

Welcome to

# Foundations II

We hope you will enjoy this class.

Feel free to ask questions during the class if something is not clear to you.

Every student will be assigned to a tutor. Your tutor will be available to provide individualized help.

Each week, at the beginning of class, you will write out the Scripture verse which was assigned to you on the previous week, and you will be tested on the previous week's lesson.

On the final class (week 10), you will not have any lecture, but you will take a final test covering all the material in lessons 6 through 9.



# 6

## Repentance

*Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of **repentance from dead works** and of faith toward God, of instruction about washings, and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. (Hebrews 6:1-2)*

For the next several lessons we will be examining each of the foundational teachings mentioned above.

### 1. WHAT IS THE FIRST FOUNDATIONAL TEACHING MENTIONED IN HEBREWS 6:1?

Repentance from dead works. Repentance is the first step in receiving salvation. If this *foundation* is not properly laid, the whole structure will be shaky, unable to stand the tests and trials that will come.

*Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded upon the rock. And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the*

*sand. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and it fell, and great was its fall. (Matthew 7:24-27)*

*Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent, (Acts 17:30)*

## 2. WHAT IS THE FIRST WORD OF THE GOSPEL?

The first word of the Gospel is **repent**. The second word is **believe**.

*...Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; **repent and believe** in the gospel." (Mark 1:14-15)*

a. John the Baptist's first message was repentance:

***Repent** for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (Matthew 3:2)*

b. Jesus' first message was repentance:

*...Jesus began to preach and say, "**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matthew 4:17)*

c. The 12 apostles preached repentance:

*And they went out and preached that men should **repent**. (Mark 6:12)*

d. The first message on the day of Pentecost was repentance:

*And Peter said to them, "**Repent**, and let each of you be baptized..." (Acts 2:38)*

e. Paul's first message was repentance:

*...solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of **repentance** toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 20:21)*

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The first part of Christianity is the preaching of repentance... the second part is *if thou wilt be saved, thou mayest not seek salvation by works.*

— Martin Luther, in his commentary on Galatians (p. 68)

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### 3. WHAT ARE THE RESPONSES TO SOME FALSE CONCEPTS CONCERNING REPENTANCE?

- a. It is not conviction of sin (John 16:8).

God told Noah that His Spirit would not strive with man forever (Genesis 6:3). This striving with the Spirit of God is what happens when we are convicted of sin. Conviction **precedes** repentance (e.g. Acts 24:24-25).

There are people who consider themselves Christians but have never experienced genuine repentance. Some people refer to them as *carnal Christians*, but 100 years ago they were referred to as *convicted* or *awakened sinners*.

- b. It is not worldly sorrow (2 Corinthians 7:10). This is sorrow for getting caught, not sorrow for the crime committed. Sorrow is an emotion; it is possible to feel sorrowful with no real intention to change.
- c. It is not being religious. For example, the scribes and Pharisees of Jesus' day were religious (Matthew 3:7-12; 5:20). A feeling of righteousness that comes from observing rules and traditions results in pride rather than brokenness.
- d. It is not *only believe-ism* or mental faith, that is, the mental acceptance and assent to a set of creeds or doctrines without a change in life. James calls this *dead faith* (James 2:19-20).
- e. It is not reformation or *turning a new leaf*. This is merely a change of outward behavior and does not necessarily involve a change of heart toward a holy God (Psalm 17:1; 66:3; Jeremiah 3:10; Luke 20:20).

Remember the example of Pharaoh, who confessed, "I have sinned...." but Moses replied, "You do not yet fear the Lord" (Exodus 9:27, 30, 34).

### 4. WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

Repentance is the recognition that God is wholly right and the sinner is wholly wrong, accepting full responsibility for his sinful actions against a holy God, without making excuses or shifting blame on someone or something else.

I don't trust people who have been healed before they've been wounded; who've been made alive before they've been dead; who have been clothed before they've been stripped. It seems to me that they have never felt the hand of saving grace.

— Charles Spurgeon

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## 5. OF WHAT DOES ONE REPENT?

Hebrews 6:1 speaks of repentance from *dead works*. This includes the following:

- a. sins, i.e., specific sinful actions (Romans 13:13, 1 Corinthians 6:9; Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Peter 4:3-4; 1 John 2:3-6; 3:7, 10)
- b. sin

The fall brought about in man a mind in rebellion against God and His law; a mind which desires to go its own way. Some people appear to be more respectable than others. For example, the banker or the nurse may seem to be a better person than the drug dealer; but if they are not living a life dedicated to God, then they are still living basically for themselves and they will both perish.

*All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way.* (Isaiah 53:6)

*...we too **all** formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh...* (Ephesians 2:3)

*...you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds...* (Colossians 1:21)

- c. adherence to false doctrines and religious activities (attempts at self-justification)

*For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; and all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.* (Isaiah 64:6)

*...in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and*

*self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.* (Colossians 2:22-23)

*But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,* (1 Timothy 4:1)

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The greatest problems of the 20th century will be the following:

- ❖ Salvation without regeneration
- ❖ Faith without repentance
- ❖ Politics without God
- ❖ Heaven without hell
- ❖ Religion without the Holy Spirit
- ❖ Christianity without Christ

—General William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army  
(over 100 years ago)

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## **6. HOW DOES ONE REPENT?**

It is the grace of God that leads us to repentance; true repentance is brought about by the Holy Spirit (John 1:13). God calculates and designs ways by which we might repent. Our part is simply to respond to Him in genuine repentance.

*Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?* (Romans 2:4)

## **7. WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE (FRUIT) OF REPENTANCE?**

Jesus said: *"Each tree is known by its own fruit."*(Luke 6:44)

John the Baptist said: *"Bring forth fruit in keeping with your repentance."*(Matthew 3:8)

Paul said: *"...they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance."*(Acts 26:20)

If there is genuine repentance inwardly, it will be evidenced outwardly. Some expressions of true repentance are the following:

a. Godly sorrow for sin

*For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation....*  
(2 Corinthians 7:10)

Godly sorrow is sorrow for having hurt God; it is not simply sorrow for the punishment that results from having been caught. The impenitent person enjoys sin when he sees there will be no punishment.

b. Hatred of sin

*You will loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and your abominations.* (Ezekiel 36:31)

To hate sin means to no more brag about it, but to be ashamed.

Some people wonder how God could send someone to hell. But the one who has come to hate sin wonders that God has not already sent the whole world to hell.

c. Confession (acknowledgment) of sin

*When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.* (Psalm 32:3)

Sincere confession is evidenced by a willingness to accept personal responsibility without making excuses or shifting blame. See also Acts 19:18; James 5:16.

Confession may involve asking others for forgiveness.

*If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.* (Matthew 5:23-24)

The purpose for going to others is not to clear your own conscience but to be reconciled to someone who knows what you have done and is holding it against you. The blood of Jesus is sufficient for the cleansing of your guilty conscience (Hebrews 9:14, 22).

d. Forsaking sin

*He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.* (Proverbs 28:13)

Forsaking sin includes closing the door to the opportunity of committing that sin again (Acts 19:19).

A change of heart is evidenced by more than words, but by a change in behavior (Matthew 21:28-31).

e. Restitution

Restitution is repairing the damage caused by one's own sin.

*And Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much."* (Luke 19:8)

Restitution should not be motivated by the fear of judgment, but by a desire to love and be a blessing to others. The sacrifice of Jesus is sufficient payment to deliver us from the penalty of sin— God's eternal judgment.

f. Forgiveness and joy

*Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.* (Acts 3:19)

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## Homework

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1. Read chapters 1 through 8 of Matthew's gospel.
2. Be prepared to write from memory the following Scripture:  
*Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent,* (Acts 17:30)
3. Be prepared to write answers to questions in class next week based on the material in this lesson.



# 7

## Faith

*Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of **faith toward God**, of instruction about washings, and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. (Hebrews 6:1-2)*

*And without **faith** it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must **believe** that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6)*

Who is it that finds favor with God? It is the person who walks by faith.

Because God is spirit, we cannot see Him. Therefore, it takes a certain amount of faith to believe that He exists. But He has revealed Himself in His creation (Romans 1:18-20). It is unreasonable to think that everything came into being without a creator.

Once we accept the fact that God exists, we must believe that serving Him is better than not serving Him. In other words, we must believe that God is good, a rewarder of those who seek Him.

It was because Eve doubted God's goodness that she sinned. It was because of unbelief that the Israelites disobeyed God in the wilderness and did not enter the promised land (Hebrews 3:17-4:2).

Abraham is the father of all who believe (Romans 4:16). Abraham trusted God. He believed that God would be good to him.

*By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise;(Hebrews 11:8-9)*

When we trust God, we are agreeing that He is good and therefore worthy of our obedience. In obeying God, we glorify His Name.

When we disobey, we are saying that we do not believe God's testimony that He is loving and true. We secretly believe that we would be better off by taking matters into our own hands and trying to find peace, joy, or some type of fulfillment our own way, separate and apart from God.

When tested by the Lord, Abraham was even willing to offer his son Isaac, believing that God would surely raise Isaac from the dead in order to fulfill His promise to Abraham (Hebrews 11:17-19).

It was because Moses believed that God was good that he was willing to give up the passing pleasures of Egypt.

*choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin; considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen. (Hebrews 11:25-27)*

The Bible is filled with stories of men and women who were willing to persevere in their obedience to God because they believed that the reward would be worth the struggle.

Consider the Master, our example:

*Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against*

*Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart. You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin;* (Hebrews 12:1-4)

If we believe in Christ, then we will be willing to follow Him wherever He might lead.

How many people are still clinging to their own lives, tenaciously pursuing their own type of happiness, unwilling to give up all for the cause of Christ?

Jesus said if we seek to save (preserve) our own life, we will lose it, but if we give it up for His sake, we will find it. This act of giving up our hopes, dreams, ambitions, desires, and securities in order to pursue His kingdom and His righteousness is evidence that we believe that God is indeed good. It means we believe that the heavenly reward is worth the cost.

## 1. HOW DOES FAITH RELATE TO THE GOSPEL MESSAGE?

We have already seen that repentance is the first requirement of the gospel; the second requirement is faith.

Jesus preached ... *"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; **repent and believe** in the gospel."* (Mark 1:15)

The apostle Paul was *solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of **repentance toward God and faith** in our Lord Jesus Christ.* (Acts 20:21)

## 2. WHAT MUST WE BELIEVE TO BE SAVED?

(Romans 4:24-25; 10:9; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Ephesians 2:1-9; Colossians 1:19-23)

- a. We were separated from the life of God, hostile in mind and engaged in evil deeds.
- b. God sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to suffer the punishment of death in order to pay the penalty for our sins.
- c. God raised Jesus from the dead.
- d. If we repent and believe, we shall be justified, or accepted as righteous.

### 3. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FAITH AND HOPE?

Faith involves a certainty, a knowing. To believe something is to possess that thing. Jesus said,

*"Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you **have received** them, and they shall be granted you."* (Mark 11:24)

Hope is related to something that is yet in the future. We hope for that which is yet to come.

*Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your **hope** completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.* (1 Peter 1:13)

*Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this **hope** fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.* (1 John 3:2-3)

Hope is based on faith. It is because we believe in God and His word that we have hope. A state of hopelessness or despair is practical atheism. While hope is related to that which is future, faith relates to the present. Faith is able to lay hold of that which is in the future and appropriates it in the present.

*Now faith is the assurance [or realization] of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.* (Hebrews 11:1)

Faith is to our spirit what air is to our body; without faith our spirit dies. Hope is the oxygen of life; remove it and people will suffocate in despair. We must learn to have faith in God even in times of disappointment or we may find ourselves sinking into discouragement, depression, and even death as our soul grows sick. In times of disappointment we must encourage our souls to hope in God again (Psalm 42:5).

### 4. WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF FAITH?

#### a. No faith

Those with no faith have hardness of heart and fear (Mark 4:40-41; 6:50-52; 16:14; Hebrews 3:12-13).

b. Weak faith

Weak faith sees what is ahead but cannot attain it because it does not have the ability to persevere. Weak faith can begin a thing, but cannot complete it when tested by delay or obstacles.

Abraham is an example of one who did not grow weak in waiting.

*And without becoming **weak in faith** he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief, but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what He had promised, He was able also to perform.* (Romans 4:19-21)

Jesus said that we ought to pray always and not lose heart or become weak in faith (Luke 8:1).

c. Little faith

*But if God so arrays the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more do so for you, O men of **little faith**?* (Matthew 6:30)

*And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "O you of **little faith**, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind stopped.* (Matthew 14:31-32)

Little faith is the result of having little revelation of who God is. When we trust in something less than God's ability to perform, our faith is stunted. The disciples asked Jesus to increase their faith (Luke 17:5-6). We too can ask.

d. Great faith

*Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, your **faith is great**; be it done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed at once.* (Matthew 15:28)

*Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled at him, and turned and said to the multitude that was following Him, "I say to*

*you, not even in Israel have I found such **great faith.**" (Luke 7:9)*

Jesus marveled at their great faith because neither the Canaanite woman nor the Roman centurion were Israelites yet they recognized who He was and His authority. Great faith is the result of knowing God. To the extent that you know Him, you will trust Him. The apostle Paul prayed for the Ephesian church that God would give them the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him so that they would know what is the exceeding greatness of His power towards those who believe (Ephesians 1:15-19).

God is waiting to show Himself powerful on behalf of all who believe. We must pray for an increase in the knowledge of God so that our faith may abound and be more than sufficient for every good work.

## **5. HOW CAN WE GROW IN FAITH?**

- a. Meditate on God's word.

*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. (Romans 10:17)*

Faith comes by hearing God.

*God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent; has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?(Numbers 23:19)*

- b. Pray.

The disciples prayed, "Lord increase our faith" (Luke 17:5). But beyond that, we ought to seek the One in Whom we place our trust. Faith is not mechanical; it comes through an intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ask the Father for a revelation of Him (Ephesians 1:17). Our faith is in God (Mark 11:22). As we behold Him, our faith in Him will grow.

- c. Act on it.

The more you act on your faith, the more it grows. Faith is not passive but active. Those who hear the word but do not

act on it deceive themselves to think that they have faith (James 1:22; 2:14-17). Genuine faith is active.

Some examples of those who evidenced their faith are mentioned in Hebrews 11:

- ❖ *By faith Abel offered to God....*
- ❖ *By faith Enoch was taken up... before his being taken up he was pleasing to God.*
- ❖ *By faith Noah... prepared an ark....*
- ❖ *By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed....*
- ❖ *By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive....*
- ❖ *By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac....*
- ❖ *By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed....*
- ❖ *By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention....*
- ❖ *By faith Moses... was hidden for three months by his parents....*
- ❖ *By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused....*
- ❖ *By faith he left Egypt....*
- ❖ *By faith he kept the Passover....*
- ❖ *By faith they passed through the Red Sea....*

d. Speak words of faith.

*Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit. (Proverbs 18:21)*

*The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart. (Luke 6:45)*

When you feel like speaking words of fear, unbelief and defeat, stop yourself. Speaking words of fear and unbelief will only reinforce the fear and unbelief. Think about what God's word says, that He is your fortress, etc. Allow God's word to fill your heart and then speak what He is saying to you. By giving expression to words filled with faith, you reinforce your own conviction of the truth of your testimony, and faith grows.

## 6. HINDRANCES TO FAITH

### a. Self-protection

Faith in our ability to protect ourselves produces fear of failure, fear of authority, fear of death, and many other fears. We must be willing to abandon our desire to protect ourselves if our faith in God is going to survive and increase.

*For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it. For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? (Matthew 16:25-26)*

### b. Self-gratification

When we have faith in our own ability to satisfy the thirsting of our soul and we seek to do it our way, we do not come to God, the fountain of living water. We must trust that He alone can satisfy our deepest longings.

*For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water. (Jeremiah 2:13)*

*Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." (Matthew 16:24)*

## 7. OUR FAITH WILL BE TESTED.

*By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac; and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; (Hebrews 11:17)*

*knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. (James 1:3)*

*that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; (1 Peter 1:7)*

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## Homework

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1. Read chapters 9 through 15 of the Gospel of Matthew.
2. Be prepared to write from memory the following Scripture:  
*Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they shall be granted you. (Mark 11:24)*
3. Be prepared to write answers to questions in class next week based on the material in this lesson.



# 8

## Baptism in Water

*Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the **doctrine of baptisms**, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. ([Hebrews 6:1-2 NKJV](#))*

### 1. WHAT ARE THE BAPTISMS TAUGHT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT?

Hebrews 6:2 uses the plural form of the word *baptism*, showing us that there is more than one type of baptism in the Bible.

- a. John's baptism of repentance (Acts 19:3-4)
- b. New Testament water baptism (Acts 8:35-38; 19:5)
- c. Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5)
- d. Baptism of suffering (Mark 10:38-40; Luke 12:50; Philippians 2:17; Colossians 1:24; 1 Peter 4:1)

Note: Hebrews 6:2 tells us that there is more than one type of baptism in the Bible. Ephesians 4:5 tells us that there is *one Lord, one faith, one baptism*.... Is this a contradiction? No, the context of the Ephesians passage is to say that there is only one true faith, and we are all baptized into the same body.

## 2. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE WORD *BAPTIZE*?

*Baptize* literally means to dip, sink, or immerse (Mark 1:5; John 3:23; Acts 8:36-39).

## 3. MUST I BE BAPTIZED TO BE SAVED?

Salvation is through faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9) and not the result of any works or rituals that we perform. Therefore, it was possible for the dying thief to be with Jesus in Paradise even though he did not have the opportunity to be baptized.

However, if we have truly repented of our disobedience to God, then we will surely obey His command to be baptized (Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:16; also the apostles in Acts 2:37-47 and 10:44-48). If someone says that he believes in Christ but is unwilling to be baptized, it is doubtful that he has really submitted to Christ's lordship in his life (John 14:15). We validate our faith (i.e. show, confirm, or establish that we have faith) by what we do (James 2:17-18).

Baptism was never meant to be considered as a separate step toward salvation, but as an act which accompanies our believing and is therefore a part of the salvation process (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:20).

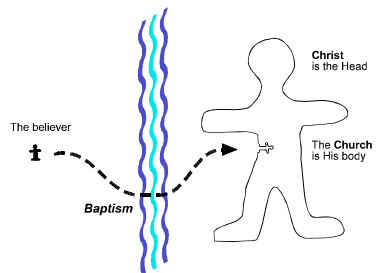
Jesus Himself was baptized as our example (Matthew 3:13-17).

## 4. WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Baptism is **identification** with Christ; it is our **initiation** into the Body of Christ (Galatians 3:27).

*For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.* (1 Corinthians 12:13)

When the Israelites followed Moses through the cloud and through the Red Sea, they were *baptized into Moses* (1 Corinthians 10:12) because there was a complete identification with Moses. His purpose was their purpose; his destination was their destination; his God was their God.



In passing through the Red Sea, their identification with their former lives as slaves in Egypt was cut. Their lives were now given over completely to God's purpose for the nation of Israel. When we are baptized into Christ, we are giving up the right to live our own lives separate and apart from His purposes. As the apostle Paul said,

*"It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me."* (Galatians 2:20)

Thus, in baptism we identify with Jesus (i.e. we share with Him His experience) in His

- ❖ **death** (Romans 6:3-5, 11)
- ❖ **burial** (Colossians 2:12)
- ❖ **resurrection** (Romans 6:4-5; Colossians 3:1)

The demands of Christ have been somewhat watered down in the modern church. When Jesus called His disciples to follow Him, it required that they leave their businesses and friends (Matthew 4:18-22; 9:9). Because Jesus is now spirit and no longer limited to being in one place at a time, it is usually not necessary for us to physically leave our businesses to follow Jesus. But we still must make a conscious decision to subordinate all earthly ambition to the call of God upon our lives.

Jesus said: *"If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple."* (Luke 14:26)

He also said: *"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has, and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had, and bought it."* (Matthew 13:44-46)

This speaks of commitment. Sometimes people talk about the day they were *saved*, or *accepted Jesus as their personal Savior*, or were *born again*. But these terms will oftentimes be used to

describe a decision or an experience which falls far short of the requirements Jesus set forth to be His disciple.

The ambiguity is sometimes cleared up by asking the person, "When did you make a commitment of your whole life to the Lord Jesus Christ?"

Baptism is the burial of the old man. As believers, we are now dead to sin, but alive unto God.

*Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*  
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

## **5. WHAT OTHER PICTURE OF BAPTISM DO WE HAVE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT?**

Noah and his household were brought safely through the water in an ark (1 Peter 3:20-21). As the rain fell, the ark passed through the water, similar to the way in which a person passes through the water in baptism.

As a result of the flood the old world and its effect upon the righteous was destroyed. In baptism, the destructive forces that the world used to dominate and oppress the believer are also cut off. In identifying with Christ in His death and resurrection, the world becomes powerless in our lives. As the apostle Paul said:

*The world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*  
(Galatians 6:14)

## **6. IF I WAS BAPTIZED IN ANOTHER CHURCH, DO I NEED TO BE BAPTIZED AGAIN?**

No, there is only one Body of Christ, one faith, and one baptism (Ephesians 4:4-5).

However, if you were not a believer when you were baptized previously, then you were never a part of Christ's Body, the true Church. In that case, you should be baptized as a believer.

## 7. SHOULD BABIES BE BAPTIZED?

Read the accounts recorded in Mark 16:16; Acts 8:12-15; 9:17-18; 10:47-48; 16:30-34; 18:8; 19:4-5; 35:38. In every case the people heard, received, and believed the Word, and then were baptized.

Water baptism involves a confession of faith in the Lordship of Christ (Acts 2:38; 8:36-39; Romans 10:9-10). The prerequisites of baptism are repentance, faith, and confession; these clearly exclude infant baptism.

It is scriptural, however, to dedicate an infant to the Lord (Luke 2:22). This is a ceremony in which the parents confess that their child belongs to God, and they pledge their commitment to train up the child in the ways of the Lord.

## 8. INTO WHAT NAME IS A PERSON BAPTIZED?

Jesus said:

*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.* (Matthew 29:19)

However, when we read the book of Acts and the Epistles (Acts 10:48; 19:5; Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:27) we do not find this exact formula being used, but we do find people being baptized in (into) the name of *Jesus*.

Apparently, the disciples understood that all authority in heaven and earth had been given to Jesus (Matthew 28:18, Colossians 2:9-10).

Note: In John's baptism of repentance, there was an identification with Father God's purpose for their lives (Acts 19:3-4). In New Testament water baptism, there is an identification with Jesus (Acts 19:5); and in the baptism of the Holy Spirit, there is an identification with the third person of the Trinity. Acts 2:38 illustrates these three aspects:

*And Peter said to them, "**Repent**, and let each of you be **baptized in the name of Jesus Christ** for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the **Holy Spirit**."*

**9. IF I WAS SPRINKLED IN ANOTHER CHURCH, SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED AGAIN?**

No. We have seen that the word *baptism* implies that the believer be totally immersed; however, the amount of water used, or whether the water was sprinkled, poured, running, etc. is not the critical issue. What is important is whether you were truly born again (John 3:3), and you understood that you were identifying with Jesus Christ.

**10. WHAT IS THE DANGER IN BAPTISM?**

Baptism is an outward expression of our commitment to Christ.

In a similar way, circumcision was an outward expression of an Israelite's covenant relationship with God. The danger was that some people trusted in their circumcision rather than a relationship with God (Romans 2:25-29; 1 Corinthians 6:15-16; 7:19; Philippians 3:2-3).

Therefore, the danger remains that some may trust in their baptism without having any real relationship with God. Just like circumcision, baptism is an outward sign, not a surety.

**11. IF I DID NOT UNDERSTAND, SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED AGAIN?**

Sometimes people wonder if they should be baptized again because they did not understand the significance of what was happening when they were baptized the first time.

The people that Paul was writing to in Romans 6 had not understood the significance of their baptism. He did not instruct them to be re-baptized, but merely to add their present understanding to their previous experience.

If you are not sure whether you were truly a believer when you were previously baptized, then you should be baptized again. Otherwise, simply realize that we are continually growing in knowledge and understanding in our lives as Christians.

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## Homework

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1. Read chapters 16 through 23 of the Gospel of Matthew.
2. Be prepared to write from memory the following Scripture:  
*I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me. (Galatians 2:20)*
3. Be prepared to write answers to questions in class next week based on the material in this lesson.



# 9

## Baptism in the Holy Spirit

*Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the **doctrine of baptisms**, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. ([Hebrews 6:1-2 NKJV](#))*

### 1. THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is a person. He knows, wills, thinks, sees, hears, and speaks. He can experience any emotion known to man. He can experience joy, grief, anger, love, compassion, etc.

Because He is spirit, He can penetrate matter, such as our bodies. He can also penetrate our mind and our spirit. He can intermingle with our spirits without displacing anything essentially human.

The mingling of the Holy Spirit with our spirits is illustrated by a piece of iron that is placed in a hot fire. Eventually the fire penetrates the iron so that we can say not only that the iron is in the fire, but that the fire is in the iron. In a similar way, the Holy

Spirit penetrates and fills our beings and we experience becoming one with God.

Jesus said: *"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'" But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (John 7:38-39)*

## 2. WHEN WE RECEIVE HIM

When we give our lives to Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of us.

*But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him. (1 Corinthians 6:17)*

(See also Romans 8:9; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Ephesians 1:13-14.)

However, there is a further manifestation of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives besides regeneration. There is an indument of power of which Jesus spoke. After His resurrection, Jesus told His disciples:

*And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high. (Luke 24:49)*

*...you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses... (Acts 1:8)*

In the New Testament we see people receiving the Holy Spirit as a separate experience after becoming believers.

- a. Philip preached the gospel to the Samaritans, and the people believed and were baptized. However, when Peter and John later come from Jerusalem and laid their hands on these believers, they received the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:13-17).
- b. Paul came to Ephesus and found some disciples, but when he laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them (Acts 19:1-6).

This indument of power is not just a one time experience. Notice that the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:4 and then again in Acts 4:31.

### 3. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN HE COMES?

Although the Holy Spirit manifests Himself in many different ways (1 Corinthians 12:4-7), His coming is always a **supernatural experience of power** for those who are receiving Him. Look at some examples:

- a. On the day of Pentecost **the disciples** began to speak with other tongues, speaking of the mighty deeds of God, and appeared to be drunk, having great joy in the presence of God (Acts 2:1-4, 13, 28).
- b. Again **the disciples** were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness (Acts 4:31).
- c. The **Samaritan converts** displayed evidence of supernatural activity that prompted Simon, a magician, to ask to buy the ability to have that kind of power when he laid hands on people (Acts 8:5-24).
- d. The apostle **Paul** had something like scales fall from his eyes, and he immediately began to proclaim Jesus (Acts 9:17-20; 1 Corinthians 14:18).
- e. The **Gentiles** began speaking with tongues and exalting God when they heard Peter preach about Christ (Acts 10:44-48; 15:17).
- f. The **Ephesian believers** spoke with tongues and prophesied when Paul laid his hands on them (Acts 19:1-7).

Jesus said that out of your innermost being will flow rivers of living water (John 7:38-39). You should expect for these rivers to be expressed vocally as in the New Testament examples.

Not only did New Testament believers speak in tongues and prophesy when they were filled with the Holy Spirit, but we see them also preaching the gospel with great boldness and confidence after their Pentecostal experience (Acts 2:14; 4:13).

This boldness or zeal is the fulfillment of John's prophecy regarding a baptism of fire.

*John answered and said to them all, "As for me, I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."* (Luke 3:16)

See also Song 8:6; Isaiah 26:11; Jeremiah 20:9; Matthew 3:11; Luke 12:49; Acts 2:3.

#### **4. IS IT NECESSARY TO SPEAK IN TONGUES TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

No, it is possible to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and at a later time to speak in other tongues. This is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit that we should certainly seek (1 Corinthians 14:15).

We should have no reservation about how much the Holy Spirit will give us of Himself. We should approach God with an open and a humble heart, desiring all that God has made available to us.

*Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts....* (1 Corinthians 14:1)

#### **5. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF SPEAKING IN OTHER TONGUES?**

There are two kinds of tongues:

- a. It is a sign **to the unbeliever** when we speak (or interpret) a language we do not understand but he does (Acts 2:7-8; 1 Corinthians 14:21-22).
- b. We speak unknown prayers to God in order to build us up spiritually (1 Corinthians 14:2, 4).

#### **6. HOW DO WE RECEIVE THE INFILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

We receive the Holy Spirit by the following:

- a. heart preparation, repentance

*And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38)*

*...the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him. (Acts 5:32)*

*You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity. (Acts 8:21-23)*

Fasting can be an effective way of helping to prepare our hearts before the Lord.

- b. being willing to be used by God

*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses....(Acts 1:8)*

- c. asking to receive

*And I say to you, ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives.... If you then being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him? (Luke 11:9-13)*

- d. believing the promise is for us and we are worthy to receive

*...and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself. (Acts 2:38-39)*

- e. having a hunger or a great desire to receive

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. (Matthew 5:6 NKJV)*

- f. expecting to receive as hands are laid upon us

*Then they [Peter and John] began laying their hands on them and they were receiving the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8:17)*

*And when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying. (Acts 19:6)*

- g. believing we have received

*"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'" But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (John 7:38-39)*

*...all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they shall be granted you. (Mark 11:24)*

Whenever an honest, hungry seeker comes to God to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, he has never to fear receiving less than God's promise (Luke 11:11-13).

Relax in God's presence. You do not have to work up an emotion. Just yield to the will of God. Emotions come later.

## **7. SOME EXAMPLES FROM CHURCH HISTORY**

John Wesley: "Mr. Hall, Hinching, Ingram, Whitefield, Hutching, and my brother Charles were present at our love feast in Fetter Lane with about 60 of our brethren. About three in the morning as we were continuing instant in prayer the power of God came mightily upon us, insomuch that many cried out for exulting joy and many fell to the ground. As soon as we were recovered a little from the awe and amazement at the presence of His majesty, we broke out with one voice, 'We praise Thee O God, we acknowledge Thee to be Lord.'"

Dwight L. Moody: "I began to cry as never before, for a greater blessing from God. The hunger increased; I really felt that I did not want to live any longer [He had been a Christian, and not only a Christian, but a minister, and in charge of a mission for some time; he was getting conversions, but still he wanted more.] I kept on crying all the time that God would fill me with His Spirit. Well, one day in the City of New York— Oh! What a day, I cannot describe it. I seldom refer to it. It is almost too sacred an experience to name. Paul had an experience of which

he never spoke for 14 years. I can only say, God revealed Himself to me, and I had such an experience of His love that I had to ask Him to stay His hand."

Michael Cassidy: "...sleep would not come to me. Instead, quite out of the blue, the spirit of praise came upon my soul. All seemed to be released. All seemed to be freedom. Hour after hour I praised my God in unrestrained and unrestrainable doxology and song. In works of men and angels I rejoiced. No fatigue visited me that night. All my senses were vibrantly alive to God. The Holy Spirit was blessing me. Wave upon wave, it seemed. Flow upon flow. He seemed to be bubbling up from within, surrounding from without, ascending from below and descending from above! Somewhere in the early hours of the morning I said to myself, 'I don't know the correct biblical name for this, but this is the experience I've heard others talk of.'"

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## Homework

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1. Read chapters 24 through 28 of Matthew's gospel.
2. Be prepared to write from memory the following Scripture:  
*but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)*
3. Be prepared to write answers to questions in class next week based on the material in this lesson.

# 10

## Final

Congratulations! After taking your final exam, you will be ready to take Foundations III. It is a ten week course in which you will learn about the following:

- ❖ Laying on of Hands and Spiritual Gifts
- ❖ Resurrection of the Dead
- ❖ Eternal Judgment
- ❖ Evangelism
- ❖ Money Matters
- ❖ Giving and Receiving
- ❖ Holiness
- ❖ Prayer and Fasting
- ❖ Praise and Worship

*Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path. (Psalm 119:105)*

May God bless you as you continue to learn how to walk in His ways.