



WORDS FROM
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There's a good reason why for all of these years they've been calling it . . . "The Leaning Tower of Pisa."

In June of 2001, it reopened to the public after being closed for almost twelve years. Engineers removed 110 tons of dirt and finally completed a 25 million dollar renovation project that reduced its famous "lean" by about sixteen inches.

As you recall, the tower has been tilting further and further away from vertical for hundreds of years. The top of the 185-foot tower was seventeen feet further south than the bottom, and Italian authorities were concerned that if nothing was done, it might soon collapse.

What was the source of the problem? It all began back in August of 1173 when an unknown Italian architect started to work on a separately standing bell tower for the Cathedral of the city of Pisa. The tower was to be eight-stories tall. Builders soon discovered that the soil was much softer than they had anticipated, and the foundation was far too shallow to adequately hold such a tall heavy structure (14,453 tons). The underlying ground was made up of layers of sand and clay.

Before long the whole structure had begun to tilt. It continued to tilt and tilt until finally the architect and the builders realized that nothing could be done to make the Tower of Pisa straight again. During the 176 years that it took to build the Tower of Pisa, many things were done to try and compensate for the "lean." The foundation was shored up; the upper levels were even built at an angle to try to make the top of the tower look straight. Nothing worked. In 1934 an Italian engineer drilled 361 holes into the base and filled them with mortar. In 1993, 650 tons of lead was hung from the North side of the building to try and stop the lean increasing. For a while it seemed to work.

The tower has stood for all of these years. But experts say that one day, perhaps 300 years from now, and in spite of the million visitors who come each year, the Leaning Tower of Pisa will fall.

Was it poor workmanship, bad construction, or flawed design that has destined this leaning structure for its ultimate fall? No, the problem was actually underneath . . . a faulty foundation. The sandy soil was not a firm foundation.

Right foundations are vitally important. It takes time to do foundational work. **You've got to go down deep before you can stand up tall.** Don't make the mistake of trying to hurry up the process and settle for a quick fix in your life. The Christian Life is a long slow costly work. Don't rush it!

Great lives are built on great foundations. Build your life and family on the solid foundation of Jesus and His eternal Word. *"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid which is Jesus Christ"* (1 Cor. 3:11). To survive these unsettling times, anchor your soul in the Rock of Ages!