

# Spiritual Foundations Course

Third Edition

written by Cornerstone Church  
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## Contents

Foundation 1: What does it mean to be saved? .....	4
Foundation 2: Prayer and Bible Study .....	10
Foundation 3: Your relationship to the Local Church .....	13
Foundation 4: Spiritual Warfare .....	17
Foundation 5: Living the Christian Life .....	23
Foundation 6: Repentance .....	26
Foundation 7: Water Baptism .....	28
Foundation 8: Laying on of hands.....	32
Foundation 9: Faith.....	36
Foundation 10: Worship .....	41
Foundation 11: Your Gifts.....	45
Foundation 12: Baptism of the Holy Spirit .....	49
Foundation 13: Our Eternity.....	52
Foundation 14: Resurrection of the dead.....	56
Foundation 15: Marriage and the home .....	59
Foundation 16: What God says about money .....	63

### Welcome to Cornerstone Church's Spiritual Foundation Course.

Our Elders worked for months putting this book together. The hope is that you grow by leaps and bounds in Christ. If you will commit to the teaching in this course, and commit to finishing this course, you will be equipped to be a successful Christ follower!

*Each lesson has been uniquely designed for clarity, and ease of understanding. We have purposely left the margins wide and added blank pages for your note taking. All Scripture references will be in KJV unless otherwise noted. Enjoy!*

Pastor Doug Gilford



## Foundation 1: What does it mean to be saved?

By now you have decided to make Jesus your Lord and Savior. In doing so, you have been born again (John 3:3). We rejoice with you that you have been saved.

When we talk about being “born again” or being “saved” we are essentially saying the same thing. A person is **SAVED** when he turns from sin to God, which is done by repentance. He is then saved from sin and given a new life, saved from eternal hell and given eternal life. John 10:28 (NKJV) “28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.”



### **What are you saved from?**

In this life you are saved from the bondage of sin and the destruction, guilt, and loss of purpose it brings to your life...and the afterlife. You are saved from the wrath of God and eternal punishment for the devil and his of the fires of Hell.

### **What are you saved to?**

You have been born again in to an abundant life in the family of God as a child of God. You now have access to all the benefits that flow from your Father God to his children. These are righteousness, peace, joy, healing, and provision for every need. But more importantly, you are saved to eternal life – to live with God forever in Heaven after your life on earth is over.

### **Two Parts to Salvation: *God and Yours***

There are two parts to your salvation, God’s part and your part. You cannot do God’s part and God will not do your part. Therefore, it is essential that you understand and accept God’s role and your role.

## ***God's part in Salvation***

- **God Loves you**

God loves all people and wants to be their loving Father (John 3:16). He loves the sinner, but hates their sinful deeds. A holy God cannot allow sin in His presence and the Bible says that we all have sinned (Romans 3:23). However, if God sentenced you to death, you could not live with him as a child. How can this problem be solved?

- **God sent Jesus to die for you**

Because Jesus lived a life without sin, God allowed Him to be your substitute in death, receiving punishment for your sins (2Corinthians 5:21). The good news (gospel) is that Jesus, by His crucifixion and shedding of His innocent blood, purchased SALVATION for you (Acts 20:28)!

- **God sent his Holy Spirit to lead you to Jesus**

God sends his Holy Spirit to convict you of sin, and to lead you to repentance, and to convince you that Jesus is the only way to right-standing before God (John 16:7-8).

- **God forgives you when you believe, confess and repent**

When you believe in Jesus with your whole heart, confess your sins before Him, and confess and accept Him as the Lord of your life, and genuinely repent, God forgives you and becomes a Father to you (Romans 10:9-10).

- **God gives you a New life, nature and heart**

When you are saved, God comes to live inside you by His Holy Spirit (Revelations 3:20). Through the power of his Spirit, God is able to impart to true believers His life, and His nature (2 Peter 1:3). If you are a true believer, God gives you a new heart of love and righteousness to replace your old sinful heart.

- **God accepts you into His family**

You are made a member of the family of God in two ways, adoption (Galatians 4:5-6) and birth (1Peter 1:23). This makes you an heir of God and a joint heir with Jesus (Romans 8:17).

## ***Your part in Salvation***

Your personal salvation is unique. Emotions may or may not have played a part. You may have been led to the Lord by someone else, or you could have prayed alone to the Lord. Whatever your experience, the Bible says that you are now a “New creature” in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17) – a child of God whose sins have been forgiven and blotted out by God. Although your salvation has been fully purchased, you did not possess it until you did your part. So, what is your part?

- **You admit that you are a sinner in need of a Savior**

After God makes you aware of your sin through His holy Spirit, you must admit you are a sinner, recognize you cannot save yourself, and realize your need for a savior (Romans 3:23,

- **You repent and turn to God**

You must come to a point where you forsake your sins and choose God’s way over your own way (2 Peter 3:9, Joshua 24:15).

- **You believe**

The key to your salvation is faith in what Jesus did for you in the cross (1Corinthians 1:18). You must believe in Jesus with all your heart (Acts 8:37) – that He is the Son of God, that He died for your sins, that God raised Him from the dead, and that He is the only way to Heaven (Romans 10:9-10, John 14:6, 1 Timothy 2:5).

- **You ask God to forgive you and invite Christ to come live inside of you**

It is essential that you act on your faith by asking God to forgive you (1John 1:9) and inviting Jesus into your heart to be your Lord and Savior. Then, you simply receive the gift of salvation (John 1:12, Revelation 3:20).

- **You confess Jesus as your Lord**

The Bible tells us to confess with our mouth what you believe in your heart about Jesus as your Lord (Romans 10:9-10). You should begin to boldly tell others that you have been saved and that Jesus is now the Lord of your life (Acts 4:29).

- **Your obedience in Baptism**

As an obedient believer in the Lord you will want to be water baptized as soon as possible because JESUS commanded it (Mark 16:16). Water baptism seals your Salvation experience

and is an outward sign of the inward change, testifying to all of the death of your old life and the beginning of your new life in Christ (Romans 6:4-6).

- **You Receive Salvation as a Free Gift and Not as a Reward for Good Works**

Salvation is a gift (Romans 6:23), and you cannot earn a gift. Otherwise, it would cease to be a gift. You are **SAVED** by faith and not by your good works (Ephesians 2:8-9).





## Foundation 2: Prayer and Bible Study



### The most important thing you can do

If you are going to live the overcoming, victorious life God wants you to live, you must spend time every day with the Lord in PRAYER and BIBLE STUDY. As you talk to Him (PRAYER) and He talks to you (BIBLE STUDY), your daily quiet time spent with the Lord will become the anchor of your soul and the source of your greatest joy in life (Psalms 16:11).

### Part I: PRAYER

*Helpful hints to establish an effective prayer life:*

- PRAY early in the morning (Psalms 5:3). PRAYING before you start your daily work is often best because the mind is uncluttered and the body is refreshed. This also gives you an opportunity to PRAY over the situations you will face during the day.
- Find a place where it is quiet and flee from distractions (Matthew 14:23).
- Find the position that is most effective for you - kneeling, standing, lying on your face before God, or even sitting in a chair.
- Concentrate on what you are doing, and try not to let your mind wander aimlessly.
- You may wish to PRAY out loud as this will help you keep your mind from wandering (Psalms 3:4; 27:7).
- Be sincere. Be real and pray from the heart (Matthew 6:5-7).
- Listen to God. Learn to distinguish His voice from all others. Jesus, your Shepherd, said that His "sheep" would hear His voice (John 10:2-5). *Hint: He is usually the still, small voice inside you.*
- Pray over the WORD as you read it and Pray over what God speaks to your heart through the WORD.
- Pray in your understanding (native language), and Pray in the Spirit ("Tongues") (1 Corinthians 14:15).
- Pray to the Father in the Name of Jesus (John 15:16).
- Pray in faith (Mark 11:24).

- Pray from a clean heart and a pure conscience (Psalms 66:18).
- Pray the will of God as it is revealed in His Word (1 John 5:14).
- Humble yourself before God (James 4:10).
- Be bold in your approach before God as He wants to give you mercy, grace, and help (Hebrews 4:16).
- Sing unto the Lord (Psalms 100:2).
- Don't give up in your praying (Luke 18:1).

### *The Lord's Prayer, a model to pray*

Jesus was asked by His disciples to teach them to pray. His reply to them has come to be known as "The Lord's Prayer" (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4).

Jesus was instructing His disciples to PRAY "after this manner." We believe that Jesus was giving a model prayer guide, showing the basic elements that should be contained in your PRAYER life.

#### **Here are 6 basic parts of PRAYER:**

1. **Praise and Thanksgiving**- "Our Father which art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy Name."
2. **Submission to His will** - "Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in Heaven."
3. **Petition for your own personal needs** - "Give us this day our daily bread."
4. **Cleansing of relationships** (between self and God and between self and others) - "And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors."
5. **Spiritual Warfare** - "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."
6. **Worship** - "For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever."

## Part II: Bible Study

### ***Practical reasons to study the bible are:***

- The Bible shows you the way of Salvation (Romans 1:17).
- The Bible shows you what God is like (Psalms 119:15).
- Through the Word of God you learn what your benefits in Christ are (1Corinthians 2:12; Psalms 103:2-3).
- The Bible gives you insight on how to have godly relationships in your family, in your church, and in your job (Ephesians 5:22-6:9).
- Regular Bible study keeps you from error, extremes, and instabilities (2 Timothy 3: 16-17).
- God's WORD feeds your spirit (your inner man), causing it to grow and be strong (1 Peter 2:2).
- The WORD brings success when it is obeyed (Joshua 1:8).
- The SCRIPTURES are your source of wisdom and guidance (Psalms 119:105).
- The BIBLE teaches you how to get to Heaven (John 14: 6).



### ***Tips for Effective BIBLE STUDY:***

1. Give regular BIBLE STUDY top priority.
2. Set a definite time every day.
3. Get mentally awake.
4. Ask God to open the meaning of the SCRIPTURES to you.
5. Read the book of John 3 times then the rest of the New Testament.
6. Read at least two chapters or fifteen minutes each day.
7. Mark passages in your BIBLE that especially speaks to you.

## **Foundation 3: Your relationship to the Local Church:**

### **The Local church is a Spiritual Thermometer**



Through the years we have observed that a person's relationship to the local church often serves as a spiritual thermometer, showing the spiritual health of a believer. In this age of individualism, it is very easy for believers to feel that all they need is a personal relationship with the Lord to prosper spiritually. Experience and Scripture prove otherwise. Every believer must also be related and committed to a local church.

#### **Why you need to be committed to a Local church**

**In the present world condition, you will find membership in a local church very important.**

1. The Bible warns against forsaking the fellowship in a local church

In Hebrews 10:25 we read, to "not forsaking our assembling together." The believers then were in danger of drifting away from their faith in Christ. Among other things, they were told of the danger of quitting the church.

2. There is pastoral care in the local church In Hebrews 13:17, believers were also told another reason for involvement in the local church was that godly pastors would care for and look after their spiritual condition, giving account unto the Lord for their souls.
3. Families are strengthened in the local church

Sermons on family relations, youth ministries, children's ministries, pastoral counseling for troubled families and worshipping together are some of the ways the local church helps strengthen the family.



4. There is a sense of belonging in the local church

People need love, security, friendship, fellowship and help during troubled times and these can all be found in the local church. (Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:2; Acts 2:44-46; 4:32)

5. You cannot exist separated from the local church

Members of the body of Christ are warned in 1 Corinthians 12:21 against saying to other members, *"I have no need of you."* God did not intend for His church to have this independent or "maverick" spirit.

*\*The maverick steer of the Old West was one that roamed the range without anyone's brand. Some people today are afraid to make any commitment to a local church because they want to be "free" and thus they roam from church to church or stay out of fellowship altogether.*

6. You receive nurture, protection, and development from the local church

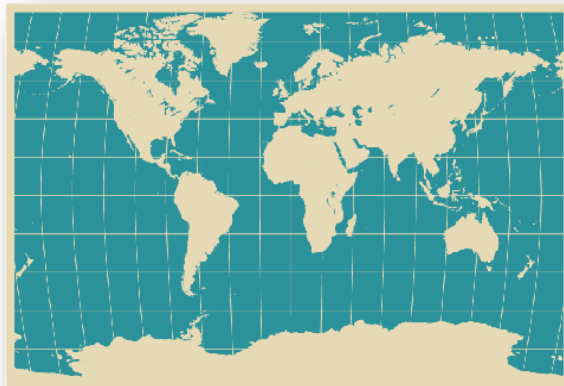
In a church where the Word of God is preached with conviction you will receive a steady diet of encouragement, exhortation, and consistent instruction, and you are protected from spiritual dangers. (Acts 20:28-29)

7. There is a corporate anointing on the local church

As believers assemble together for worship, a greater anointing occurs than on individual worshipping alone. This corporate anointing creates a spiritual atmosphere that frees people by breaking through the oppression and bondage of the devil and gives greater glory to God as believers enter into the high praises of God.

8. The local church is a missionary base

Finally, the local church supplies a base for missionary activity, allowing each member of the Body of Christ to have a part in either going or sending those who are called to go, thus fulfilling the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20.



## ***What to look for in a local church***

According to Scripture, some of the things you want to look for in selecting a local (home) church are:

**A church that is led by a godly pastor, who shows the following Biblical qualities found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9**

- The husband of one wife
  - Not a new convert
  - Self-controlled
  - Wise
  - Has a good reputation
  - Hospitable
  - Able to teach
  - Manages his own household well
  - Free from the love of money
  - Not self-willed
  - Not given to wine
  - Not quick tempered
- 
- A church where the Word of God is taught in full, uncompromising ways (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
  - A Church that is active in home and foreign missions (Acts 13:1-3; Matthew 28:19-20)
  - A church where the gifts of the Spirit are allowed to operate freely, but orderly (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)
  - A church where there is freedom in worship to express your praise and adoration to God (Ephesians 5:19; John 4:24)
  - A church where your ministry gifts are developed (Ephesians 4:11-12)
  - A church full of love (Revelation 2:4)



***WARNING!*** We strongly caution you about churches or groups that teach things opposed to the Bible or whose leaders claim to have some sort of “new” or “hidden” revelation that is supposedly better than the Bible. These may appear as ministers of light but are false prophets and deceivers. (2 Corinthians 11:12-15) These are to be shunned and avoided.

## What God needs from YOU at your local church

The local church is a place where you both give *and* receive. God intends for the church to be a channel of His blessings to you, but in order for you to be blessed you must get involved and do your part. Listed below are some of the things you are to give back to your home church:

- *Commitment and loyalty (Acts 2:44, 46; 4:32)*
- *Submission to those over you in the Lord (Hebrews 13:17)*
- *Financial support of the ministries of the church through tithes and offerings (Malachi 3:10; 2 Corinthians 9:7-8)*
- *Prayer for the church's leadership, ministries, fellow members and the lost*
- *Missionary support through offerings and prayer*
- *Service to the Body of Christ through the ministry gifts that God has given you (Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11-12)*
- *Spiritual preparation before coming together that you may add to the flow of the Spirit and that God may use you to bless others (1 Corinthians 14:26-33, 40)*



## How to find your place in the Church

Every believer has a unique place of ministry and service to the local church. True fulfillment comes as we find our place and we become a blessing to the Body of Christ. Some never find their place because of pride, insecurity, and preoccupation with other things, laziness, fear, or rebellion. As a result, their usefulness to the Lord is limited and the flow of blessings from the Lord is hindered.

Practical ways to find where God is placing you in the local church:

- Be submitted and obedient to the Lord
- Be willing to work whenever and wherever you are needed
- Be faithful in tasks that may seem small and unnoticed
- Pray for God to show you
- Be a servant, serving in love
- Consider your unique abilities and gifting



## **Foundation 4: Spiritual Warfare**

### **God's will for you is Victory!**

Because of Christ's victory at Calvary over sin, death and the devil, every believer has the right and ability to walk in a victorious life, free from guilt, condemnation, fear, bondage to sin, and other areas of defeat (3 John 2). God always leads you to triumph in Christ (2 Cor 2:14), and He never leads you toward defeat.

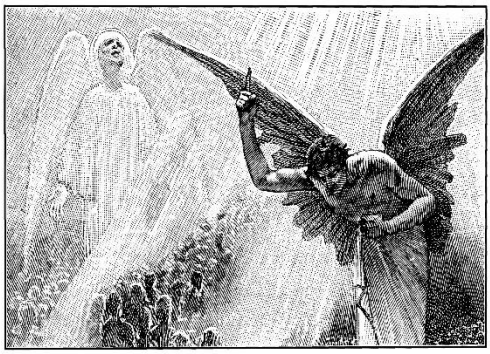
According to 2 Peter 1:3, God has given you everything you need for life and godliness through knowing Jesus in a personal way. Before you were saved, the devil was your master, controlling your life (Galatians 4:8). Now that you have been "born again," Jesus gives you whatever you need to face life and live godly.



### **You can overcome the Devil**

**As a believer you can now resist the devil, and he will flee from you (James 4:7).**

Believers in the Bible overcome Satan, and so can you (Revelation 12:11). The Bible says in 1 John 4:4 that "He that is in you (Jesus) is greater than he that is in the world (the devil)." This should give you confidence to face life's difficulties, knowing God is on your side.



### **You must know your enemy**

To wage Spiritual warfare effectively, you must know your enemy. It is essential you become aware of his tactics, not just the fact that he exists. You will find that Satan assumes three basic roles in his attack on the believer and uses three basic weapons with which he hopes to defeat you.

- As the tempter he brings temptation
- As the Accuser he brings condemnation
- As the Destroyer he brings devastation

## **Weapon #1: Temptation**

- The Bible calls the devil the Tempter in Matthew 4:3 and 1 Thessalonians 3:5. Satan has no power to make you do anything. He cannot force you to sin or to give up your faith. However, he does have a “big bag of tricks” that he uses to get you to act independently of God and go against His will. The strongest weapon Satan uses is temptation.



### *How Satan works*

- From James 1:112-15 we learn how temptation works. First of all, the devil looks for an area of your life where you are weak. He then entices you in that area. Temptation is not sin – only yielding to the temptation is when it becomes sin. After sin gets a “hook” on you, it becomes stronger and stronger (if you do not repent) until it controls you and finally destroys you.

### *Three areas where believers are tempted (1 John 2:16)*

#### **1. The Lust of the Flesh**

This area deals with the appetites of the flesh and includes such sins as sexual immorality, gluttony, drunkenness, drug abuse, and laziness.

#### **2. The Lust of the Eyes**

This area has to do with man’s relationship to money and possessions. It includes such sins as greed, covetousness, stealing and hoarding.

#### **3. The Pride of Life**

This area involves putting self at the center of all things and relationships. It includes such sins as pride, vanity, strife, anger, envy, idolatry and murder.

### **How to successfully Overcome Temptation**

- Use a balanced approach to spiritual warfare by daily putting on the whole armor of God. (Ephesians 6:10-18)
- Build yourself up spiritually through prayer and Bible study. The importance of this cannot be overestimated!
- Stay away from evil influences (1 Timothy 6:6, 12; 2 Timothy 2:22). This may mean changing friends, entertainment, jobs or anything else that could pull you back in to the world and your old way of life

- Use the Word of God against temptation and the devil's lies (Ephesians 6:17; Matthew 4:1-11).
- Be sure to stay in close fellowship with other believers through in your local church (Hebrews 10:25).
- Remember the promise of God that "He will not allow Satan to tempt you beyond what you can handle, but will give you a way of escape." (1 Corinthians 10:13)
- After you have submitted yourself to God, "resist the devil and he will flee from you." (James 4:7)

## Weapon #2: Condemnation



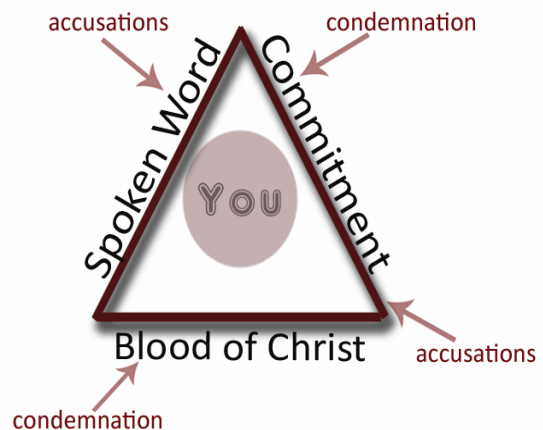
### How to handle the Accuser's Condemnation

In Revelation 12:10-11, Satan is referred to as the "accuser of the brethren." One very effective weapon of the devil is to keep believers looking inwardly at their own shortcomings and failures instead of upwardly to the mercy and help from their Heavenly Father. This serves to divert them from the work of God they are called to do. It is similar to trying to drive with your eyes always fixed on the rear-view mirror instead of on the road ahead.

**Satan wants you to quit.** The devil does all he can through accusations and condemnation to get to give up and quit spiritually. If he can convince you that you are not changed, that God does not love you, or that you will never get victory, then what usually results is discouragement, depression and dejection; all of which, can lead to spiritual shipwreck.

### Three Walls of Protection

Revelation 12:11 tells how the Accuser of the brethren was overcome by believers. Imagine yourself being attacked by the devil's fiery darts of accusations (Ephesians 6:16). What you need to do to protect yourself from these darts is to build walls around you which is exactly what the believers were doing in this passage.



### **1. First Wall – The Blood**

“They overcame by the blood of the Lamb.” When the devil accuses you of past failures, inadequacies, shortcomings, and sins, you are to point him to the Blood of Christ. The Bible says in 1 John 1:7 “the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” Your sins are gone because Christ took them away. Therefore, the devil has no case against you before God.

### **2. Second Wall – The Spoken Word**

“They overcame him by...the Word of their testimony.” This simply means that you are to speak (or testify) what the Word says about you...and your sins. When the devil attacks you with condemnation, speak the Word to the thoughts and accusations coming against you.

### **3. Third Wall – Commitment**

“They overcame him...and they loved not their lives unto death.” They were so “sold-out” to the Lord that not even death could make them turn back. When your commitment to God is sure, the devil’s accusations fall harmlessly off the wall without hurting you.

## **Weapon #3: Devastation**

### **How to handle the destroyer’s devastation**

Satan is called the “destroyer” in 1 Corinthians 5:5 and 1 Corinthians 10:10. From 1 Peter 5:8-10, we learn that the devil is like a “roaring lion, walking about, seeking whom he may devour.” John 10:10 speaks of the enemy as the one who comes “to steal, to kill and to destroy.” From these passages and other, you can know Satan is intent upon bringing devastation and ruin to God’s children.

Satan’s major areas of devastation:

- Physical sickness
- Mental and emotional attacks
- Financial problems
- Family problems

Ways to resist the devil according to Scripture:

**Find out what God’s promises are on the particular area of your life.** For example, if the devil is hitting you with sickness, study what the Bible says about healing.

### **Speak out the Word of God**

Speak out God’s Word to the need, and to Satan when he attacks. This is exactly what Jesus did when He was tempted in the wilderness in Matthew 4

### **Obey God**

Make sure you are walking in obedience to the “known” will of God. In the book of Malachi the people of God were seeing their finances devoured, and they did not understand why. God told them it was because they were not giving their tithe to the Lord. In Malachi 3:10-11, He said that he “will rebuke the devourer” if they would obey Him.

**Bind and Loose**

You can overcome the enemy by binding the devil in the Name of Jesus and loosing the blessings of God from Satan’s grasps (Matthew 12:28-29). You act as God’s delegated authority on this world; and it allows you to enforce the victory Christ has already won for you over the devil and his power (Luke 10:19).



**Walk in Faith**

Without faith it is impossible to please God or to defeat the devil. Faith is a shield that is able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one (Ephesians 6:16; 1 John 5:4).

**Stand Firm**

Finally, stand your ground and don’t give up. “Stand against the wiles of the devil...and having done all...stand.” (Ephesians 6:11-13). There is no room for cowards in God’s army. If you are afraid of the enemy and try to run from him, he will devour you, but if you stand against him using your weapons of spiritual warfare, he will flee from you.



## Foundation 5: Living the Christian Life

The Christian life is a race – you have to finish the course to win.

*“Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)*



### Remember to go to Jesus when you need help

*Hebrews 4:14-16: “<sup>14</sup> therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

Notice two things for which you can come to Jesus and find help: (1) you can “obtain mercy” when you have sinned. Don’t give up if you fail! Come to Jesus in prayer and be forgiven. (2) You can “find grace to help” you overcome temptation “in time of need.”

Live by Faith

This means that faith in Christ becomes the supreme motivation for your life. Just as we are saved by faith, we are kept by faith (see 1Peter 1:5).

According to Hebrews 3:12, what is it that causes people to depart from God? “An \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_”

Scan Hebrews 11. These great men and women of God are examples of living by \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Stay in Fellowship with the church**

We receive strength and encouragement from other Christians to help us live a Christian life. The church is the body of Christ; dropping out of church is like cutting off your hand. Hebrews 10:25 *“<sup>25</sup> Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”*

***Submit to God's correction***

Read Hebrews 12:5-11, and answer these questions:

**Whom does God correct?**

"Because the Lord disciplines those he \_\_\_\_\_, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a \_\_\_\_\_." (vs. 6)

**What response must we give to God's correction?**

"Moreover, we have all had \_\_\_\_\_ who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of our spirits and live!" (vs. 9)

**What is the purpose of God's correction?**

"Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our \_\_\_\_\_, that we may share in his \_\_\_\_\_." (vs. 10)

***Do not get Bitter***

According to Hebrews 12:15, what can trouble you and cause many to be defiled? "See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no \_\_\_\_\_ grows up to cause trouble and defile many."

You must be ready to forgive. Many people turn away from God because they allow resentment against someone to grow in their hearts. What are some of the things that can cause resentment in the church?

***Submit to Spiritual Leaders***

Rebellion against God's appointed leaders is actually rebellion against God Himself. Hebrews 13:7 exhorts, "Remember them which have the \_\_\_\_\_, who have \_\_\_\_\_ unto you the \_\_\_\_\_: whose faith \_\_\_\_\_, considering the end of their conversation." Hebrews 13:17 adds "\_\_\_\_\_ them that have the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ yourselves: for they \_\_\_\_\_." These warnings are given in Hebrews because rebellion against authority is a human trait that often causes people to turn away from God. You should follow your spiritual leaders (pastor, elders) unless you are absolutely sure they are in transgression of God's Word.





## Foundation 6: Repentance

Everyone mistakes. No one is perfect. The foundation of the Christian life begins with repentance. Hebrews 6:1-2 names six foundations upon which we are to build in our growth as Christians. These are called “principles of the doctrine of Christ,” and repentance comes first.

To help you understand repentance, look for the scriptural answers to these questions.

### WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

“*Repentance*” is normally translated from the Greek word *metanoia*, which means “a change of mind.” However, repentance always leads to a change of life; it is never used for a mere change of intellectual opinions. Thus, we can define “repentance” as “a change of mind that results in a change of life.”

This is illustrated in these Scripture references where “change of mind” is substituted for repentance:

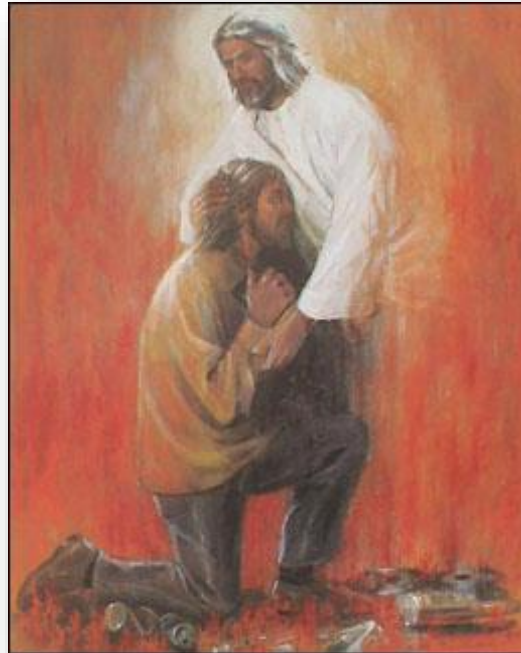
In Matthew 3:8, John the Baptist demands, “Bring forth therefore \_\_\_\_\_ meet for (in keeping with) a change of mind.”

In Acts 26:20, Paul describes his preaching to the Jews and Gentiles “that they should change their minds and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ meet for (in keeping with) a change of mind.”

The test of true repentance is always a change of life. As we have already seen, John the Baptist commanded his hearers to “bring forth fruits meet for repentance” (Matthew 3:8). Paul preached that they should “do works meet for repentance” (Acts 26:20).

Repentance is sometimes confused with either penance or weeping. Penance refers to religious deeds done to absolve; it is unscriptural and has nothing to do with repentance.

Weeping may accompany the godly sorrow that leads to repentance (2 Corinthians 7:9-10), but the test of repentance is whether it produces a changed life, not whether it produces tears.



## WHY IS REPENTANCE FOUNDATIONAL?

Repentance is foundational for two reasons:

### 1. Repentance is *necessary* for salvation.

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_” (Acts 3:19).

### 2. Repentance is *necessary* for Christians who have erred.

Circle the correct answer.

In Revelation 2:5, 16, 22; 3:3, 19, Christ gives a command to repent to:

- Unbelieving Jews
- People who have never been saved
- Churches

James 5:19-20 is speaking of Christians –“ \_\_\_\_\_, if any of you do  
\_\_\_\_\_, and one  
\_\_\_\_\_ him; let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from  
the error of his way shall \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, and shall \_\_\_\_\_ a multitude of \_\_\_\_\_.”

## CAN A PERSON BE SAVED WITHOUT REPENTANCE?

**No.** Some scriptures may seem to promise salvation without repentance (for example, John 3:16; Acts 16:31). However, repentance is always included in saving faith, whether it is mentioned or not.

Underline which comes first in Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21; and Hebrews 6:1- faith or repentance.

The relationship between repentance and faith is illustrated in Matthew 21:32, where Jesus says to the Pharisees, “For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not; but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, \_\_\_\_\_ not afterward, that ye might \_\_\_\_\_ him.”

It is impossible to have saving faith until you have repented of your sins. Mere intellectual belief will not save you; you must make a personal commitment to Christ, and this requires repentance. The commitment involved in saving faith is illustrated in these verses:

James 2:14 – “What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not \_\_\_\_\_? Can faith \_\_\_\_\_ him?”

1 John 5:5 – “Who is he that \_\_\_\_\_, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”

### **IS REPENTANCE STILL NECESSARY TODAY?**

**YES!** Some so-called dispensationalists teach that repentance was for another dispensation (age), and it is no longer required. The Bible does not teach this. This age began with the teaching of Jesus (Luke 16:16), and he taught repentance. Repentance is also commanded repeatedly in scriptures pertaining to this age.

In addition to the scriptures already given in this lesson, look up Acts 17:31: "The times of this ignorance God winked at (overlooked); but \_\_\_\_\_ to repent."

This verse, and many others, commands repentance after the death of Christ and after the revelation of salvation through faith in Christ (John 3:16; Acts 16:31, etc.). In fact, the last book of the Bible commands repentance (Revelation 2:5, 16; 3:3, 19).

### **DOES THE REQUIREMENT OF REPENTANCE MEAN SALVATION IS BY GOOD WORKS?**

No, repentance is not a good work although it produces good works. Repentance is a change of mind within; it results in good works without.

### **WHAT ARE SOME REASONS FOR REPENTANCE?**

Luke 13:3 – "I tell you, Nay: but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise \_\_\_\_\_." Luke 13:5 – "I tell you, Nay: but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise \_\_\_\_\_."

Acts 3:19 – "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that \_\_\_\_\_."

Romans 2:4 – "The \_\_\_\_\_ leadeth to repentance."

2 Corinthians 7:10 – "\_\_\_\_\_ worketh repentance."

Revelation 3:19 – "As many as I love I \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_: be zealous therefore, and repent."

## Foundation 7: Water Baptism

Before Jesus left this earth, he charged his followers with the task known as “The Great Commission” which will occupy them until he comes again (Matthew 28:19). The task includes the command to baptize those who become Disciples of Christ. Baptism is not optional; it is a divine command.

“Baptisms” is one of the foundational principles of the doctrine of Christ (Hebrews 6:1-2). You need to be sure you have been baptized according to the Word of God, and you need to experience the power of baptism in your life. Here are some important questions about baptism:



### WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

*Should babies, or only adult believers, be baptized?*

In the Great Commission, Jesus commanded that we should first “make disciples” (the meaning of the word “teaching” in the KJV) then baptize them. Therefore, one must be a disciple before he is baptized. This was the practice of the New Testament Church. According to Acts 2:38, we must \_\_\_\_\_ before we are baptized. According to Acts 8:36-37, we must \_\_\_\_\_ before we are baptized. Since we are saved through faith, salvation begins before we are baptized? \_\_\_\_\_ Can an unsaved person receive the Holy Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_ (See John 14:15-17 and Galatians 4:6.)

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF BAPTISM?

Romans 6:4 states, “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into \_\_\_\_\_: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.” Baptism is a likeness of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus by which you put away the old life and begin a new life. It marks the beginning of the new life.

1 Peter 3:21 (NKJV) states that baptism “saves us,” but it explains that it is not the physical act of baptism (“the removal of the filth of the flesh”) but “the answer of a good conscience toward God” that saves. Notice that Peter says “saves” (Present tense), not “saved” (Past tense). He does not refer to the initial experience of salvation when we are born again through repentance and faith. Baptism saves us from the power of sin in our lives, just as Paul showed in Romans 6:3-5.

A person who has not been biblically baptized, but has a good conscience toward God, may be saved, but a person who willfully refuses to be baptized even though he knows he should do so, will not be saved.

Colossians 2:11-13 compares baptism to circumcision. As circumcision puts away a part of the flesh, circumcision puts away the body of the sins of the flesh.

### **WHAT IS THE CORRECT WAY TO BAPTIZE?**

Various churches have practiced three methods of baptism – *Sprinkling*, *pouring*, and *immersion*. Which method is correct, or does it make any difference how we are baptized? It does make a difference; notice these reasons why baptism must be by immersion:

A. “Baptize” comes from a Greek word (*baptizo*) which means: immerse.” So only *immersion* is truly baptism.

B. Only immersion conveys the meaning of baptism which is likeness of the death burial, and resurrection of Jesus (Romans 6:4-5).

C. Baptism requires “much water” (John 3:23).

D. Jesus Himself was baptized by immersion. Mark 1:9-10 states, “Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John \_\_\_\_\_ Jordan. And straightway coming up \_\_\_\_\_ the water, he saw the heavens opened.”

E. The New Testament Church baptized by immersion (Acts 8:38-39).

### **WHAT IS THE CORRECT FORMULA FOR BAPTISM?**

According to Matthew 28:19, Jesus commanded his disciples to baptize: in the name of the \_\_\_\_\_, and of the \_\_\_\_\_ and of the \_\_\_\_\_.” Some churches, however, baptize in the name of Jesus only because of Acts 2:38. But this is not the full formula for baptism. Matthew 28:19 is addressed to those who were to administer baptism, so it gives the full formula. Acts 2:38 is addressed to those who were to be baptized, so it stresses only one part of the formula. Peter emphasizes the name of Jesus Christ because his hearers already believed in God the Father and the Spirit, but they did not believe in Jesus.

Those who are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit have been baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, for he is the Son. But those who are baptized in the name of Jesus only have disobeyed two-thirds of Jesus’ command, for they have left out the Father and the Holy Spirit. The name of the son is Jesus, but the name of the Father and Spirit is not Jesus (Acts 7:55-56). (To avoid confusion a minister might say, “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, which is Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Spirit.”)



## Foundation 8: Laying of Hands for Prayer



Why “laying on of hands?” Laying on of hands seems no more than a ritual in the modern Church. Therefore, it may be surprising that Hebrews 6:2 lists it as one of the foundational principles of the doctrine of Christ. However, as we shall see, the laying on of hands has Biblical significance far beyond an empty ritual.

Let’s search the Scriptures for answers to these questions about the laying on of hands:

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF LAYING ON OF HANDS?

The laying on of hands is a means of imparting divine blessings. It signifies a transfer between two parties. The first mention of laying on of hands in Scripture indicates its significance throughout the rest of the Bible. Genesis 48 records that as old Jacob was about to die, his grandsons, the sons of Joseph, were brought to his sickbed. According to verse 9, they were brought to Jacob (Israel) in order that he might “bless them.”

According to verse 14, “Israel (Jacob) \_\_\_\_\_ out his \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ it upon Ephraim’s head, who was the younger, and his \_\_\_\_\_ upon Manasseh’s head.”

The purpose of this is again indicated in verse 20 – “And he \_\_\_\_\_ them that day.” However, this does not mean laying on of hands merely conferred human approval, for the rest of verse 20 shows that Jacob pronounced God’s blessing as he laid hands on them – “In thee shall Israel bless, saying, God make thee as Ephraim, and as Manasseh.”

The purpose of laying on of hands is also indicated by comparison of two New Testament passages. Acts 13:3 records that “they laid their hands on” Saul and Barnabas in the church at Antioch. The significance of this is implied in Acts 14:26, which states that Saul and Barnabas later returned “to Antioch, from whence they had been \_\_\_\_\_ for the work which they fulfilled.” Thus, laying on of hands at Antioch recommended them to God’s grace for his blessing in their work.

### WHAT BLESSINGS ARE IMPARTED BY THE LAYING ON OF HANDS?

#### 1. The laying on of hands is a means of healing.

According to Mark 6:4-5, \_\_\_\_\_ “laid his hands upon a few sick folk and \_\_\_\_\_ them.”

According to Mark 16:17-18, “them that \_\_\_\_\_...shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall \_\_\_\_\_.”



According to Acts 28:8, “\_\_\_\_\_ entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and \_\_\_\_\_ him.”

**2. The laying on of hands is used to confer God’s blessing on a new ministry.**

Acts 6:1-6 describes the selection of seven men by the church at Jerusalem as deacons.

According to verse 6, they set their choices “before the apostles: and when they had \_\_\_\_\_, they \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_.”

Acts 13:1-3 describes the sending out of Saul and Barnabas by the church at Antioch.

According to verse 3, “when they had \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, they sent them away.”

**3. The laying on of hands is used to impart the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

According to Acts 8:14-17, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ “laid....their hands on them, and they \_\_\_\_\_.”

According to Acts 19:6, when “\_\_\_\_\_ had laid his hands upon them, the \_\_\_\_\_.”

**4. The laying on of hands is used to impart spiritual gifts.**

In 1 Timothy 4:14, Paul writes to Timothy, “Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by \_\_\_\_\_, with the \_\_\_\_\_ of the presbytery (elders).” Paul wrote again in 2 Timothy 1:6, “Stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the \_\_\_\_\_.”

“Gift” in both of these passages is *charisma* in Greek, which is used elsewhere with reference to spiritual gifts (Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:4). The Bible uses a different Greek word (*dorea*) for the gift of the Holy Spirit himself.

**MAY THESE BLESSINGS BE RECEIVED WITHOUT LAYING ON OF HANDS?**

**Yes.** Laying on of hands is a primary means of conferring God’s blessings, but God is never limited to a physical ordinance. The same blessings imparted by the laying on of hands are also imparted elsewhere without this ordinance, including healing (Acts 14:8-10) and the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:44).

**WHAT ARE SOME MISUSES OF LAYING ON OF HANDS?**

1. Laying on of hands is often an empty ritual in the church today. 2 Timothy 3:5 describes the last days, when men will be “having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.”

What does the rest of the verse say to do? “ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.”

2. Laying on of hands is used in some churches for confirmation, but these are never connected in scripture. To confirm means to establish, which is done by encouragement and instruction (“exhortation” - Acts 14:22; 15:32).

3. Laying on of hands is sometimes attempted as a means of overcoming problems or sinful practices, as a substitute for discipline and spiritual maturity.

4. Laying on of hands is sometimes used indiscriminately in an attempt to impart spiritual gifts without divine revelation. This may be done to flatter gullible people by appealing to their pride. The distribution of spiritual gifts is determined by the Holy Spirit, “dividing to every man severally as he will” (1 Corinthians 12:8-11).

5. Hands are sometimes laid on candidates for church offices without sufficient time to prove them. God’s word warns against this – A bishop (overseer) “must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited” (1 Timothy 3:6, NIV). “Lay hands suddenly on no man” (1 Timothy 5:22).



## Foundation 9: Faith

### The necessity of faith

One thing you must, as a believer have is faith. Without it, you cannot please God (Hebrews 11:6). Faith is the key to receiving from God. By it men have received financial blessings, been spared from judgment, received strength to endure persecution and hardship, escaped from



danger, become mighty in war, received back their dead by resurrection and obtained approval from God (Hebrews 11).

### What is faith?

Hebrews 11:1 says, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen..."

**Faith is like an atom.** An atom is the smallest particle of an element that can

exist alone. Although it is invisible to the naked eye, it serves as the building blocks of all matter. In the same way, faith is also unseen, and yet it is the building block from which all of God's promises are manifested to the believer.

**Faith is like a title deed.** Faith is like a deed to a piece of property. It is not the property but proof of ownership. In the same way, our faith is proof to us, that God is our owner.

**A simple definition.** Faith is simply taking God at His Word, believing what He says to be true, praying for what He shows is His will, and acting and living out your life in such a way to show you believe in Him.

### The Basis of Faith

According to Romans 10:17, "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." So, the basis of faith is what God speaks to us through His Word. When you pray according to the will of God, He hears you and grants your request (1 John 5:14-15). The key to knowing the will of God is an understanding of His ways and promises as revealed in Scripture. Your faith then is built up when you line up your prayers with the promises and commands of God.

### Principles of operating by Faith

"And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you that whosoever shall say to this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore, I say unto you, what things so ever ye

desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any.” Mark 11:22-25

### **Jesus taught what it takes to operate in faith**

- Make God the object and source of your faith
- God will answer anyone’s prayers which meet the conditions of faith
- Speak to the mountain
- Be specific about what you want
- Give no place to doubt in your heart
- Put no limitations on God’s ability to perform
- Believe that you receive now, the answer
- Guard against unforgiveness

*Other helps to this faith walk*

### **Pray in agreement with other believers**

Matthew 18:19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

### **Bind the devil and loose your blessing according to God’s will**

Matthew 16:19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

### **Be persistent in prayer...never give up**

Luke 18:1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

### **Be bold in coming to God for help**

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

### **Pray in Jesus’ name**

John 16:23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

### **Pray to know God’s will for the situation**

1 John 5:14-15 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: <sup>(15)</sup> And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

***Faith promises recorded in Scripture, on:***

- **Salvation** -Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
- **Healing** - 1 Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.
- **Finances** - Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.
- **Salvation of family members** - Acts 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.
- **Wisdom and guidance** - James 1:5-6 <sup>5</sup> If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.
- **Protection** - Luke 10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.
- **Favor** - John 12:26b... if any man serve me, him will *my* Father honour.
- **Success** - Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.
- **Mental Health** - 2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.
- **Victory over fear** - Romans 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.
- **Power** - Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
- **Ability to overcome** - 1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.







## Foundation 10: Worship

### Why is our worship different from that of most traditional churches?

Because we are first century Christians living in the twenty-first century. Our worship is based on the entire Bible and especially the New Testament. If a New Testament Christian could visit modern churches, he would feel most at home in a Pentecostal or charismatic gathering. Let's go to the Bible and find out why.



#### WHY DO WE WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS?

Some churches argue that Saturday is the Sabbath and that Sunday worship is a departure from the Word of God.

*Here's why we worship on Sunday:*

#### **1. The Sabbath commandment was abolished at the cross.**

Colossians 2:14-17 <sup>14</sup>Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; <sup>15</sup>And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. <sup>16</sup>Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath *days*: <sup>17</sup>Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body *is* of Christ.

According to verses 16-17, this includes the Sabbath – “Let no man therefore \_\_\_\_\_ you in meat or in drink, or in respect of a holy day, or of the new moon, or of the \_\_\_\_\_ days: which are a \_\_\_\_\_; but the body is of Christ.”

Some say that these verses only refer to Jewish feast days and not the seventh day of the week, but the Bible does not say that.

#### **2. Christ met with his disciples after His resurrection on the first day of the week.**

John 20:19 – “Then the same day at evening, being the \_\_\_\_\_ day of the week, came \_\_\_\_\_ and stood in the midst.” The appearances of Jesus on the first day of the week are the beginning of special significance for this day.

#### **3. The early Christians met on the first day of the week.**

Look at Acts 20:7 – “And upon the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul  
preached unto them.” See also 1 Corinthians 16:2.

**WHY DO WE PRAISE WITH A LOUD VOICE?**

Luke 19:37, 40 – “And when he was come nigh,....the whole multitude of the disciples began to  
rejoice and praise God with \_\_\_\_\_ for all the  
mighty works that they had seen.... And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if  
these should hold their peace, the \_\_\_\_\_ immediately  
\_\_\_\_\_.”

Psalm 47:1 – “\_\_\_\_\_ unto God with the voice of triumph.”

**WHY DO WE CLAP?**

Psalm 47:1 – “O \_\_\_\_\_, all ye people.”  
Clapping should not be our main means of praise since it is mentioned only once in Scripture,  
but it is a Biblical means of praise.

**WHY DO WE RAISE OUR HANDS?**

Psalm 63:4 – “I will \_\_\_\_\_ in  
thy name.”

1 Timothy 2:8 – “I will therefore that men pray everywhere, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, without wrath and doubting.”

**WHY DO PEOPLE DANCE IN WORSHIP?**

*Find out which people danced in praise:*

Exodus 15:20  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2 Samuel 6:16; 1 Chronicles 15:29 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 149:3 – “Let them praise his name in \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.”

Psalm 150:4 – “\_\_\_\_\_ with the timbrel and dance.”

*These above verses do not mean that every Christian is commanded to dance any more than  
they mean that every Christian is bound to play on a trumpet, harp, or cymbals. However, the  
Old Testament references show dancing is an acceptable way of praising God. There is no*

*record of it in the New Testament Church, so dancing should be considered an option in worship. It is a way of praising God with our bodies.*

**WHY DO WE SING?**

Psalm 100:2 – “Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with \_\_\_\_\_.”

Ephesians 5:18-19 – “Be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.” Notice the variety of music. We often make a mistake of limiting ourselves to one particular type of music.

**WHY DO WE SING NEW SONGS?**

Psalm 96:1; 98:1; 149:1 – “Sing unto the Lord \_\_\_\_\_.”

Psalm 40:3 – “And he hath put a new song in my mouth.”

A song spontaneously given by the Holy Spirit is described in Ephesians 5:19 as a “spiritual song.”

**WHY DO WE USE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS?**

List the instruments mentioned in Psalm 150. Use a modern translation if you have one:

*Some denominations argue that musical instruments are wrong because they are mentioned only in the Old Testament. Even if that were true, they are not wrong because the Bible nowhere forbids them. However, the Greek word translated “making melody” in Ephesians 5:19 (psallontes) originally meant to strike a musical instrument. Since it used with another word which means “singing” (adontes), “making melody” describes something other than singing – musical accompaniment.*

**WHY DO SOME PRAY IN UNISON?**

Acts 4:24 records, “they lifted up their voice to God \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.” God can hear every one!

**WHY DO WE PROPHECY IN CHURCH?**

1 Corinthians 14:3, 31 – “but he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to \_\_\_\_\_, and  
\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ ....For ye may all prophesy one by  
one that all may \_\_\_\_\_ and all may be \_\_\_\_\_.”

**WHY DO WE HAVE TONGUES AND INTERPRETATION IN CHURCH?**

1 Corinthians 14:39 – “Forbid not to \_\_\_\_\_.”

According to 1 Corinthians 14:26-27, how many messages may be given in tongues when the church comes together? \_\_\_\_\_.

**What gift must always accompany tongues in the church?**

\_\_\_\_\_.

**WHAT ARE BIBLICAL GUIDELINES FOR WORSHIP?**

1. **Attitude:** According to John 4:23-24, what attitudes does God require for worshippers?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. **Participation:** List the ways different individuals may participate according to 1 Corinthians 14:26

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. **Edification:** Everything must edify or build up others (1 Corinthians 14:26).

4. **Order:** 1 Corinthians 14:40 – “Let all things be done \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.”

## Foundation 11: Your Gifts

You need to discover the gifts God has given you. God has a definite ministry planned for you, and He has provided spiritual gifts needed to fulfill that ministry. This lesson can help you discover your gifts.

Let's look in God's word for answers to these questions.



### WHAT ARE CHARISMATIC GIFTS?

Spiritual gifts are divinely given abilities. The Greek word translated "gift" in 1 Peter 4:10 and Romans 12:6 is *charisma*, from which we get "charismatic." It is from two Greek words meaning "grace" (*charis*) and "result" (*-ma*). Thus, a charisma is a "result of grace" or "gift."

See how many charismatic gifts you can find. Some are repeated, but you only need to write them once.

Romans 5:17 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 6:23 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 12:6-8 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 7:7 - \_\_\_\_\_

*(You may need to read from the beginning of the chapter to see what this refers to).*

1 Corinthians 12:8-10 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 12:28 (Five were already mentioned)

\_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 4:11 (Three were already mentioned)

\_\_\_\_\_

This list is just a starter. Different persons may have various combinations of gifts to equip them for different ministries. Some of the gifts, such as "helps," may actually be manifest in many different ways. Your gifts are somewhere in this list if you are a Christian.

## HOW DO I KNOW I HAVE A SPIRITUAL GIFT?

The Bible teaches that EVERY Christian has at least one spiritual gift. If you are a Christian, that means YOU have a gift. Prove this to yourself by filling in the key words in these verses:

1 Peter 4:10 – “ As \_\_\_\_\_ hath received the \_\_\_\_\_, even so \_\_\_\_\_ the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

1 Corinthians 12:7 – “But the manifestation of the Spirit is \_\_\_\_\_ to profit withal” (NIV – “for the common good”).

## WHAT PART DOES GOD AND MAN HAVE IN SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

### 1. You may pray for and seek spiritual gifts.

For example, see 1 Corinthians 14:1 Verse 1 exhorts, “ \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual gifts, \_\_\_\_\_ that ye may \_\_\_\_\_...Now see 1 Cor 14:4, “ he that prophesieth to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church. (14:13) Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue \_\_\_\_\_ that he may interpret.”

### 2. God himself has the final authority to determine which gifts you have.

That is why Romans 12:3 warns “to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think.” 1 Corinthians 12:11 is speaking of spiritual gifts when it says, “All these worketh that one and the selfsame \_\_\_\_\_, dividing to every man severally \_\_\_\_\_.”

### 3. You must exercise your gifts.

God will not manipulate you like a machine; you must speak or act in response to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. According to 1 Corinthians 14:32, “the spirits of the \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ to the prophets.”

The instructions for the gifts of tongues, interpretation, and prophecy in 1 Corinthians 14:26-32 imply that the exercise of these gifts is controlled by the persons who have the gifts. 1 Thessalonians 5:19 commands, “ \_\_\_\_\_ the Spirit.”

Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 4:14, “ \_\_\_\_\_ the gift that is in thee.” Apparently, Timothy failed to obey this admonition, so Paul wrote again in 2 Timothy 1:6, “ \_\_\_\_\_ the gift of God, which is in thee.” According to the following verse (7), what does it seem was the reason Timothy failed to use his spiritual gift? \_\_\_\_\_

## HOW DO I KNOW WHICH GIFT GOD HAS GIVEN ME?

### 1. God imparts faith to you for the gift He wants you to have.

This is the meaning of Romans 12:3, which is the scriptural key to the discovery of your gifts – “For I say through the grace given unto me to every man that is among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”

Romans 12:3-8 clearly shows that each is given a different measure of faith for his particular gift. We don't all have the same measure of faith. You can prove this by filling in the key words missing from Romans 12:4, 6 – “For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the \_\_\_\_\_ ... having gifts \_\_\_\_\_ according to the grace that is given to us.”

### 2. Your gift may be confirmed by other persons.

Acts 13:2 records how the call of Saul and Barnabas was confirmed by the prophets and teachers in the church at Antioch – “As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.” Notice that God Himself had already called them – the others only confirmed God's call to them.

1 Timothy 4:14 – “Neglect not the gift (*charisma*) that is in thee, which was given thee \_\_\_\_\_, with the \_\_\_\_\_ of the presbytery” (elders).

### 3. Your gift will also be confirmed by the results.

According to Deuteronomy 18:21-22, what is the test of a prophet?

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Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 12:12, “Truly the \_\_\_\_\_ of an apostle were wrought among you in all \_\_\_\_\_, in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.”







Read Acts 1:1-14 and underline the correct word to complete this sentence – Jesus commanded (disciples/the unsaved) to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:14 states, “Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John; who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (for as yet he was fallen upon none of them...)” These Samaritans were saved, for Acts 8:12 says, “when they \_\_\_\_\_ Philip teaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were \_\_\_\_\_.” Since they were believers, many scriptures (such as Mark 16:16; John 3:15-18; Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:8) establish the fact that they were saved.

The Greek word used for “receive the Holy Ghost” means “to actively take or grasp.” A Christian may be indwelt by the Holy Spirit even though he has never actively received the Spirit.

### **WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

Acts 1:8 – “Ye shall receive \_\_\_\_\_ after that the Holy Ghost come upon you: and ye shall be \_\_\_\_\_ unto me.”

### **HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN YOU HAVE RECEIVED THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

There are four instances recorded in Acts when people received the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Let’s look at these for an answer to this question.

1. Acts 2:1-4 – On the day of Pentecost “there came a sound from heaven as of the rushing mighty wind ... there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire ... and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.: The first two of these signs (the sound of wind and tongues of fire) took place before the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost and they were never repeated.
2. Acts 8:14-19 – There is no description of what happened but there was an outward manifestation when the Samaritans received the Spirit. “When Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles’ hand the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money” (Acts 8:18).
3. Acts 10:44-46 – “And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they \_\_\_\_\_ and magnify God.”
4. Acts 19:6 – “The Holy Ghost came on them; and they \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.”

In each of these instances, when the outward results of the baptism with the Holy Spirit are described they always included speaking in tongues. One instance (Acts 8:14-17) does not

mention speaking in tongues, but it does not say they did not speak in tongues. Therefore, speaking in tongues is described as the initial, physical evidence of the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

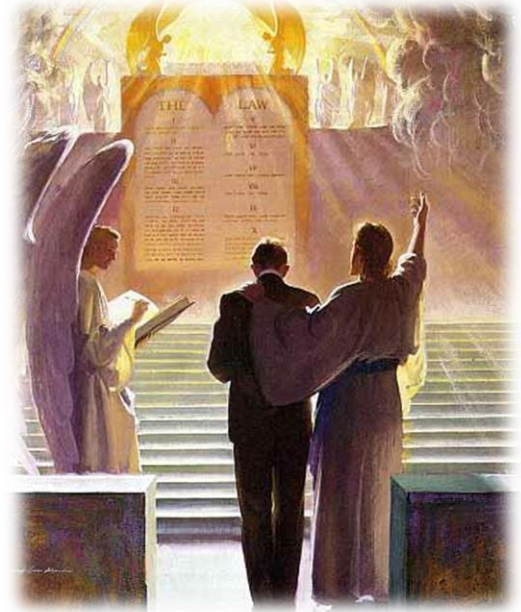
## **HOW CAN YOU RECEIVE THE *BAPTISM* WITH HOLY SPIRIT?**

*Draw a line to the Scripture reference for each of these steps.*

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. You must be a Christian                    | Acts 2:4                      |
| 2. Ask for the Holy Spirit                    | John 7:38-39<br>Galatians 3:2 |
| 3. Submit to laying on of hands               | Luke 11:13                    |
| 4. Believe God to give you the Spirit         | Acts 8:17; 19:6               |
| 5. Speak in other tongues as the Spirit leads | John 14:17<br>Acts 5:32       |

## Foundation 13: Our Eternity

Death is not the end for you; what you do in this life will determine how you spend eternity. This is the doctrine of “eternal judgment,” named in Hebrews 6:2 as one of the foundational “principles of the doctrine of Christ.” The New Testament is futuristic, using the future as an incentive for the right choices in this present life. The Bible teaches only two possible results of eternal judgment. Let’s see what it says about them.



### THE SAVED WILL BE JUDGED FOR ETERNAL REWARDS.

#### 1. Christians will be rewarded at the judgment seat if Christ.

According to 2 Corinthians 5:10, “we must \_\_\_\_\_ appear before the

\_\_\_\_\_;  
\_\_\_\_\_ ; that every one may receive the things \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, according to that he hath done, whether it be  
\_\_\_\_\_.”

According to Matthew 16:27 and 1 Corinthians 3:13-15, will Christians receive different rewards? \_\_\_\_\_

Here are some things for which God will reward his people – motives/giving/winning souls/love for Christ’s appearing/service as an elder/abiding quality of work/suffering, persecution. Write each one beneath the verse which describes it:

“And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever” (Daniel 12:3). “For what is our hope, or joy or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of Jesus Christ at his coming?” (1 Thessalonians 2:19-20; see Acts 17:1-4).

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

“Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven....” (Matthew 5:11-12).

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

“Take heed that you do not your charitable deeds before men, to be seen of them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven” (Matthew 6:1, NKJV). “Therefore, judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God” (1 Corinthians 4:5).

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\_\_\_\_\_ “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...” (Matthew 6:19-20).

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“Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;.... The fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire” (1 Corinthians 3:12-15).

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“The elders which are among you I exhort...And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away” (1 Peter 5:1, 4).

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“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: And not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing” (2 Timothy 4:8).

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**2. The saved will live and reign with Christ 1000 years on this earth, known as the millennium (Revelation 20:4-5).** This will be a time of universal righteousness. However, it will not be perfect, since there will be unsaved people who will rebel against Christ at the end of this period. The millennium will vindicate Jesus and the righteous by allowing them to reign on earth, where they were once rejected. It will also demonstrate human wickedness, even under ideal conditions.

**3. The saved will live with God eternally in a new heaven and earth (Revelation 21-22).** The holy city, New Jerusalem, will come out of heaven to earth (21:3). Those who are saved will live on the renewed earth with access to the heavenly city for worship (21:24-26). All effects of sin will be removed (21:4, 27). God himself will dwell among his people in the heavenly city (21:3, 22-23).

## **THE UNSAVED WILL BE JUDGED WITH ETERNAL PUNISHMENT.**

The unsaved will be resurrected to stand in judgment. Turn to Revelation 20:11-15 and look up these facts about the judgment of the unsaved:

**1. The place of judgment** – “I saw a great \_\_\_\_\_” (:11).

**2. The people at the judgment** – Revelation 20:12 says, “I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God.”

**3. The basis of judgment** – “The dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to \_\_\_\_\_” (:12). There is no second chance: they are judged for works done in their earthly lives.

**4. The resurrection unto judgment** (:13) – “The sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell (*hades*) gave up the dead which were in them.” This refers to the bodies and souls. The souls of the unsaved go to *hades* immediately at death (Luke 16:19-26) and come forth at the resurrection to be judged.

**5. The result of the judgment** (:14) – “And death (bodies) and hell (*hades* – souls) were cast into the lake of fire.” Thus, there are two hells in scripture – *hades*, where the souls of unsaved go after death, and the lake of fire where their souls and bodies will go after judgment.

Jesus used the Greek word “*gehenna*” to describe the place of everlasting torment where the bodies and souls of the unsaved will go. Although it was originally used for a valley (*Hinnom*) where there was a garbage dump, it is obvious this is not how Jesus used it. Look up Matthew 10:28 – “And fear not them which kill the body but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (*gehenna*).

The unsaved will suffer eternal torment in hell. Note these warnings, which “annihilate” the unscriptural doctrine of annihilation –

Matthew 25:46 – “And these shall go away into \_\_\_\_\_ punishment: but the righteous into life \_\_\_\_\_.”

Mark 9:43-44 – “And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off; it is better for thee to enter life maimed, than having two hands to go into \_\_\_\_\_, into the \_\_\_\_\_ that never shall be \_\_\_\_\_: where the worm dieth not, and the \_\_\_\_\_ is not \_\_\_\_\_.” This warning is repeated three times (42:48).

Revelation 14:10-11 – “the same shall drink of the wine of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb; and the smoke of their \_\_\_\_\_ ascended up \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_: and they have no \_\_\_\_\_ day or night.”



## Foundation 14: Resurrection of the dead

*“Why not forget about the future and concentrate on the life we are now living?”*

This point of view seems reasonable to the “now generation” within the church as well as on the outside of the church.

However, in God’s Word the future is an incentive for hope and righteousness in this present world. About a fourth of the Bible is predictive prophecy. Two future events are included in the foundational principles of the doctrine of Christ – resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.

The resurrection of the dead is the restoration of dead bodies to life – never spirits or souls. This will be obvious as we look at the four different bodily resurrections distinguished in the Bible:

### INDIVIDUALS WERE TEMPORARILY RESURRECTED.

These included: the son of the widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:17-24); the son of the Shunamite woman (2 Kings 4:18-37); a man who was thrown in Elisha’s grave (2 Kings 13:20-21); a ruler’s daughter (Matthew 9:18, 23-25); many saints who were raised after Jesus’ resurrection (Matthew 27:52-53); the son of the widow of Nain (Luke 7:11-18); Lazarus (John 11); Tabitha (Acts 9:36-43); and Eutychus (Acts 20:9-12).

Apparently, other individuals have been resurrected, both in Biblical times (Matthew 10:8) and in this age. However, these resurrections have all been temporary, for 1 Corinthians 15:20 declares, “For now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.” According to John 5:28, 29, “the resurrection of life” is still future.

These temporary resurrections are not part of the “resurrection of the dead before Jesus comes according to Hebrews 6:2. Any resurrection of the dead before Jesus comes is an isolated event, not based on a promise of God’s word.



### CHRIST WAS RESURRECTED.

The resurrection refers to the body of Christ not his soul or spirit. According to Luke 23:42-43, Christ said to the thief on the cross, “\_\_\_\_\_ shalt thou be with me in \_\_\_\_\_.” This referred to Christ’s spirit, for verse 46 records, “And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my \_\_\_\_\_: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost (expired).” In contrast, the body of Jesus was buried by Joseph of Arimathaea, and arose three days later (Luke 23:50; 24:7).

Luke 24:39 shows that the body of Christ was raised. Jesus said, “Behold my \_\_\_\_\_ and my \_\_\_\_\_, that it is \_\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_ me, and see; for a \_\_\_\_\_ hath not \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as ye see



me have.” Compare this with 1 Corinthians 15:50 – Jesus’ resurrection body was “flesh and bones” but not “flesh and blood.”

All Christianity is based upon the resurrection of Christ. Look up the consequences of denial of the resurrection, in 1 Corinthians 15:14-18:

Verse 14 – “And if Christ be not risen, then is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, and your \_\_\_\_\_ is  
\_\_\_\_\_.”

Verse 17 – “and if Christ be not raised, your \_\_\_\_\_;  
ye are yet \_\_\_\_\_.”

Verse 18 – “Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are \_\_\_\_\_.”

## **CHRISTIANS WHO HAVE DIED WILL BE RESURRECTED AT CHRIST’S COMING.**

**1. When a believer dies, his soul goes to be with the Lord.** Notice these passages which refute the doctrine of “soul sleep” – that the souls of the dead remain unconscious in the grave until the resurrection.

Paul expected to go immediately into the presence of Christ when he died.

He wrote in Philippians 1:21, “For to me to live is Christ, and to \_\_\_\_\_ is  
\_\_\_\_\_.” He wrote in verse 23, “For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to  
\_\_\_\_\_ and to be \_\_\_\_\_; which is far better.”

Paul also wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:8, “We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be  
\_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_, and to be \_\_\_\_\_ with the  
\_\_\_\_\_.”

John says that in heaven are the souls of those who had died as martyrs for the word of God and their Christian testimonies (Revelation 6:9-11).

However, the soul in heaven without the body is not the permanent condition of a Christian after death.

**2. Our full salvation will be complete when our physical bodies are glorified at Christ's coming.** Romans 8:23 declares we are "waiting for the .....redemption of our body."

Look at 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 – "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him" (:14). This refers to the souls of our bodies prophesied in verses 16,17 – "for the Lord himself shall \_\_\_\_\_ with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall \_\_\_\_\_; then we which are alive and remain shall be \_\_\_\_\_ together with them in the clouds, to \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_."

According to Philippians 3:21, Jesus Christ "shall change our \_\_\_\_\_; that it may be fashioned like unto his \_\_\_\_\_."

**THE UNSAVED WILL ALSO BE RESURRECTED.**

1. At death, the unsaved immediately go into torment. Jesus told of a rich man who died and "in hell (*hades*) he lifted up his eyes, being in torments" (Luke 16:22-23). This refers to his soul since it took place immediately at death. The place where the unsaved go at death is *hades* in Greek, translated "hell" in the KJV. This cannot be explained away as a parable since Jesus did not call it a parable or make any comparison, which a parable must do. Jesus would not teach error even in a parable.

2. The bodies of the unsaved dead will be resurrected and reunited with their souls to be sent unto everlasting torment. Jesus said, "All that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; ...they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:28-29).

According to Revelation 20, after Christ returns and reigns on earth a thousand years, the bodies of the unsaved will come out of the sea or death (the grave), and their souls will come out of hell (*hades*). They will then be judged and cast into the lake of fire.

## Foundation 15: Marriage and the home

One of the greatest benefits Christ offers you is a Christian home – a little spot of heaven on earth. Perhaps your home is far from that, but the principles of God’s Word can make it a place of joy and blessing. Let’s look at some of these principles:

### **MARRIAGE IS ORDAINED BY GOD.**

“And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone, I will make him an help meet for him.... Therefore, shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh” (Genesis 2:18, 24).

Since marriage was instituted by God, we do not have the right to live together without marriage. You also have a responsibility to order your marriage by God’s Word rather than your own ideas or wishes.

### **MARRIAGE IS A COVENANT OF COMPANIONSHIP.**

This was God’s original reason for the institution of marriage – “And the LORD God said, it is not good that the man should \_\_\_\_\_; I will make him an help meet for him” (Genesis 2:18).

Marriage should mean you do not have to be lonely or face problems alone. The right to sexual fulfillment or procreation of children are important parts of marriage but mean little unless they result from a relationship of unity between husband and wife.

### **MARRIAGE IS A SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIP.**

The New International Version translates Genesis 2:18, “I will make a helper suitable for him.” This may include any kind of help which is needed. However, husbands and wives have some specific responsibilities.

#### **1. Responsibility of husbands:**

1 Timothy 5:8 – “But if any \_\_\_\_\_ not for his own, and especially for those of his \_\_\_\_\_, he hath \_\_\_\_\_, and is worse than an \_\_\_\_\_.”

What is a husband’s special responsibility?



**2. Responsibility of wives:**

“A wife of noble character...gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family...When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet. She makes coverings for her bed... She watches over the affairs of her household...” (Proverbs 31:10-31, NIV).

1 Timothy 5:14 – “I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.....”

According to Titus 2:3-5 (NIV), the older women should teach the younger women “to be busy at home.”

What is the wife’s special responsibility?

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Does this mean a wife should never work outside the home? Look at Proverbs 31:10-31 for the answer. \_\_\_\_\_

As you complete this lesson, you will learn other responsibilities of husbands and wives.

**MARRIAGE IS A RELATIONSHIP OF ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN.**

Jesus asked, “Haven’t you read...that at the beginning the Creator made them male and female, and said, for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh?” (Matthew 19:4-5, NIV).

Anything other than one man and one woman is a violation of God’s plan. Write down the violations of God’s plan described in these passages:

Genesis 4:19; 1 Kings 11:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_

Exodus 20:14; James 4:4 \_\_\_\_\_

Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:26-27  
\_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 19:8-9; 1 Corinthians 7:10-11  
\_\_\_\_\_

**MARRIAGE IS A SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP.**

The covenant of companionship is completed when the husband and wife are united sexually. 1 Corinthians 6:16 shows that a sexual relationship is the meaning of the statement, “they shall be one flesh.” Genesis 2:24 uses this to describe husband and wife; 1 Corinthians 6:16 shows how evil it would be for a Christian to have the same relationship to a harlot. To neglect this sexual relationship is to defraud your companion and undermine your marriage (1

Corinthians 7:3-6). The sexual relationship should be the deepest expression of love and unity in marriage.

**MARRIAGE REQUIRES THE SUBMISSION OF THE WIFE.**

Ephesians 5:22-24 – “Wives, \_\_\_\_\_ yourselves unto your own husbands, \_\_\_\_\_.  
...Therefore \_\_\_\_\_, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.”

However, a Christian wife should not submit to demands that are contrary to the Word of God. If her husband forbids her to be a Christian or attend church or asks her to engage in any sinful activity, she should obey God. She is subject to her husband “as unto the Lord” and “as the church is subject unto Christ,” and Christ makes no sinful demands of the church.

**MARRIAGE REQUIRES THE UNSELFISH LOVE OF THE HUSBAND.**

In Ephesians 5:25, husbands are commanded to “Love your wives, even as \_\_\_\_\_ also \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ for it.” The Greek work translated “love” is agape, - unselfish devotion to another.

This means the husband must seek the benefit of his wife rather than himself. Ephesians 5:28-29 – “So ought men to love their wives as \_\_\_\_\_  
... For no man ever yet hated \_\_\_\_\_, but nourisheth and cherisheth it....”

The Bible never uses the expression “in love.” Although love may excite deep emotions, love itself is not a feeling; it is an act of the will. Husbands are commanded to love their wives. Young women are taught to be lovers of their husbands (Titus 2:4).

**MARRIAGE INVOLVES A RESPONSIBILITY TO CHILDREN.**

Proverbs 29:17 – “\_\_\_\_\_ thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give \_\_\_\_\_ unto they soul.”

Ephesians 6:4 “Ye \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord.”

**MARRIAGE IS A LIFELONG COMMITMENT.**

Jesus was asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” Our Lord answered, “they are no longer two, but one. Therefore, what God has joined together, let man not separate” (Mark 20:2-9; NIV).

Only sexual immorality gives the right to divorce and remarry. Matthew 19:9 – “Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for \_\_\_\_\_, and shall marry another \_\_\_\_\_.”

Those who divorce for any other reason should remain unmarried.

1 Corinthians 7:11 – “But and if she depart, let her \_\_\_\_\_, or be \_\_\_\_\_.”

Those who have divorced and remarried should not try to return to their former companions (Deuteronomy 24:1-4). By remarriage, they have broken the former marriage, and if they come to Christ they will be forgiven of their past sin (2 Corinthians 5:17).

## Foundation 16: What God says about money

According to Jesus, your attitude toward money is the test of what kind of person you are. He said, "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much. So, if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?" (Luke 16:10-11, NIV). According to verse 9, the "true riches" refer to the "eternal dwelling" or heaven. He further said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21).

God's plan for your money is revealed throughout the Bible, but Proverbs especially covers wide range of financial subjects. Therefore, we are going to use Proverbs as a basis for our study along with some other passages that amplify Proverbs' teaching on money.



### GIVE TO GOD

Proverbs 3:9-10 – "Honor the LORD with thy \_\_\_\_\_, and with the \_\_\_\_\_ of all thine increase; so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."

This summarizes the teaching on giving throughout the Bible – give to God before even your own needs, and God will supply your needs. Jesus said, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." (Luke 6:38)

The minimal amount of giving is established throughout the Bible as a tithe, or tenth:

- 1. Tithing was taught before the law, for both Abraham and Jacob tithed** (Genesis 14:20; 28:22).
- 2. Tithing was commanded in the law** (Leviticus 27:30-34).
- 3. Tithing was taught by Jesus after the law** (Matthew 23:23).

Luke 16:16 shows that this and other teachings of Jesus' earthly ministry are applicable to us today.

*\* Note: After the crucifixion and the resurrection, the "Age of Grace" began so we need also to consider the teaching about giving in 2 Cor 9:6-11.*

**DON'T WASTE WHAT GOD GIVES YOU.**

Proverbs 18:9 – “He that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a \_\_\_\_\_.”

When Jesus fed the five thousand with five loaves and two fishes, he said, “Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost” (John 6:12). Proverbs 6:6, 8 (NIV) exhorts, “Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise...it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.”

**BE DILIGENT IN YOUR WORK.**

Proverbs 21:5 – “The thoughts of the \_\_\_\_\_ tend only to plenteousness.”

We should consider it a spiritual duty to excel in our work. Although Ephesians 6:5-8 was first addressed to slaves, they were the workers of that era, so it applies to employees of our day. Verse 8 shows that it applies to the free as well as slaves.

A Christian should be known as a diligent and excellent worker; it is a shame if he has a reputation for laziness.

**AVOID DEBT IF POSSIBLE**

Proverbs 22:7 declares, “The borrower is \_\_\_\_\_ to the lender.”

This is true today as in Biblical times; the borrower does not fully own his possessions, for the lender has a claim on them if the debt is not paid. Further, the borrower actually works for the lender since part of his labor goes to pay the principle and interest. Not only does the borrower have a legal obligation; he has a divine obligation. Psalm 37:21 declares, “The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again.”

This raises a question. Does Romans 13:8 mean all debt is wrong when it says, “Owe no man anything”?

**No**, this verse does not mean all debt is wrong. In context “owe” in Romans 13:8 refers to a debt that is unpaid (past due), for the passage is teaching that Christians must meet the obligations imposed by government (verses 1-7). The preceding verse (:7) says, “Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.” So debt is generally undesirable but not totally prohibited.

The New International Version translates Romans 13:8 “Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.”



**SHARE YOUR GOODS WITH THE NEEDY.**

Proverbs 19:17 – “He that hath pity on the poor \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_; and that which he hath given will he \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ again.”

Proverbs 21:13 – “Whoso stoppeth his ears at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the  
\_\_\_\_\_, he shall cry himself, but \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.”

**SET THE RIGHT FINANCIAL GOAL.**

This is summarized in Proverbs 30:8-9 – “Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me  
neither \_\_\_\_\_ nor \_\_\_\_\_; feed me with food  
convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? Or lest I  
be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.”

This warns of the danger of extremes. We should not prize poverty, which can tempt  
us to be dishonest or even resent God.

On the other hand, the rich face the danger of prideful self-sufficiency. Of course, God  
may choose that some of his people be rich, like Abraham (Genesis 13:2), or that  
others may suffer for his sake, like Paul (Philippians 4:11-12). In general, however, we  
should expect that all our needs will be met. To prosper does not necessarily mean to  
be rich; it means things go well with you.



