first little pig built his house of straw, it was built quickly, it wasn’t very good or strong but he didn’t care he didn’t want to work all day he just wanted to play his flute and dance and so he did.

The second little pig built his house of sticks, very quickly and easily – it was also not a very good or strong house but he didn’t care he just wanted to play his fiddle and sing, instead of work all day.

The Big Bad Wolf was watching all the activity.

The third little pig made his house with a wood floor and built the house of bricks. He worked very hard, even made a wooden door. He put a chimney on the roof – he had a good, strong house. Then he took time to rest and play after he had built his brick house.

The wolf was hungry he came down the hill to visit the little pigs he came to the first house of straw – he called “Little pig, little pig, let me come in” the little pig replied NO, No not by the hair of my chinny-chin-chin, I won’t let you in.” “Then I’ll huff, and I’ll puff and I will blow your house in.” said the wolf. That is exactly what the wolf did. The little pig ran to his brother’s house of sticks. The wolf followed and repeated the same scenario and blew the stick house away as well.

The two little pigs ran to the third pig’s house of brick – the wolf is hot on their heels, the three pigs were all together now – the first two pigs were afraid because they knew what happened to their houses. But the third pig said the brick house was strong and they needn’t be afraid.

The wolf shows up repeats the threat but this time he could not blow down the house he became angry and he got the idea to get into the house through the chimney. So he climbed on the roof and as the wolf was getting on the roof the three little pigs moved a pot of boiling hot water over the fire. The wolf fell into the pot and jumped out and ran up the hill to his house never to come down again. The three little pigs lived happily ever after in the house of bricks – merrily dancing, singing and playing all day long. Their favorite song was “Who’s afraid of the Big Bad Wolf!

What can we gather from this story – First of all the mother sends the little pigs out into the world – the same with us, when we become Christians we are not plucked out of the world but we are sent into the world - Jesus in his prayer before the crucifixion said in John 17:15-18 "In the world, but not of it--" " My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. [16] They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. [17] Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. [18] As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. "

We are the same we are sent out into the world, not to be of the world but in the world to witness and work for the Lord. We to are sanctified – set apart to be God’s children.

We too are warned of Satan – the evil one – the wolf was to the little pigs as Satan is to us our biggest adversary. The wolf watched and waited to attack and did when they least expected it – their houses were finished they were ready to get on with life but the wolf had other plans – same with us as Christians – we accept Christ we go on our merry way and suddenly we are attacked by Satan, wanting to blow our houses down and he will be able to do it if we have not put the time and effort into building our spiritual house.

The first two pigs were much alike – they built houses quickly, without thinking things out – in a hurry to be able to play their instruments, sing and dance. Their houses were just good enough to get by – we need to put our all into building a relationship with the Lord – regular church attendance, fellowship, study and prayer. If we don’t we will just get by but will not have the life that Jesus intended us to have. We will also fall easily to temptation when it comes our way.

We need to be like the third little pig – not afraid of hard work, willing to put forth the effort to build a life with a firm foundation so we can stand against the attacks of temptation. Matthew 7:24-25 says "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. [25] The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

The foundation we build on is Jesus – how do we do that – the basic belief is where we start – believing in Jesus, that he died and arose to save us from sin and give us eternal life.

1 Peter 1:13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

The third little pig purposed in his heart to build his house as strong as possible.

With a firm foundation on Christ the building proceeds with blocks of faith, hope, love, forgiveness, patience, thankfulness and prayer these are God’s building blocks and if we work at building our lives using God’s word – Paul Tells Timothy in 2 Tim. 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. The word of truth being God’s word, we have everything we need to build a firm foundation and a lasting house in the Bible we just have to handle the Word of God –

We are using the book “The Purpose Driven Life” by Rick Warren for our Women’s Fellowship study – He had some interesting things to say about the Bible – I quote - God’s Word generates life, creates faith, produces change, frightens the Devil, causes miracles, heals hurts, builds character, transforms circumstances, imparts joy, overcomes adversity, defeats temptation, infuses hope, releases power, cleanses our minds, brings things into being and guarantees our future forever!

That is only by reading and applying what we read to our lives can God’s Word do all of that – it will do nothing sitting on the shelf.

The Holy Spirit is what hold will hold it together – bind the word of God to our hearts Jesus tells us in John 14:26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

As Ecclesiastes tells us there is a time and a purpose for everything under heaven – the time is now to build our lives on Christ – we never know when Satan is going to ask after us and we will need the weapons and the armor to stand against the fiery arrows of the evil one. We don’t know when our time on earth will be up – either by death or Christ’s return – we need to build our lives on Jesus and be prepared for whatever storms will come. We can be sure that Satan will not go away, like the big bad wolf and stay away – the more we build, the more Satan will try to undermine.

Our scripture reading from Corinthians Paul is telling the Corinthians that he gave them the foundation of Christ – he laid the foundation but it is up to them to build on it and the materials they used, the quality of the materials used was up to them but when the judgment comes the fire or evaluation of their work. And if what is built survives he will receive his reward – all will become obvious – in the day of God’s judgment. READ FROM THE MESSAGE BIBLE.

Which little Pig’s character best fits our lives? Are we just out to get a house built to be able to do what we want to do in life or are we building on a firm foundation? Are we putting our all into building a relationship with Christ, remembering the sacrifice that purchased our salvation?

This building process is a lifetime project –our house is not complete until life is over and we stand before the judgment seat –

Think about it – and evaluate -

How are we doing on our houses? Are we building and reinforcing our houses daily? Are we ready for the storms of life? Will we be able to stand firm or be saved only by the hair on our chinny-chin-chin? Pray