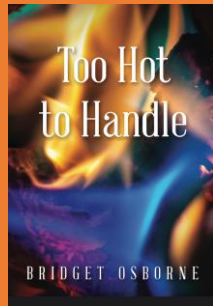


ON
CHRIST
THE
SOLID
ROCK I
STAND!!!

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Founder and Executive Director
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IS YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST AS SOLID AS THE ROCK?

Dear Chosen One: In the Gospel of Matthew Chapter 16:13-20, Peter's confession of Christ is recorded. It reads: **"When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' They replied, 'Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others say Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But what about you?' He asked. 'Who do you say I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.' Jesus replied, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock [revelation/truth] I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven..."**

Jesus questioned His disciples when He asked them who do people say the Son of man is, who do people say I am. At the top of their heads, they started to repeat what they heard in the neighborhood, John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the other prophets. Have you ever asked anyone who do people say you are or what do people think of you? Why did Jesus ask a question that He already knew the answer to? Perhaps He wanted His disciples to speak and hear the thoughts that were in their *own* heads. Oftentimes, we have thoughts about someone that were projected or implanted by others. These are not our own thoughts, but we allow these thoughts, positive or negative, to linger in our heads and sometimes we act on them even when they are not the truth.

Have you ever acted on a thought that was not your own and then found out it was a lie? I have! So,

Jesus wanted to eliminate all doubts by asking His disciples, **"Who do you say I am?"** Forget what people say. What about you, Simon Peter? Peter was probably silently standing, listening to the other disciples who spoke first. But then he shouted, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Wow! Great answer Peter, but don't get puffed up. You did not create this thought, for this truth/revelation was revealed to you by my Father (God).

Most likely, Jesus was thinking someone in my inner circle *is* listening to God and he is *not* repeating what man or others are saying about me. Praise God! After Peter, whose name means stone, revealed this truth, Jesus said to him, I will build my church on this rock-this revelation/truth-that was given to you. As you continue to receive Truth from my Father, the gates of hell will not overcome you and the devil will never be able to defeat you. This is a great promise from Christ.

Jesus openly confessed that He is the Rock/Revelation/Truth and that His Father had also revealed this Truth to John the Baptist after he baptized Him. The Bible says in Matthew 3:17 after John baptized Jesus **"A voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.'"** Therefore, when Peter confessed **"You are the Christ the Son of the Living God"** his faith in Christ became as solid as a Rock for he knew the ROCK was Jesus.

Oftentimes, we use the word Rock in phrases or describe things that are *Not related to Jesus the True ROCK*. For example, a person may say **"I like my drinks on the rocks."** But that person is not talking

about Jesus, he or she is referring to ice. Have you ever heard someone say, look at that rock on her finger? That person is not referring to Jesus, but a gemstone. How about when someone says, I hit rock-bottom. This phrase has nothing to do with Jesus as that individual is referring to encountering a difficult situation. I know you've heard this expression: I am between a rock and a hard place. The truth is none of these phrases actually describe Jesus-the Living Rock.

However, when we read the Bible, we will see that even the spokespersons of old were prophetically referring to Jesus as the Rock. In Deuteronomy 32:4, Moses says, **“He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.”** Wow! In 2 Samuel 22:2-3, King David says, **“The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation...”** David is talking about the All-Powerful Rock-Jesus, the Son of the Living God.

For years, I was portraying a false image of myself, because I was missing that strong foundation, Jesus the Rock. However, it was after I found myself sitting in a prison cell, I asked myself **“how did I get here”?** It was not what people thought of me; it was what I thought about myself. I started to take self-inventory and started to seek Jesus the Rock for myself. I knew what others were saying about Him, but I wanted to experience him for myself. When I did, He changed my life, and I was, and still am, totally satisfied. However, He kept me in my mess until I surrendered my will for His. Then He turned my mess into a message.

Today, I can tell you that I have a personal relationship with Jesus who is the Rock and my faith in Jesus is as solid as a Rock. He is my strong foundation on which I stand. When I am thirsty, I draw living water from the Rock. When I am in distress, I cry out to the Rock. When I am lonely, I speak with the Rock. From a personal experience, I don't know where I would have been or what my life would have been if I didn't have Jesus in my life. I was sinking deep in sin far from the peaceful shore, but the master of the sea

heard my despairing cry. Yes, the songwriter John Elton had an encounter with the Jesus when he wrote this song.

I want to reach out to anyone who does not know Jesus, the Son of the Living God, and encourage that person to start building their life on the Rock. If you are building on sand, it will crumble. If you trust in the world's system, (money) it will fail you. If you are depending on family and friends, sooner or later they will disappoint you. The one person who will never fail nor leave you is Jesus the Rock.

Yes, Jesus is a strong foundation and when you put your trust in Him, He will always be there. He should be the Rock that you build your faith on. He should be the Rock you drink from. He should be the Rock you speak with when things are going wrong. Jesus is the Healer! He is our Deliverer, a strong tower and a hiding place. When we stand on the Rock, He will hold us up. He is a friend that sticks closer than a brother. He is the Shepherd who leads us beside the still waters. He is the Door when there is no way out.

He is the Shield in the midst of battle. He loved us when we did not love ourselves. No man, woman, child or worldly items could take the place of the Rock in our life. He is God all by Himself. All the other gods? They are the works of men, but Jesus, is the Truth-Revelation on which the church is built on.

Yes, He was Jesus in the tomb **and** Jesus the Rock at the entrance of the tomb for He is omnipresent. Therefore, He was both inside and outside of the tomb. That was why He did not need anyone to roll the stone/rock from the entrance of the tomb. He did it himself and showed his followers that the tomb was empty. Words about His resurrection spread then and the same is true now. He is the Rock that defeated death and crushed Satan's head.

If you don't know Jesus and your spiritual foundation is not built on the Rock, I want to introduce you to Him. His Name is Jesus, Son of the Living God. Confess Him as Lord in and over your life. Let Him *rock* your mind, body and soul. Trust me, your life will never be the same. You are loved! Praise God!