

July 25/26, 2026

"Pits, Trees, and Foundations"

Pastor Aaron Buer



**Beyond the
Weekend**

SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY, + ACT.

2026 Focus: 12 Months of Prayer | July: Worship

Each month, journey through a different biblical model of prayer.

Day 1 [Luke 6:39-49](#) | Solid or Shaky

The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete. Luke 6:49b

Large crowds follow Jesus wherever he goes. Some hope to be healed. Some are curious about his miracles or teachings. People from every aspect of life gather. Many expect the coming Messiah to rescue them from Roman rule. Instead, Jesus comes to offer something far greater—rescue from sin and a new way of living. As he finishes the Sermon on the Plain (found in [Luke 6:17-49](#)), Jesus challenges the crowd to do more than admire his words. He calls them to build their lives on the truth of who he is by listening and then putting his words into practice, because he knows storms will come.

Trials, suffering, disappointment, fear, and loss are part of life. The real question is not if the storm will come but what foundation our life is built on. A life built on self, emotions, success, or the ever-changing values of the world may seem secure for a time, but those foundations cannot withstand life's fiercest storms. They shift, crack, and fail. In contrast, a life built on Christ is anchored to the only foundation that never changes. His promises and presence give us peace, hope, and strength even in the hardest seasons. This week, Jesus invites us to examine our hearts through three powerful illustrations: spiritual blindness, good and bad fruit, and two houses with different foundations. May we not simply hear his words but put them into practice.

TODAY: Begin this week by praying: "Father, open my heart to hear your voice and give me the humility to receive your truth. Show me where I need to trust you more, and give me courage to obey what you teach me. Amen."

Day 2 [Luke 6:39-40](#) | The Pit

He also told them this parable: "Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into a pit?" Luke 12:39

Jesus uses a simple picture everyone will understand. In Israel, roads are lined with rocks, ravines, and deep pits. A blind person cannot safely lead another blind person through this rugged terrain. If both are unable to see, both will end up in the pit. Jesus is not only talking about physical blindness. He is exposing a spiritual problem that affects everyone—blindness to one's sin, pride, and unhealthy patterns while noticing the faults of others. Left to themselves, anyone can walk into the pitfalls of life.

Pitfalls may look different for each of us. We may fall into gossip, unhealthy relationships, bitterness, comparison, or believing the world's lies instead of God's truth. We might follow popular opinions on social media more closely than we follow Jesus. Over time, small compromises can lead us into places we never intended to go. Blind spots rarely appear overnight. They develop slowly when we stop looking to Christ. The

good news is that Jesus sees what we cannot. He is the only guide who leads us in truth. As we follow him through his Word and the Holy Spirit, he lovingly reveals our blind spots and leads us on to solid ground.

TODAY: Ask God to show you where you have been spiritually blind. Is there an attitude, habit, or relationship that needs correction? Confess what he reveals, thank him for his forgiveness, and ask him to help you follow his truth instead of your own understanding.

Day 3 [Luke 6:43-45](#) | The Fruit

No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Luke 6:43

Fruit orchards and vineyards cover the hillside of Israel. After warning his disciples about spiritual blindness and pitfalls, Jesus gives another picture to consider. Everyone knows that healthy trees produce good fruit, while unhealthy trees do not. Figs come from fig trees and grapes grow on healthy vines. In the same way, Jesus explains how words and actions reveal what is growing in the hearts of his listeners. Good fruit—God-honoring words and actions—grow from a heart that is rooted in God and his Word.

Many voices compete for our attention today. Influencers, celebrities, podcasts, friends, teachers, and even coworkers all shape the way we think. Some of the messages sound wise or appealing, but not every voice leads us toward Jesus. Jesus calls us to look beyond what people say and pay attention to the fruit of their lives. Healthy, fruitful lives are marked by humility, integrity, love, and truth that point others to Christ rather than simply telling people what they want to hear. The same principle applies to us. Our words, attitudes, and actions reveal what fills our hearts. As we spend time with Jesus, he transforms us from the inside out so that our lives increasingly reflect his character. He sets the perfect example and standard by which every voice is measured. When we follow him, we become the kind of people who bear good fruit and help others do the same.

TODAY: Memorize [Proverbs 4:23](#): “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” As you go through your day, ask yourself: What voices are shaping my heart, and is their fruit drawing me close to Jesus?

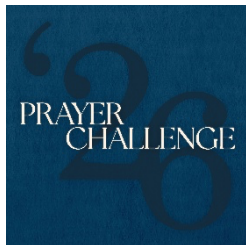
Day 4 [Luke 6:46-49](#) | The Foundation

Why do you call me “Lord, Lord,” and do not do what I say? Luke 6:46

Jesus closes his sermon with one final picture. He compares two builders. One digs deep and builds his house on solid rock. The other builds directly on the shifting ground with no foundation. When the storm comes, the house built on the rock stands firm, while the house without a foundation collapses. This illustration brings together everything Jesus has been teaching. He opens blind eyes to the pitfalls of sin. Hearts rooted in him produce good fruit. And a life that obeys his words is a life built on the unshakeable foundation of Christ.

Following Jesus is more than believing he saves us from our sin. It includes trusting him enough to let him lead every part of our lives. As we obey him daily, he transforms us from the inside out. Over time, our thoughts, words, and actions reflect his character. Obedience doesn’t earn God’s love; it is the evidence that our faith is genuine and our lives are anchored in him. Storms are part of every life. Unexpected change, financial pressure, relationship conflict, uncertainty about the future, or a season of waiting can all test our faith’s foundation. The strength of our lives is not determined by the size of the storm but by the foundation beneath us. When we build our lives on Christ, we can stand firm because our hope rests in the One who never changes.

TODAY: Listen to “[Firm Foundation \(He Won’t\)](#)” with Ada Bible Worship. Pay attention to the lyrics that remind you of who Jesus is. As you listen, ask God to show you one area where you can obey him more fully this week. Then praise him for being your faithful rock.



Day 5 Psalm 96 | Worshiping God's Holiness

This year in Beyond the Weekend, journey through different biblical models of prayer—one each month. July's focus is Worship.

Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth. Psalm 96:9

[Psalm 96](#) portrays all of creation awake to God's majesty, acknowledging him as their King. The earth sings. The heavens rejoice. The seas and trees resound with joy. All people are compelled to respond to the Lord's holiness. While Israel's neighbors worship gods made of carved stone and hammered silver, who cannot act or speak, Israel's God speaks, creates, and reigns. The psalmist calls everyone—every nation and creature—to drop the lesser things and declare his glory, worshiping his holiness. The Lord is the only one worthy and able to judge rightly. His presence and his intent to right all wrongs elicit the joyful abandon of his creation. Nothing and no one holds back worship.

We experience sin's effects everywhere, from creation's decay to our hearts' corruption. We know that the world isn't supposed to be this way, yet we are powerless to fix it. We need a King both powerful and wise enough to be trusted with the knowledge of good and evil. Judgment of right and wrong is a responsibility only God is worthy of. We know this because "while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" ([Romans 5:8b](#)). He was the only one willing and able to enter our chaos, absorb our sin, and set us free from its power. Our rightful response is one of worshiping him for his holiness, knowing he will one day renew all things.

TODAY: Pray through [Psalm 96](#), making its words your own. Worship God for his holiness, declare his glory over the areas of your life where sin has done its damage, and ask him to renew your wonder at a King worthy of all praise.