> *Deuteronomy 22:8 (NKJV):*
> “When you build a new house, then you shall make a parapet for your roof, that you may not bring guilt of bloodshed on your household if anyone falls from it.”

In the Old Testament, God gave very practical and spiritual instructions to the Israelites — including this command to build a safety barrier around their rooftops. Why? Because many homes had flat roofs where people would gather, and without a parapet (a protective wall), someone could fall and die. In such a case, God would hold the owner of the house accountable for the bloodshed.

But what does this have to do with us as New Testament believers?

1. Your Life Is Like a House Under Construction

Jesus taught in Matthew 7:24-27 that whoever hears His words and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house on a rock. The rains came, the winds blew, but the house stood firm. In

contrast, a foolish man builds on sand — and his house collapses.

> “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock...” – *Matthew 7:24*

This shows us that our spiritual life is like building a house. The foundation is salvation — faith in Jesus Christ. If you begin well, by laying the right foundation (Christ), you are on the path to stability and eternal life.

But Jesus doesn’t stop at just the foundation. A house must be completed. That includes walls, a roof, and even the parapets — the finishing safety measures.

2. Don’t Just Build — Finish Wisely

The Scripture in Deuteronomy tells us not to stop at laying a foundation or even putting up walls and a roof. God commanded the Israelites to complete their houses safely — with boundaries. Spiritually, this means that:

> *It’s not enough to be saved. You must also set boundaries in your life to protect yourself and others.*

When a believer fails to live carefully, they not only put themselves in danger but can cause others to stumble.

3. Parapets Represent Boundaries in the Christian Life

These protective “walls” or parapets symbolize boundaries of holiness and wisdom in our lives:

- How we dress
- Where we go
- How we speak

- What we listen to

- What we watch

- Who we associate with

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 8:9:
“But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.”

And again in Romans 14:13:
“…but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother’s way.”

Just as a lack of parapet might cause someone to fall off the roof, our lack of spiritual boundaries can cause others to fall into sin.

4. We Are Being Watched

Whether we like it or not, unbelievers — and even new believers

— are watching us. Paul reminds us:

> “You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men.” – *2 Corinthians 3:2*

Your life preaches louder than your words.

So if someone sees you:

- Dressing immodestly and yet claiming to be saved
- Listening to ungodly music and then leading worship
- Gambling, drinking, using vulgar language — yet testifying of Christ

They may say, “If that is Christianity, I don’t want it.” You may

become the reason they reject Christ.

Jesus issued a serious warning:

> “But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.” – *Matthew 18:6*

5. Build Your Life with Fear and Wisdom

Let us take care how we live. Our Christian walk is not just about avoiding hell for ourselves, but also about leading others safely into the Kingdom of God. That means:

- Set personal boundaries.
- Watch your testimony.

- Be consistent in word and deed.
- Live with integrity.
- Don’t become a reason for others to mock or stumble.

6. Conclusion: Don’t Neglect the Final Stage of Your Building

Starting well is not enough — you must finish well. Many start the Christian walk, but not all endure. Paul said:

> “But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.” – *1 Corinthians 9:27*

Finish your house. Build the parapet. Be careful. Protect others through your conduct.

Let your salvation not only be the foundation of your life but also

the boundary that safeguards others around you.

PRAYER:
Lord Jesus, help me not only to begin the race of salvation but to run it faithfully to the end. Give me grace to live wisely, to walk in holiness, and to never be a stumbling block to others. Let my life bring glory to You. Amen.

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