Solid Foundation

Pillars of Christianity

Course Overview

INTRODUCTION:

God has a plan for your life! Yes, you heard it right! He even said it Himself in Jeremiah 29:11—***"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*** This is the exciting part!

The sad part is that many people never know this and therefore never experience the growth, the development and the fulfillment that comes from reaching their potential in God.

But you, you are different! How do I know this? Because you are here today. You have come by reason of choice, and it is this choice that is going to cause you to know God and do exploits for His kingdom.

Are you ready? Then let's go!

Proverbs: 9:1
"Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn out her seven pillars."

- ✷ ***"Pillar"* (Webster):** A vertical _____ used as a _____ for a superstructure.
- ✷ Living the life of a Christian is like building a _____.
- ✷ The most important part of a house is the _____.
- ✷ If the foundation is _____ the house will eventually _____.
- ✷ If the foundation is _____ the house will _____.

The Proverb writer tells us that wisdom built her house to stand. How do we know this? Because she made sure the *"pillars"*, the support system, was constructed just right. Jesus also stressed the importance of our foundation by exhorting us to build our house on the Rock and not on the sand. (See Matthew 7:24-27).

SEVEN PILLARS FOR A SOLID FOUNDATION

Pillar #1: _____

This is the first and foremost pillar necessary for spiritual development. None of the others are even possible without this one.

✷ **Key Word:** _____

John 3:3, 5-7
I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again. I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. . .you must be born again.

✷ **Questions We Will Answer:**

- What does it mean to be saved?
- What am I saved from?
- How do I know if I am saved?

Pillar #2: _____

This is the first thing that God requires of us. If we learn to obey the Lord early in our Christian walk we literally set ourselves up to receive God's best.

✷ **Key Word:** _____

Matthew 28:18-20
. . . All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

✷ **Questions We Will Answer:**

- What is the purpose of water baptism?
- Do I have to be baptized to be saved?
- Is it necessary to be baptized more than once?

Pillar #3: _____

Many Christians never make it to this one. They stop with the first two. By doing so, they miss out on the purpose and plan of God for their lives. This pillar is the key to reaching your maximum potential.

✷ **Key Words:** _____
_____
_____

Ephesians 4:14-15
That we no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching. . .instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the head, that is, Christ.

Galatians 2:2
Like newborn babes, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.

✷ **Questions We Will Answer:**

- How do I grow in my relationship with God?
- What is the purpose of prayer?
- Why is church attendance important?

Pillar #4: _____

Our relationship with God not only guarantees us a home in heaven, but it also provides for us power to live victoriously and effectively in the present.

✷ **Key Word:** _____

Acts 1:8
But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses. . .

✷ **Questions We Will Answer:**

- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- Do I receive the Holy Spirit when I get saved?
- What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit?
- How do I receive this power?
- How will I know when I have received this power?

Pillar #5: _____

God has not called anyone to be a "Lone Ranger" in His kingdom. We can always be more effective as a team. However, for a team to become effective there must be a commitment from all to be "team players."

✷ **Key Word:** _____

Acts 2:42-44
They devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the Apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common.

✷ **Questions We Will Answer:**

- Is it necessary to join a specific church or should I just go from church to church?
- How do I join the church?
- How do I know if I should join this church?

Pillar #6: _____

God gives to each of us gifts, abilities, talents and resources to use for His glory. The key issue here is not the amount of things we have, but instead, what we are doing with what we have.

✷ **Key Word:** _____

Luke 16:10-12
Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So, if you have not been trust-worthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own.

James 1:17
Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights . . .

✷ **Questions We Will Answer:**

- What does it mean to be a steward?
- What are "tithes"?
- Do I have any gifts?

Pillar #7: _____

Salvation is a gift of God's grace and love to us. It cannot be bought or given on the basis of what we do. But, once this gift has been received, we then must accept the responsibility to do the work of the kingdom.

✷ **Key Word:** _____

II Corinthians 5:17-18
Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

Ephesians 4:16
From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

✷ **Questions We Will Answer:**

- What is my responsibility as a Christian?
- What is my gift?
- What is my purpose in life?

CONCLUSION:

Yes, there are probably a lot of questions going through your mind right now. But that's alright. The most important thing for you to focus on is to make yourself available to God. As you do, He will teach you everything you need to know and you will find yourself growing into that mature and effective child of God He longs for you to be.