

BEYOND FIRST FOUNDATIONS 7 - WHAT GOING BEYOND LOOKS LIKE

Heb. 6:1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the **elementary principles of Christ**, let us go on to perfection (MATURITY), **not laying again the foundation** of repentance from dead works and of **faith** toward God, ² of the doctrine of **baptisms**, of **laying on of hands**, of **resurrection of the dead**, and of **eternal judgment**. ³ **And this we will do if God permits.**

I. BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATION - ELEMENTARY / RUDIMENTARY / BASIC

- **THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FAITH IS THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST**
- **THESE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLES ARE OUR FIRST RESPONSES TO THE GOSPEL**
- **THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLES OF CHRIST ARE TRUTHS AND PRACTICES UPON WHICH WE BUILD OUR CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE**
- **ILLUSTRATION - WHAT MATTER MORE? BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR OUR HOUSE OR DOING LIFE WITH OUR FAMILY IN OUR HOUSE AFTER OUR HOUSE IS BUILT?**

II. GOING ON TO MATURITY MEANS GROWTH AND CHANGE (Milk to Meat)

1. **REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS - RUN AWAY FROM WHATEVER HAS NO LIFE IN IT. GET ALL THINGS DONE THROUGH LIFE-GIVING ABIDING**
 - **THE GOAL -CREATE A LIFE-GIVING REALM OF INFLUENCE AROUND YOU**
 - **LIVE CONNECTED**

John 15:4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As **the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.** ⁵ "I am the vine, you are the branches. **He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.**

- **ONLY LOVE ASSURES US WE HAVE PASSED FROM DEATH TO LIFE**

1John 3:14 NLT If we love our brothers and sisters who are believers, it proves that we have passed from death to life. But a person who has no love is still dead.

2. **FAITH TOWARD GOD - BELIEVING LIKE CHRIST CHANGES EVERYTHING**

James 2:18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and **I will show you my faith by my works.**

ROMANS 4:21 and being **fully convinced** that what He had promised He was also able to perform. ²² And therefore “it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

- **THE GOAL - FAITH THAT APPREHENDS GOD WHILE CHANGING US**

**3. DOCTRINE OF BAPTISMS - IMMERSION INTO HIS DEATH AND HIS LIFE
OLD LIFE-NEW LIFE**

Rom. 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ² Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ³ Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection

GOAL - SETTLE THE MATTER! LEAVE DEATH BEHIND AND EMBRACE LIFE

4. LAYING ON OF HANDS - IMPARTATION - INHERITANCE IS A PRINCIPLE!

2Tim. 1:6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the **laying on of my hands**.

GOAL - CREATE A COMMUNITY THAT OPERATES THROUGH THE POWER OF HOLY SPIRIT CONNECTION AND RESPECT - HONORING OTHERS

5. RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD - JESUS BROKE DEATH

Acts 2:22 “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know— ²³ Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; ²⁴ **whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.**

GOAL - LIVE FULLY IN THE REALM OF OUR RESURRECTED LORD NOW!

6. ETERNAL JUDGEMENT - WE KNOW THERE WILL DEFINITELY BE AN END

John 5:24 “Most assuredly, I say to you, **he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.**

Rev. 14:7 saying with a loud voice, “**Fear God and give glory to Him**, for the hour of His

judgment has come; **and worship Him who made heaven and earth**, the sea and springs of water.” (THE WORSHIPPERS ARE SINGING IN HEAVEN - EVERYONE ELSE, NOT SO MUCH)

GOAL - RESCUE AS MANY AS POSSIBLE BY BRINGING THEM INTO HIS KINGDOM, PRESENTING A PURE, MATURE BRIDE TO THE BRIDEGROOM AT THE FINISH LINE

III. THE GOAL OF MATURITY IS THE ABUNDANT LIFE

1Pet. 1:3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who **according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*

John 10:10 - ...I have come that they may have Life and that they may have it more abundantly

2Pet. 1:11 *for so **an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly** into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

1. RESURRECTION IS A REALM WE LIVE IN - NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS!

1 PETER 1:4 *to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that **does not fade away**, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **6** In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory **at the revelation of Jesus Christ (THE RESURRECTED LORD!)***

• RESURRECTION IS BOTH AN ENCOUNTER AND A PAST/FUTURE EVENT

John 11:25 *Jesus said to her, “**I am** the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶ And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”*

- **BY DECLARING THAT RESURRECTION IS IN A PERSON, JESUS PROVED THAT WE CAN EXPERIENCE IT’S POWER THROUGH A RELATIONSHIP - NOT WAITING, LIKE LAZARUS, FOR THE EVENT.** *Even though Lazarus died again, there is no question that an encounter with the resurrection power of Jesus improved his health.*

2. LOVE IS WHAT MATURES US BEYOND OUR ELEMENTARY FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST. *Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians:*

EPHESIANS 3:16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— (LOVE IN EVERY DIMENSION AND EXPERIENCE)¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; **that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.** **20** Now to Him who is able to do **exceedingly abundantly above** all that we ask or think, according to the **power that works in us,**²¹ to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

3. THE THRESHOLD OF SALVATION IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF OUR ADVENTURE IN CHRIST! - IT'S ALL ABOUT ADVANCING IN A DIRECTION THAT IS ULTIMATELY OPERATING ONLY IN THE FULLNESS OF HIS SPIRIT. Paul's prayer for the Colossians:

Col. 1:9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the **knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;**¹⁰ that you may **walk** worthy of the Lord, **fully pleasing Him,** being **fruitful in every good work** and **increasing in the knowledge of God;**¹¹ **strengthened with all might,** according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;¹² **giving thanks** to the Father **who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.**¹³ He has **delivered us** from the power of darkness and **conveyed us** into the kingdom of the Son of His love,¹⁴ **in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.**

Col. 1:19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell,²⁰ and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

4. FAITH HOPE AND LOVE TAKE US BEYOND THE BASICS

1Cor. 13:13 MESSAGE But for right now, until that completeness, **we have three things to do** to lead us toward that consummation: **Trust** steadily in God, **hope** unswervingly, **love** extravagantly. **And the best of the three is love.**