

ETERNAL JUDGEMENT

RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

LAYING ON OF HANDS

DOCTRINE OF BAPTISMS

FAITH TOWARD GOD

REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS

***FOUNDATIONS
OF OUR FAITH***
HEBREWS 6:1-2

A Study Course Presented By

REVIVAL MINISTRIES

Australia

Foundations of our Faith

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For more information please contact:

REVIVAL MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA

Postal address:

P.O. Box 2718

TOOWOOMBA BC Q. 4350

Location address:

SHILOH Centre

19 Russell Street

TOOWOOMBA Q. 4350

Telephone: 617- 4613 0633

Email: rma@revivalministries.org.au

WEB SITE: www.revivalministries.org.au

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This teaching manual is designed for both individual and group study. It is all Scripture-based to ensure that the Foundations of our Faith are properly laid. Read all the Scriptures and fill in the appropriate spaces. There are answers at the end of most sessions for those who need help.

WHAT MUST WE DO TO BE SAVED?

On the day of Pentecost in *Acts 2*, Peter preached concerning the coming of the Holy Spirit and gave an inspired understanding of the death and resurrection and exaltation of Jesus. *Verse 37* says: “*Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’*” Peter’s answer along with the other things he had already preached reveals the necessary foundations of the Christian life.

Hebrews 6:1-2 says “*the elementary principles of Christ*” (NKJV) / “*the principles of the doctrine of Christ*” (KJV) are:

1. “the foundation of repentance from dead works,
2. and of faith toward God,
3. the doctrine of baptisms,
4. the laying on of hands,
5. of resurrection of the dead,
6. and of eternal judgement”.

The writer to the *Hebrews* exhorts us to “*go on to perfection* [maturity]” and says “*this we will do if God permits*” (*verse 3*).

God is the master builder. Jesus is building “*His church*”. “*I will build My church*” (*Matthew 16:18*). He insists on proper foundations being laid before the church can grow into maturity. One of the practical tests of growing into maturity is being able to teach the elementary principles of Christ to others (*Hebrews 5:12*).

KNOWING IS DOING (HEAR AND OBEY)

Knowing the foundational principles of the faith includes having experienced the reality of repentance, faith, baptisms, the laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead and eternal judgement. But first we need to have heard accurate Bible teaching on these foundations. Having heard the word, we then obey it. Finally, the test of our maturity is that we can teach these foundations to others.

Often people who have been walking with the Lord for some time have never heard the Scriptures taught on water baptism. When they hear the word they are convicted and seek full immersion in water. This has caused trouble for some churches as they practice and recognize infant baptism and refuse to re-baptize.

Very few people in churches today have heard preaching on heaven and hell (eternal judgement) but the Holy Spirit is now emphasizing this doctrine. The most definitive teaching in the Scripture on the reality and nature of hell comes from the Lord Jesus Himself, in the Gospels.

In some churches, laying on of hands has been restricted and only practiced on rare occasions. Yet it is a foundational principle, and therefore practice, of the church. It is normal biblical practice to exercise prayer ministry to one another with the laying on of hands.

Biblical faith is “doing what Jesus says”. We are called to obedience.

Luke 6:47-49: “*Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on*

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the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great”.

All over the world today people are searching for Jesus; they are searching for salvation; they are searching for the way to heaven, how to escape from hell. Yes, many are still hiding from eternal realities and fill their lives with worldly pursuits, having no real answers for the problems all around them, nor are they able to honestly face the turmoil in their own hearts.

What is the answer for those who are seeking the truth?

The first foundation and the deepest is repentance from dead works. The word of God digs deep in our lives commanding us to turn around and face God. As we turn from going our own way God provides His way which is Jesus (*John 14:6*). Faith is toward God through Jesus Christ. The faith foundation is laid upon repentance. Then we are ready for baptisms: both immersion in water to wash away all sin and break its power, and immersion in the Holy Spirit to receive the power to witness to Christ and live a victorious life. Through the laying on of hands the Holy Spirit and the blessings and gifts He brings are imparted to the new believer. Through baptisms and the laying on of hands, the new believer experiences resurrection life and is able to comprehend the biblical teaching on the resurrection of the dead. This leads into the final foundation of eternal judgement which is fundamentally an accurate appreciation of the eternal states, life after death.

PETER LAYS THE FOUNDATIONS

Did Peter preach the foundations on the day of Pentecost?

What are the four instructions Peter gave to the inquirers in *Acts 2:38*?

- (i) _____
- (ii) _____
- (iii) _____
- (iv) _____

Why were they to be baptised?

This baptism was new. It was to be “*in the name of Jesus Christ*”. [see Chapter 4]

How were the believers to have faith toward God? _____

Peter had preached Christ to them. (*Acts 2:22-37*)

The fourth instruction to receive the Holy Spirit would have involved the laying on of hands.

In his preaching, Peter had explained the resurrection of Christ from the dead. Read *Acts 2:24, 31, 34*. He had laid the foundation of **the resurrection of the dead**.

He had clearly preached Christ as the one seated at God’s right hand (*verse 34*). Jesus Christ has risen from the dead and God has made Him the judge – He has been made “**Lord and Christ**” (*verse 36*).

He is seated “*till I make Your enemies Your footstool*” (*verse 35*).

Acts 2:28-32: Peter quotes from the prophet Joel referring directly to the “*great and terrible day of the Lord*” (*verse 20*) which is the day of judgement of all nations. He exhorted them to “*be saved from this perverse generation*” (*verse 40*). He was referring to **eternal judgement**.

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The goal of biblical ministry is a mature church, a Christ-centred church, with God-honouring people who implicitly and unquestionably obey the voice of the Holy Spirit, being well-grounded in the Scriptures; a church that edifies itself in love, functioning in fruitful ministry, having been built upon the apostolic foundations revealed in Scripture.

Together let us commit ourselves in prayer to fulfil this goal.

BUILDING ON THE ROCK

A study of foundations from the teachings of Jesus

We notice that when a building is being constructed, much care is taken laying the foundations, for if the building is to be useful, sturdy and permanent, it must have a solid base. All men understand this principle, that a foundation supports the building. Each part of the building depends upon the foundation.

God used this understanding to teach us a Divine truth.

The Bible speaks of our lives as buildings, “*We are His house*” (*Hebrews 3:6*) and it tells us the kind of foundation upon which our lives must be built.

Let us examine the parable of the two houses in *Matthew 7:24-27* and *Luke 6:46-49* and see the truths that Jesus was teaching about our personal foundations.

What does He call the man who looks to the foundations of his house? (*Matthew 7:24*)

Where does the wise man build his house? (*Matthew 7:24*) _____

What does the rock refer to in Scripture? (*Matthew 16:18*) _____

1. When we are “born again”, we call Jesus “Lord”. This very title acknowledges Him as the One we have put in control of our lives.

What does Jesus say our first response should be when we call Him ‘Lord’ ?

(*Luke 6: 46*) _____

Can we hear and not ‘do’? Can we call Jesus ‘Lord’ and not obey?

Can we know the Word and not obey it - ignoring the very foundations upon which the house (our lives) is to be built?

2. Write down the three steps to obedience that Jesus gives us in *verse 47*:

This is hearing or knowing the word and obeying it.

3. In *verse 48*, Jesus said that a man who hears and does the word is like a man building a house who _____ and _____

“*He dug deep.*” He removed every blockage between himself and the Rock. He made sure that he was on solid footing. (This first step involves repentance, digging deep and having faith in Jesus, the rock of our salvation.)

4. Why must the house be built upon rock? (*verse 48*): _____

Hebrews 12:25-29: It is natural for life to be stormy, and *verse 25* warns us: “*See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks.*”

5. When the storm came, what happened to the house that was built on the Rock? **v.48**

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that was built on the earth **v.49** _____

The house without foundation collapsed and its destruction was great (*verse 49*).

6. Who is this Rock? (*Psalm 18:2*) _____

In Isaiah 28:16 The Sovereign Lord has promised to “*lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation*”.

Peter quotes from this passage in **1 Peter 2:6** . He goes on to talk about Jesus as being the chief cornerstone around whom the church is built.

Ephesians 2:19-22: The apostle Paul refers to us as “*members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit*”.

Many Christians do not grow and mature because these foundations are not rightly laid - not sound. They must be laid according to the Architect’s plan. “*God is the builder of everything*” (**Hebrews 3:4**) and unless He “*builds the house, its builders labour in vain*” (**Psalm 127:1**)

We have the Architect’s plan in the Bible. In the following studies we will be looking at the foundations that must be firmly in place so that we can grow personally, and so that the church of Jesus Christ can be built on a firm foundation.

List the six foundations that are described in **Hebrews 6:1-2**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Answers to questions in Session1

P.4

- Q.1. Acts 2:38 repent
Q.2. Acts 2:38 be baptised (in water)
Q.3. Acts 2:38 for the remission of sins
Q.4. Acts 2:22-36 by believing in Jesus Christ whom Peter had preached
Q5. Acts 2:38 receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

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- Matthew 7:24 a wise man
 on the rock
Matthew 16:18 Jesus and faith in Him; and 1Cor.10:4 that spiritual rock
Q.1 Luke 6:46 do the things He says

P.7

- Q.2. Luke 6:47 (i) come to Him
 (ii) hear His sayings
 (iii) do them
Q.3. Luke 6:48 dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock
Q.4. Luke 6:48 to withstand the floods
Q.5
(a) Luke 6:48 it could not be shaken for it was founded upon a rock
(b) Luke 6:49 it immediately fell and the ruin of that house was great
Q.6. Ps.18:2 the LORD is my rock

REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS

“Repentance is a turning away from sin, disobedience, or rebellion and a turning back to God” (*Matthew 9:13; Luke 5:32*). In a more general sense, repentance means a change of mind (*Luke 19:8*) or a feeling of remorse or regret for past conduct (*Matthew 27:3*). True repentance is a ‘godly sorrow’ for sin, an act of turning around and going in the opposite direction. This type of repentance leads to a fundamental change in a person’s relationship to God.” (Hayford, ed., *Hayford’s Bible Handbook*, 1995: p.742.)

What are dead works?

These are the deeds and actions of a person living apart from the Living God and may include sin, or religious works; in fact, any situation where self sets itself up in opposition to God. Dead works immediately separate us from God, and separation from God leads to death. It is as we recognise this separation from God that we see our need to repent.

Look up the following Scriptures for the answers and write them in .

What must we do to avoid death?

Luke 13:3: _____

What is sin?

Literally, it means “missing the mark”. How does Paul describe this?

Romans 3:23: _____

Against whom have we sinned?

Psalms 51:4: _____

God commands all men everywhere to repent.

Acts 17:30: _____

And we know that it is His desire for all men to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9: _____

John the Baptist preached repentance as a preparation for the coming of the Messiah.

Matthew 3:2: _____

Jesus commands repentance as the way into the Kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 4:17: _____

The apostles, Peter, and Paul preached repentance as a condition for receiving eternal life:

Mark 6:12: (The apostles) _____

Acts 2:38: (Peter) _____

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Acts 20:21: (Paul) _____

To restore relationship with God, we must repent, that is, make a deliberate choice to change our minds and turn towards God, to follow God and do what He tells us to do.
Scripture says, “*All have sinned*” (**Romans 3:23**).

Read **1 John 1:8-10** and note verse ten. Even Christians need to repent.

James 2:10: “*Whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumbles in one point, he is guilty of all.*”

Our perfection will come when we meet with Jesus, face to face (**1 John 3:2**).

Dead works are listed in Scripture . Read the Scriptures and write out these lists.

Mark 7:21-23: What things does Jesus say come “*out of the heart of men*” and “*defile*”.

Romans 1:29-32: Paul reminds us that when man chose to ignore God’s laws, God “*gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things that are not fitting*”.

What does Paul warn the church about in **2 Corinthians 12:20-21**.

From the following Scriptures write out those things that will prevent us from entering the Kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 _____

Galatians 5:19-21 _____

Jesus gives the same warning in **Revelation 22:14-15**

There is a further list in **Revelation 21:8:** _____

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Where does Jesus say their place will be? _____

What does **Romans 6:23** say about the result of sin? _____

about the “gift of God”? _____

Let us come before God now in repentance for “missing the mark”, for “falling short of the glory of God” - for being less than God has planned for us to be.

Colossians 3:5-10: Paul teaches us how to do this. In **verses 5,7,8 and 9** he reminds us of our responsibility “to put off the old man with his deeds” because “the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience” (v.6), and to “put on the new man”.

Let us take time now in prayerful repentance and confess our sins before God: confessing mind sets, thus “casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ”

(2 Cor.10:5).

REPENTANCE LEADING TO FAITH

Godly sorrow leads to repentance.

It is as we have recognised that our sins have offended God and separated us from Him that we feel this Godly sorrow. (By comparison, earthly sorrow is what we experience when we recognise that we have brought punishment on ourselves because of our sins. We pay for our wrongs and often others suffer also.)

What does Godly sorrow lead to?

2 Corinthians 7:10: _____

Godly sorrow leads us to confession.

We choose to confess. We make the decision to turn from our sin in our mind, then to open our lips to confess - i.e. we admit our sins. What promise does God offer to those who confess their sins?

1 John 1:9: _____

Repentance and conversion are often linked together in scripture.

Both involve a turning away from something and a turning towards a new way.

Acts3:19: “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” It is not enough simply to confess our sins. Repentance involves a change of mind whereby we turn completely from what we have been doing and turn toward what God wants us to do.

This is illustrated in **Luke 22:32** when Jesus spoke to Peter: _____

The story of the prodigal son in **Luke 15:11-24** illustrates repentance and conversion. The son

- “came to his senses” (v.17) - a response because of worldly sorrow
- made some choices (v.18-19) - repented in his mind

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- acted upon his decision (v.20) - turned (was converted).

The decision of his will led to action and his worldly sorrow turned to godly sorrow. Just as the father in the story in *Luke 15* received his son with love and rejoicing, so God receives the repentant sinner.

What are the results of true repentance?

(a) **A new love for God and a determination to live in the righteousness that He has given us.**

Why are we able to have this righteousness?

1 Peter 2:24: _____

2 Corinthians 5:21: _____

How do we remain in this state of righteousness?

Romans 12:1-2: _____

_____ and

Romans 6:13: _____

This passage exemplifies the “turning away from” and the “turning towards” that repentance defines.

(b) **Freedom from sin and guilt.**

We confess our sin and receive the promise of forgiveness from God. (*1 John 1:9*)

What is one result of receiving this forgiveness and righteousness from God?

Romans 8:1: _____

(c) **A love for righteousness and morality.**

How does Paul describe this in *Ephesians 4:22-24*? _____

and in *Colossians 1:22:* _____

(d) **A new peace and joy in living a life centred on God.**

Write down the blessings of Jesus in *John 14:27:* _____

of Paul in *Romans 15:13:* _____

and the blessing that comes from obeying Paul’s exhortation in *Philippians 4:6-7:*

Notice that the results of true repentance come as we lead a God focussed life. Repentance is associated with other aspects of the Christian life, all of which lead us on to maturity.

- What did Jesus link with repentance? *Mark 1:15:* _____
- What did Peter link with repentance? *Acts 2:38:* _____

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Acts 3:19: _____

- What did Paul say would prove their repentance? *Acts 26:20:* _____
- What did John command the religious leaders of the day to produce in keeping with their display of repentance? *Matthew 3:8:* _____

Repentance is a gift from God.

2 Timothy 2:25: _____

Jesus came to call us to repentance.

Matthew 9:13: _____

The gift is for all people.

Acts 11:18: _____

Jesus has commissioned us to preach repentance and forgiveness of sin in His name to all nations.

Luke 24:47: _____

It is through faith in God that we receive the gift of repentance.

A WORD STUDY

The key word for **repentance** in the Greek New Testament is *metanoia*, literally meaning: after-thought, change of mind or repentance. *Meta* means after, implying change, and *nous* is the mind, the seat of moral reflection (*Vines*, 961-962). *Vines* (963) goes on to say that in the New Testament, this word “chiefly has reference to repentance from sin, and this change of mind involves a turning to God”.

The following is a list of words and their meanings that are used in the Bible to describe what we need to repent from. The Greek meanings are taken from *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, World Bible Publishers, Iowa Falls, Iowa.

Sin: *hamartia* :a missing of the mark

hamartema: an act of disobedience to Divine law

Evil: *kakos*: stands for whatever is evil in character, base. It denotes what is useless, incapable, bad.

poneros: denotes what is destructive, injurious, evil.

Each is used of speech, of thoughts, of man.

Wickedness: *poneria*: wickedness

kakia: wickedness, naughtiness, maliciousness

Transgression: *parabasis*: primarily a going aside, then an overstepping (implies a violation of a law)

Unrighteousness: *adikia*: denotes injustice, iniquity, deeds violating law and justice

Ungodliness: *asebia*: impiety, ungodliness. It is also an attitude of disregard for, or defiance towards God’s person.

Iniquity: *anomia*: lawlessness

Disobedience: *apeitheia*: denotes obstinate rejection of the will of God.

parakoe: primarily, hearing amiss, hence signifies a refusal to hear; hence an act of disobedience.

Trespass: *paraptoma*: a false step; denotes a deviation from uprightness and truth.

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Answers for Session 2

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1 Peter 2:24 WE ARE ABLE TO HAVE RIGHTEOUSNESS BECAUSE JESUS DIED FOR OUR SINS THAT WE HAVING DIED TO SINS MIGHT LIVE FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Rom 12:1-2 WE REMAIN IN THIS RIGHTEOUSNESS BY OFFERING OURBODIES TO GOD, AND BY BEING TRANSFORMED BT THE RENEWING OF OUR MINDS and

Rom 6:13 BY YIELDING OURSELVES UNTO GOD AND OUR MEMBERS UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS

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Rom.8:1 THERE IS NO CONDEMNATION

Eph. 4:22-24 PUT OFF FORMER BEHAVIOUR

BE RENEWED IN THE SPIRIT OF YOUR MIND

PUT ON THE NEW MAN CREATED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND

HOLINESS

Col.1:22 **PRESENTED HOLY AND BLAMELESS AND UNREPROACHABLE**

IN HIS SIGHT

John 14:27 PEACE, ATROUBLE FREE AND FEARLESS HEART

Rom.15:13 **JOY AND PEACE IN BELIEVING, ABOUNDING IN HOPE, THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Phil. 4:6-7 CAREFUL (ANXIOUS)FOR NOTHING, CONSTRAINT IN PRAYER,

KEPT IN HEART AND MIND BY HIS PEACE

Mk. 1:15 **JESUS LINKED BELIEVING THE GOSPEL WITH REPENTANCE**

Acts:2:38 **PETER LINKED BAPTISM IN WATER, THROUGH FAITH IN**

JESUS WITH BAPTISM and

Acts 3:19 CONVERSION, SINS BLOTTED OUT

Acts 26:20 **WORKS MEET (SUITABLE) FOR REPENTANCE PROVE**

REPENTANCE

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Mt. 3:8 PRODUCE FRUITS WORTHY OF REPENTANCE

2 Tim. 2:25 **GOD WILL GIVE THEM REPENTANCE**

Acts 11:18 **THE GIFT IS FOR ALL PEOPLE**

GENTILES REFERS TO ALL THE NATIONS
and ALL THE PEOPLE GROUPS

FAITH TOWARD GOD

Faith (pistis) is having a firm persuasion, a conviction based on hearing; in the New Testament it is always used to refer to faith in God or Christ or things spiritual. It involves believing and trusting. **To have faith , we must believe and trust.** With faith , there is more involved than simply holding to an opinion. It is because Paul trusts in God and has faith in what Jesus has done that he is able to say, *“I am convinced.....” (Romans 8:38).*

As we saw and recognised our sins - our missing the mark and falling short of the glory of God - we felt godly sorrow and repented. But unless we believe that we are forgiven, this repentance is in vain. **Repentance and faith go hand in hand.** Unless we are trusting God to remove our sin, guilt and shame, and believe that Jesus has done this for us, our efforts to forsake (be free from) sin will only end in failure and despair. In the same way we are hypocrites if we profess to have turned to God yet continue to sin (or remain in our sin). **Repentance involves a turning away from our sins and a turning to God in faith.**

Two definitions of faith:

“It is the act by which a person lays hold on God’s proffered resources, becomes obedient to what God prescribes, and abandoning all self-interest, and self-reliance, trusts God completely.” (W.A.Whitehouse)

“It is a receiving of Christ for just what He is represented to be in His gospel, and an unqualified surrender of the will, and of the whole being to Him.” (C. Finney)

How does the Bible define faith?

Hebrews 11:1: _____

We are believing that what God has promised will eventuate. We are trusting the God who *“keeps His promises”* and *“being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to do” (Romans 4:21).* This is not wishful thinking or wistful longing. This is believing and trusting that God will do what He has promised to do. This is faith in God. The future and the unseen become real because we trust God.

“... faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses” (Hebrews 11:1 Amplified Bible).

A person cannot be saved without faith. (Write out the following Scriptures)

Mark 16:16: _____

Luke 8:12: _____

1 Corinthians 1:21: _____

Ephesians 2:8: _____

A person cannot please God without faith.

Hebrews 11:6: _____

HOW DO WE RECEIVE FAITH?

Romans 10:17: _____

Christianity is a revealed faith. God is continually wanting to speak to us. What does Paul tell Timothy about Scripture?

2 Timothy 3:16: _____

The word of God is what it says it is. It is God speaking to us. Jesus said, “*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God*” (**Matthew 4:4**).

It is as we hear the words that God is speaking to us personally that we receive the faith to act on and live by. This is the “rhema” word that God brings to life for us in a particular situation. Many people have come to faith in Jesus Christ as they have read the Bible and heard God speak to them. Jesus becomes real. He is the “*Word become flesh*” (**John 1:14**).

In the Greek New Testament, there are two important Greek words that are translated in the English as “word”: **logos** and **rhema**. **Logos** refers to the Bible, the written objective word of God; **rhema** is the “quicken” word of God.

As we read the Bible we are transformed as we hear God speak to us. What happened as the people heard Peter and John speak?

Acts 4:4: _____

As the people of Samaria believed Philip, they obeyed.

Acts 8:12: _____

At his trial Paul expressed his faith in the word of God as revealed in the Law and the Prophets. **He was stating that he believed that God was speaking to him through the Scriptures.**

Acts 24:14: _____

Simply having information does not guarantee salvation.

James 2:19: _____

Many have informed minds and aroused emotions as they hear the word of God. Even as we hear the word and our hearts respond with joy in that moment, we still have to choose to receive and respond by trusting the One who spoke to our hearts. **We turn to God and change as we trust Him to fulfil His word to us and discover that God is faithful and keeps His promises.** (*Psalm 145:13*)

How does this turning toward God in faith affect us?

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Philippians 1:25: _____

How did the men respond to Peter’s message in **Acts 2:41:** _____
_____ and Philip’s in **Acts 8:8?** _____

How was the message in **1 Thessalonians 1:6** received? _____

1 Peter 1:8 also speaks of “*rejoicing with joy unspeakable*”.

ABRAHAM - THE FATHER OF ALL WHO BELIEVE

In **Romans 4** Paul writes about Abraham to illustrate faith. Why did God count Abraham as a righteous man? (v.3) _____

- (a) **Verses 13 & 21** refer to Abraham **receiving the Word - hearing the Word.**
- (b) **Verses 18-20** show him disregarding or **turning in faith from his seemingly hopeless condition.**
- (c) **Verse 18** shows Abraham **embracing hope expressed in the divine promise** that was given to him in **Genesis 15:3-6.**
- (d) He **didn’t waver in his commitment - verse 20.**
- (e) He gave “**glory to God**” and **rejoiced in what was yet to come - verse 20.**

What does Paul call those who believe? **Galatians 3:7:** _____

and what do we receive? **Galatians 3:9** _____

Read **Hebrews 11** and in one or two sentences, tell why one/each of these was “*commended for their faith*”.v.39

e.g they believed God, and the vision or word He gave them, suffering and sometimes dying in faith without seeing the promise fulfilled in their own day.

FAITH TOWARD GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

Hebrews 11:39-40: “*These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.*”

Jesus is the fulfillment of the “*something better*” that God had planned for us. Every promise of God in the Old Testament has been fulfilled in Christ Jesus.

Look again at Finney’s definition of faith. “It is a receiving of Christ for just what He is represented to be in His gospel, and an unqualified surrender of the will, and of the whole being to Him.”

During His earthly life Jesus pointed to the Father. His earthly life was a testimony to God. When Jesus performed His first miracle at the wedding in Cana, “*This beginning of*

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miracles Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth His glory; and His disciples believed in Him” (**John 2:11**).

How did Jesus answer the people when they asked Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?” **John 6:29** _____

What did Jesus say to Thomas? **John 14:7**: _____

How did Jesus answer Philip when he says, “Show us the Father”? **John 14:9-14**
v.10 _____

v.11 _____

v.12 _____

v.13 _____

v.14 _____

What did Jesus say as He performed miracles of healing? **Matthew 8:13**: _____

Matthew 9:22: _____

Matthew 9:29: _____

As the disciples saw the miracle of the withered fig tree?

Mark 11:22 –23: _____

His resurrected life was a witness (testimony) to the power of God.

This same power that raised Jesus from the dead is available to those who believe. (**Ephesians 1:19-23**)

Write what Paul says: **1 Corinthians 2:5** _____

1 Corinthians 15:17: “And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.”

Read **John 20:29-31**. What did Jesus say to Thomas about believing? (**v.29**)

What is the result of believing? (**v.31**) _____

It is “by faith you stand” (**2 Corinthians 1:24**).

Jesus warns us to believe “in our hearts” and not to doubt. **James 1:6** gives the same warning.

What do we receive by faith in Jesus Christ?

(a) **The promise of the Holy Spirit .**

Galatians 3:14: _____

(b) **Sonship**

Galatians 3:26: _____

(c) **Salvation**

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Ephesians 2:8: _____

(d) **Access to the Father**

Ephesians 3:12: _____

Paul says we have been “*justified by faith*” and thus “*we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we now stand*” (**Romans 5:1-2**).

The writer of Hebrews tells us to come boldly into the presence of God because Jesus has made a way for us through His sacrifice on the cross.

Hebrews 10:19-23: How does he say we are to draw near?

(v.22): _____

Why are we able to do this?

(v.23): _____

(e) **Victory.**

How are we overcomers?

Revelation 12:11: _____

1 John 5: 4 _____

Abraham was “*fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform*” (**Romans 4:21**) and “*therefore it was accounted to him for righteousness*” (v.22). Scripture says that “*the just [righteous] shall live by faith*” (**Romans 1:17**).

We have laid the foundation of repentance in our lives and are therefore “*right with God*” through Jesus Christ (**Philippians 3:9**). God requires that we, too, live like Abraham, “*fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform*”.

Let us now with Peter rejoice and say, “*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, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 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, honour, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith - the salvation of your souls.*” (**1 Peter 1:3-8**)

Answers to Session3

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Luke 8:12 LEST THEY SHOULD BELIEVE AND BE SAVED
1 Cor. 1:21 IT PLEASED GOD BY THE FOOLISHNESS OF PREACHING TO SAVE THEM
 THAT BELIEVE

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2 Tim. 3:16 ALL SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED (GOD BREATHED) BY GOD

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Acts 4:4 THEY BELIEVED
Acts 8:12 THEY WERE BAPTISED
Acts 24:14 BELIEVING ALL THINGS WHICH ARE WRITTEN IN THE LAW AND IN THE
 PROPHETS
James 2:19 THE DEMONS BELIEVE IN GOD, BUT THEY ONLY TREMBLE IN FEAR OF
 PUNISHMENT
Phil. 1:25 WE SHALL ABIDE AND CONTINUE TOGETHER, GROWING WITH JOY
Acts 2:41 THEY WERE BAPTISED AND ADDED TO THE CHURCH
Acts 8:8 THERE WAS GREAT JOY IN THE CITY

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1 Thess. 1:6 THE MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED IN MUCH AFFLICTION AND WITH JOY IN
 THE HOLY GHOST, LEADING THEM TO BECOMING FOLLOWERS OF THE
 LORD
Gal.3:7 CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM
Gal. 3:9 THE BLESSINGS OF ABRAHAM

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John 6:29 BELIEVE IN THE ONE HE HAS SENT
John 14:10 THE FATHER THAT DWELLETH IN ME, HE DOES THE WORKS
 :11 THE MIRACLES THAT JESUS DID POINT TO THE FATHER
 :12 IF WE BELIEVE IN JESUS, WE WILL DO THE SAME WORKS AND EVEN
 GREATER WORKS
 :13 ASK IN JESUS'NAME. ANSWERED PRAYER BRINGS GLORY TO THE
 FATHER AND THE SON
 :14 ASK IN HIS NAME

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Mt.8:13 AS YOU HAVE BELIEVED, SO LET IT BE DONE UNTO YOU
Mt. 9:22 YOUR FAITH HAS MADE YOU WHOLE
Mt. 9:29 ACCORDING TO YOUR FAITH BE IT UNTO YOU
Mk. !1:22-23 HAVE FAITH IN GOD
 PRAY WITHOUT DOUBT IN YOUR HEART
 BELIEVE THAT THOSE THINSWHICH YOU SAY IN PRAYER WILL COME TO
 PASS
John 20:29-31 BLESSED ARE THEY THAT HAVE NOT SEEN AND YET HAVE BELIEVED
 BY BELIEVING YOU MAY HAVE LIFE IN HIS NAME
Heb. 10:22 WE DRAW NEAR WITH A TRUE HEART IN FULL ASSURANCE OF FAITH
 :23 HE WHO PROMISED IS FAITHFUL
Rev. 12:11 WE OVERCOME BY: THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB
 THE WORD OF OUR TESTIMONY
 BY DYING TO SELF

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1 John 5:4 BY BELIEVING THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

DOCTRINE OF BAPTISMS

The Scripture speaks of four baptisms:

1. Baptism in water;
2. Baptism in or with the Holy Spirit;
3. Baptism with fire;
4. Baptism into the Body of Christ (*1 Corinthians 12:13*), [probably referring to Spirit baptism];

and a fifth baptism that is unnamed: *Luke 12:50* and *Mark 10:38*, generally understood to be a baptism of suffering.

The doctrine of baptisms in *Hebrews 6:2* specifically refers to baptism in water. The Greek word is in the plural and is translated elsewhere as "washings". Elsewhere and here, it refers to various ceremonial washings under the Law of Moses and in Judaistic practice. It also includes reference to John's baptism and the Judaistic practice of baptising proselytes, that is, converts to Judaism from paganism.

The practice of baptism was not totally new when John came but it was new for baptism to be required for the Jews as a sign of repentance. They had presumed that only Gentiles needed to repent and believe in the true God.

Baptism literally means immersion: to baptise is to immerse or plunge and the verb form comes from a root word meaning, to dip, to whelm, ie. to cover in fluid.

1. JESUS' BAPTISM

Jesus was baptised by John, not to signify repentance, but to fulfil "*all righteousness*";

Matthew 3:15: _____

Jesus' baptism (ceremonial washing of the priest at the age of thirty) was followed by His anointing, sovereignly, by the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 3:16: _____

Once Jesus was baptised, John's ministry began to decrease and Jesus' ministry increased rapidly. John had introduced the Messiah to Israel.

John 4:1-2: _____

2. THE COMMAND TO BAPTISE

This command comes from Jesus Himself. Jesus instructs His disciples to "Go therefore and make disciples.....baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (*Mt. 28:19*), that is, into the fulness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus makes it quite clear that this baptism follows believing.

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Baptism is preceded by:

- a) **repentance** (change)

Luke 24:47: _____

and b)

faith

Mark 16:16: _____

Genuine repentance (change) precedes saving faith. The one who is baptised must be a repentant (changed) and believing person first. (Konner, 1973: p.39)

An infant is not able to repent or believe. Therefore infant baptism is not valid as it does not fulfil all righteousness.

3. THE PRACTICE OF BAPTISM IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.

a) The day of Pentecost

Read **Acts 2:37-41**

At the birthing of the church on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit convicted those who saw what happened and heard what Peter preached and they said:

v.37 What shall we do?

Peter answered in obedience to Jesus' instructions.

v.38 Repent and be baptised.

What happened?

v.41 those who gladly received his word were baptised – about 3000 souls.

Notice: they are commanded to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ.

b) In Samaria

Read **Acts 8:5-8, 12** and **8:14-17**

v.12 "Those who believed Philip concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptised."

v.16 They were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus;
they had not received the Holy Spirit.

c) The man from Ethiopia

Read **Acts 8:35-38**

What are the key elements in the eunuch's baptism?

- i. he is reading the word of God;
- ii. he is willing and desirous to understand the Scripture;
- iii. he believes in Jesus once he has heard;
- iv. he is baptised immediately on the basis of faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

(d) Saul in Damascus.

Read **Acts 9:17-18**

Saul receives a revelation of Jesus Christ and is baptised by Ananias.

(e) Gentiles are baptised.

Read **Acts 10:44-48**

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What are the key elements here?

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____
- iv. _____

Is the normal scriptural order followed?

(f) Paul at Ephesus.

Read *Acts 19:1-7*:

There are two water baptisms here.

What are they?

v.4 baptism of repentance (John’s baptism)

v.5 re-baptism based on faith in Jesus Christ who remits sin.

v.6 After this the Holy Spirit came upon them through the laying on of Paul’s hands.

(g) When were new believers baptised in the book of Acts?

- (i) *Acts 2:41* _____
- (ii) *Acts 8:12* _____
Acts 8:37-38 _____
- (iii) *Acts 16:33* _____

4. CHRISTIAN BAPTISM.

The Doctrine of Water Baptism in the Epistles.

Setting the scene for Christian baptism: the command to baptise new believers was given by Jesus after His death, burial and resurrection. The apostles and disciples practised water baptism after His ascension and exaltation. He had been made "*both Lord and Christ*" (*Acts 2:36*). He is now the Lord Jesus Christ!

Christian baptism is not primarily a baptism for repentance but it includes repentance and is on the basis of faith in Jesus Christ. It comes after repentance.

Christian baptism is not regeneration: it comes after a person has been regenerated by faith in Jesus Christ.

When a person is born again they have become a new person; the old has passed away (*2 Corinthians 5:17*). The follower of Jesus takes up his/her cross and follows Jesus. The first step of faith (obedience) is water baptism (*Mark 16:16*).

Identification with Christ in baptism

Romans 6:3: death: _____

Romans 6:4: burial: _____

Raised: _____

Romans 6:5: identified in the likeness of His death
identified in the likeness of His resurrection

Romans 6:6: our old man was crucified with Him

Romans 6:7: we are freed from sin

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Romans 6:8: we died with Christ
we live with Him.

Romans 6:9: He has conquered death

Romans 6:10: He died to sin once for all
He lives to God.

Immersion in Christ

1 Corinthians 10:1-4: Our fathers were baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; even so, **Galations 3:27**, we were baptised into Christ and we have put on or clothed ourselves with Christ; we are found in Him.

Christian Baptism would be no different to John's baptism if Jesus had not died and rose again.

1 Peter 3:21: When we are baptised into Christ we are baptised into the resurrected Christ. Faith in Him through baptism is the answer of a good conscience toward God.

It is the blood of Christ that makes Christian baptism real.

1 John 5:6: Jesus came by water and blood, not only by water but by water and blood.

All the ceremonial washings including John's baptism of repentance could not wash away a person's sin. All previous washings (baptisms) were ceremonial, symbolic, pointing to, and awaiting the real to emerge. Jesus came by water and blood; without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin (**Hebrews 9:22**). Christian baptism signifies the "washing away of sin" because the person being baptised has already received forgiveness through His blood.

Baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit

Notice that Jesus commanded to baptise "in the name": what is the name that reveals the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit? What words should be spoken at baptism?

How did the apostolic church in Acts obey the *command of Jesus?* (**Matt 28:19 & Mk 16:16**)

Acts 2:38

Acts 8:12

Acts 19:5

Peter Said Be Baptised In The Name Of Jesus Christ

Peter is the same apostle who was with the eleven when Jesus gave them the command of **Matt.28:19**. Herein lies a mystery! The majority of the church today and throughout history has used the words of **Matt.28:19** in baptism, whereas **Peter clearly said to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ**. Was Peter being disobedient? Or **did Peter have a revelation as to the revealed name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit?** Clearly all agree that **the name of the Son is Jesus**, (**Matt.1:21**).

What is the name of the Father?

Father of itself is not a personal name, but rather describes the place or function of a person in relationship. In **Ex.3:14** God revealed His name to Moses as "**I AM**" and that name is translated in the English Bible mostly as "**LORD**", but sometimes as *Jehovah* or *Yahweh*.

The Holy Spirit has many descriptive titles

Nowhere in Scripture is there a revealed name for the Holy Spirit. Christ means '*anointed one*', referring to the empowering of the Holy Spirit that came upon Jesus to enable Him to function in ministry and fulfil His Messiahship (**Acts 10:38**). So in fact, the revealed name of the Father is LORD, and **God has made Jesus, the Son, both Lord and Christ** (**Acts 2:36**). The title '*Christ*', which is exactly the same as '*Messiah*', refers to **the Holy Spirit who came upon Jesus, anointing Him to be the Christ**.

The name of Jesus is the name above every name!

The fullness of the Godhead dwelt bodily in Christ (Col.2:9). This means that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are fully expressed in Jesus the Messiah. **Phil.2:11** *“That every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”* **The name of Jesus is the name given Him by God which is above every name, v.9.** That is why Peter baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul had the same revelation, baptising the new believers in **Acts 19:5** *“in the name of the Lord Jesus”*.

Acts 4:10&12: “There is no other name”!

A wise elder once instructed a young believer: to avoid controversy and dispute, follow this formula for the dedication of a person’s baptism; “Upon the ground of the confession of your faith: to the glory of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we baptise you into the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES AND IS BAPTISED SHALL BE SAVED!
(Mk. 16:16)

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(e) Gentiles are baptised.

Read **Acts 10:44-48**

What are the key elements here?

- i PREACHING OF THE WORD
- ii THE HOLY SPIRIT IS RECEIVED
- iii THEY SPOKE IN TONGUES AND PRAISED GOD
- iv THEY WERE BAPTISED

(g) When were new believers baptised in the book of Acts?

Acts 2:41 THE SAME DAY

Acts 8:12 WHEN THEY BELIEVED

Acts 8:37-38 IMMEDIATELY UPON CONFESSION OF FAITH THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD

Acts 16:33 THE SAME HOUR

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How did the apostolic church in the book of Acts obey the command (*Mt.28:18-20* and *Mk.16:16*) of Jesus?

Acts 2:38 THE APOSTLES PREACHED AND THOSE WHO RECEIVED THE WORD WERE BAPTISED

Acts 8:12 THE APOSTLES PREACHED; THE BELIEVERS WERE BAPTISED

Acts 19:5 THE HEARERS WERE BAPTISED

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

Once the believer has repented and turned to God through faith in Jesus Christ, and has been baptised in obedience to Jesus' command, the next step to maturity is **to be filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit**, the "promise of the Father" (Lk.2:49).

Apart from the sovereign outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Jewish believers on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:4) and upon the Gentiles gathered in the home of Cornelius when Peter preached there (Acts 10:44) **the gift of the Holy Spirit has been imparted to believers through the laying on of hands.**

Once a believer has received the Holy Spirit in this infilling and empowering way, all the gifts of the Spirit are evident within the believer, because the Spirit Himself comes and indwells the believer. However specific release of individual giftings is also effected by the laying on of hands.

In this session we shall be studying Scripture to see how God has given His gift of the Holy Spirit to the church and continues to do so through the laying on of hands to enable the church to mature (come to completeness) and fulfil the purposes of God.

In Old Testament Scripture the laying on of hands has to do with:

- A. Blessing with prophetic impartation.
- B. Setting apart for ministry.

In New Testament Scripture the laying on of hands is seen in:

- A. The ministry of Jesus – resulting in healing and blessing.
- B. The life of the early church as believers in obedience to Jesus
 - are baptized in the Holy Spirit
 - are set apart for ministry
 - minister healing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLES OF THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

A. Blessing with prophetic impartation.

In the Old Testament, with the laying on of hands, godly men called into being a blessing that acknowledged the covenant promises of God to their forefathers and this was usually accompanied by a prophetic promise for the future. Also, through this act the inheritance was legally sealed.

Jacob blesses the sons of Joseph with the laying on of hands. Joseph was obviously expecting his father to lay his hands upon the boys' heads because he stationed them in the right position for Jacob to do this and for the elder son to receive the blessing of the inheritance.

Genesis 48:14-16: Jacob calls upon God to bless as he lays his hands upon the boys' heads and he speaks prophetically about the future of the nations.

B. Setting apart for ministry.

Read *Numbers 27:15-23*.

What did God instruct Moses to do in response to Moses' request in *verses 16-17*?

v.18: _____
v.20: _____

Where did Moses do this?

v.22: _____

- Here we see:
- a) the laying on of hands
 - b) the impartation of authority
 - c) the setting apart before witnesses

What does Deuteronomy 34:9 say about this event? _____

In this public commissioning of Joshua, Moses laid hands on him and imparted or transferred some of his authority to him (*Numbers 27:20*), as a sign to the nation that God recognized the authority of Joshua.

Numbers 8:10-11: The Lord also commanded Moses to bring the Levites before Him and “the children of Israel shall lay their hands on the Levites ... that they may perform the work of the Lord”.

NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLES OF THE LAYING ON OF HANDS.

A. In the Life of Jesus.

1. His healing ministry.

What was the expectation of the ruler when he came to Jesus?

Matthew 9:18: _____

What happened as Jesus laid His hands on a few sick people?

Mark 6:5: _____

On everybody? *Luke 4:40*: _____

On the crippled woman? *Luke 13:13*: _____

2. Jesus blesses the children.

Why were the little children brought to Him?

Matthew 19:13: _____

What was His response?

Verse 15: _____

3. Jesus commissions the believers to lay hands on the sick.

What is His command to the church?

Mark 16:18: _____

How did He respond to those who obeyed and trusted Him?

Verse 20: _____

What is the promise that Jesus has given us in *John 14:12*? _____

How will this promise be fulfilled?

Acts 1:8 _____

Jesus has said that we will also do the works that He did and “greater works than these” (*John 14:12*).

He raised the dead (*Mt.9:18*)

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healed the sick (*Lk.4:40*)

blessed the people (*Mt.19:15*)

Jesus expects His followers to do as He did.

B. In the Life of the Early Church.

1. Baptism in the Holy Spirit and the Release of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

As the disciples laid hands on the believers, the believers were baptised in the Holy Spirit and gifts of the Holy Spirit are released or bestowed upon them.

What the disciples had received from the Lord, they were able to impart to others through the laying on of hands.

- (a) **Acts 8:14-18:** Peter and John went to the new believers in Samaria and prayed for them “that they might receive the Holy Spirit”.

What happened as they “placed their hands on them”?

Verse 17: _____

There must have been some sign that something happened through the laying on of hands because Simon “saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles’ hands” (*verse 18*). He wanted to buy “this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit” (*verse 19*).

- (b) Read **Acts 19:4-6**. What happened when Paul visited the disciples in Ephesus?

v.6: _____

- (c) How did Saul receive the Holy Spirit?

Acts 9:17: _____

What gift was released here?

Verse 18: _____

- (d) **2 Timothy 1:6** refers to **the bestowing of the gift of God** that is in Timothy through the laying on of hands. Paul’s exhortation to Timothy to “*stir up the gift of God which is in you*” is a reminder to all believers that without the out-working of the Holy Spirit in our lives through the manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit we cannot be effective ministers of the gospel.

In **1 Timothy 4:14**, Timothy is again reminded not to neglect the gift that was in him “*through the laying on of the hands of the eldership*”.

- (e) **Eph.5:18** We are reminded to continually “*be being filled*” with the Holy Spirit.

2. Ordination and Setting Apart for Ministry.

- a) For specific tasks.

As the early church grew, it became necessary to share the work load and set some chosen men apart for specific tasks so that the apostles would be free to do what God had called them to do (**Acts 6:2-6**).

What did the apostles do in **Acts 6:6** to set these men apart? _____

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Notice that these men were already “*full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom*” (*verse 3*) and “*full of faith and the Holy Spirit*” (*verse 5*).

What was the result of this setting apart through the laying on of hands?

Acts 6:7 _____

Paul gives a warning in **1 Timothy 5:21-22** about appointing people out of “*partiality*” and being too hasty in the laying on of hands.

- b) For ordination and sending out. (The beginning of the missionary ministry.)

Acts 13:2-3: What instructions did the Holy Spirit give? _____

How did the prophets and teachers at Antioch respond? _____

They were “*sent out by the Holy Spirit*” (*verse 4*); “*preached the word of God*” (*verse 5*); were “*filled with the Holy Spirit*” (*verse 9*) and performed mighty miracles (*verse 11*) so that others believed (*verse 12*).

3. Healing.

Ananias lays hands on Saul who receives his sight again. (**Acts 9:17-18**)

Paul lays his hands on the father of Publius on Malta and he was healed. (**Acts 28: 8-9**).

The disciples obey the commission of Jesus (Mark 16:18), “*the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs*”.

WHO CAN MINISTER THROUGH THE LAYING ON OF HANDS?

Examples from Scripture showing who laid hands on others for:

1. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit and the release of gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:17: _____

Acts 9:17: _____

Acts 19:6: _____

2 Timothy 1:6: _____

2. Setting apart:

1 Timothy 4:14: _____

Acts 13:1 _____

3. Healing:

Acts 9:17: _____

Mark 16:17,20: _____

Acts 28:8: _____

Let us pray now **for the baptism of the Holy Spirit** and **for a release of the gifts of the Holy Spirit** through the laying on of hands - that God’s purpose and blessing may be transmitted through His people by His power.

Answers for Session 5

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Mk.16:16 Jesus commanded the believers to LAY HANDS ON THE SICK AND THEY WILL RECOVER

Acts 1:8 THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL EMPOWER THE BELIEVER

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Acts 6:6 THEY PRAYED AND LAID HANDS ON THEM

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Who can minister through the laying on of hands?

For the baptism of the Holy Spirit:

Acts 8:17 APOSTLES

Acts 9:17 ANANIAS, A DISCIPLE

Acts 19:6 PAUL, AN APOSTLE

2 Tim.1:6 PAUL, AN APOSTLE

For setting apart:

Acts 13:1 PROPHETS AND TEACHERS

Acts 9:17 A DISCIPLE

1 Tim.4:14 THE ELDERSHIP

For healing:

Acts 9:17 ANANIAS, A DISCIPLE

Mk.16:18-20 BELIEVERS

Acts 28:8 PAUL, AN APOSTLE

RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

According to *Hebrews 6:1-2*, resurrection of the dead is a foundational doctrine of the Christian life. Paul says, "For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins" (*1 Corinthians 15:16-17*).

In other words the resurrection of the dead is vitally linked to the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and without resurrection, there is no faith.

What is resurrection? Literally, a raising up or a rising up; (verb) to raise from the dead.

There are three key aspects to the doctrine of resurrection of the dead :

1. the resurrection of Jesus Christ;
2. the spiritual resurrection of the believer in Jesus Christ;
3. the ultimate resurrection of "all that are in the graves" (*John 5:28-29*).

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

(Write out the Scriptures where there are spaces)

Matthew 28:6: _____

1 Corinthians 15:20: _____

Acts 2:24: _____

How do we know He rose?

Acts 1:3: _____

1 Corinthians 15:5-8: _____

What sort of body did He have after He rose from the dead?

John 2:19-22: _____

Luke 24:22 - 24: _____

Luke 24:36-40: _____

John 20:27-28: _____

Old Testament prophecies concerning the resurrection of Christ:

Psalms 16:8-11: _____

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Psalm 68:18: _____

Isaiah 53:10-12: _____

The Scripture refers to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Jesus says: “*He is not the God of the dead but of the living*” (**Mt.22:31-32**).

The disciples saw Elijah and Moses appear with Jesus on the mountain. (**Mt. 17:3**)

The following Old Testament Scriptures clearly point to resurrection life. Write out these passages and meditate upon their significance.

2 Kings 13:20-21 _____

Genesis 22:5 _____

Clearly Abraham was anticipating resurrection life, for Isaac was the promised son and through him Abraham was to become the father of many nations. (**Gen.17:19**)

Enoch in **Genesis 5:24** and **Hebrews 11:5** _____

Elijah (**2 Kings 2:11**) and Moses (**Jude 9**) _____

What does the resurrection of Jesus Christ teach us?

i. He is the Son of God
Romans 1:4 _____

ii. Death is defeated
Romans 6:9 _____

iii. Jesus Christ is supreme over all living beings
Matthew 28:18 _____

Ephesians 1:20-23 _____

iv. There is a man on the throne of the universe
Hebrews 10:12: _____

v. Believers are justified
Romans 4:25: _____

vi. There is a new life source for men
1 Peter 1:3: _____

vii. Future judgment is assured
Acts 17:31: _____

THE SPIRITUAL RESURRECTION OF THE BELIEVER

Ephesians 2:1,5-6: _____

Romans 6:8: _____

Colossians 2:13: _____

Galatians 2:19-20: _____

2 Corinthians 5:14-15: _____

What does *Ephesians 1:15-23* tell us about the resurrection power of God in our lives?

What is the power in *Ephesians 3:20*? _____

How is the resurrection of Christ signified in the life of the believer?

John 5:25: _____

Romans 6:4-5: _____

Colossians 2:12: _____

What are the evidences of this resurrection in the life of the believer?

- i. An attitude of faith is established and maintained
Romans 6:11: _____
- ii. A new life is manifest
Romans 6:4: _____
- iii. A new Master is served
2 Corinthians 5:15: _____
- iv. A new life purpose is embraced
Colossians 3:1-2 _____

In *Philippians 3:10-12*, Paul combines all three aspects of the doctrine of the resurrection in his deep prayer and cry :

- i. that I may know the power of His resurrection - this power is available to the believer;
- ii. he acknowledges the fundamental reality of Christ's resurrection and the availability of His resurrection power;
- iii. his goal is the resurrection of the just - "*that I may attain to it*".

THE ULTIMATE RESURRECTION OF EVERY PERSON WHO HAS DIED

All the dead will be raised from their graves:

John 5:28-29: _____

Foundations of our Faith

Acts 24:15: _____

When does the resurrection take place?

John 6:39-40, 44, 54: _____

John 11:23-24: _____

1 Corinthians 15:20-23: _____

1Thessalonians 4:16: _____

1 Corinthians 15:51-52: _____

When does the resurrection occur of those who are not Christ's at His coming?

Revelation 20:11-15: _____

Who raises the dead?

1 Corinthians 6:14: _____

2 Corinthians 1:9: _____

2 Corinthians 4:14: _____

John 6:39-40, 44, 54: _____

We are to preach the resurrection of the dead

Acts 4:2: _____

Acts 17:18: _____

Acts 17:32: _____

Acts 23:6: _____

What kind of body will believers have?

i. *1 Corinthians 15:38:* _____

ii. *1 Corinthians 15:43:* _____

iii. *1 Corinthians 15:44:* _____

iv. *1 Corinthians 15:42, 50-53:* _____

v. *1 Corinthians 15:20:* _____

Foundations of our Faith

1 Corinthians 15:49: _____

Philippians 3:21: _____

1 John 3:2: _____

The hope of the resurrection affects our conduct

1 Corinthians 15:32-34: _____

1 Corinthians 15:58: _____

1 John 3:3: _____

OH THAT I MIGHT KNOW HIM AND THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS, BEING CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS DEATH *Philippians 3:10*

Answers to Session 6

P.1

Acts 1:3 JESUS PRESENTED HIMSELF ALIVE
1 Cor. 15:5 BEING SEEN BY CEPHAS AND BY THE TWELVE
verse 6 BY OVER 500 BRETHERN
verse 7 BY JAMES AND ALL THE APOSTLES
verse 8 BY PAUL, AS ONE BORN OUT OF DUE TIME

P.2

John 2:19-22 A SPIRITUAL BODY – THE TEMPLE OF GOD
Luke 24:39 A BODY OF FLESH

P.3

Rom. 1:4 HE IS DECLARED TO BE THE SON OF GOD
Rom. 6:9 DEATH NO LONGER HAS DOMINION OVER HIM
Mt. 28:18 JESUS HAS ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH
Eph. 1:20-23 JESUS IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD
ALL THINGS ARE UNDER HIS FEET
Heb. 10:12 THIS MAN (JESUS) SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD

P.4

Rom. 4:25 HE WAS RAISED FOR OUR JUSTIFICATION
1 Pet. 1:3 HE HAS BEGOTTEN US A LIVING HOPE
Acts 17:31 HE HAS APPOINTED A DAY WHEN HE WILL JUDGE THE WORLD
Eph. 2:5-6 GOD MADE US ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST
HE HAS RAISED US UP TOGETHER AND MADE US SIT TOGETHER IN
HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST JESUS
Rom. 6:8 IF WE DIE WITH CHRIST, WE WILL LIVE WITH CHRIST
Col. 2:13 WE LIVE WITH CHRIST, FORGIVEN ALL OUR TRESSPASSES
Gal.2:20 I HAVE BEEN CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST. THE LIFE I LIVE IN THE FLESH I
LIVE BY FAITH IN THE SON OF GOD
2 Cor. 5:15 WE NO LONGER LIVE FOR OURSELVES
Eph. 1:15-23 WE BELIEVE THIS MIGHTY POWER IS OURS IN CHRIST
Eph. 3:20 MORE THAN WE ASK OR THINK; WORKING IN US

Foundations of our Faith

- John 5:25** THE BORN AGAIN BELIEVER WILL HEAR THE VOICE OF THE SON OF GOD AND WILL HAVE LIFE
- Rom. 6:5** THE BELIEVER IS NO LONGER A SLAVE TO SIN
- P.5**
- Col. 2:12** WE HAVE FAITH IN THE WORKING OF GOD
- Rom. 6:11** THE BELIEVER RECKONS HIMSELF TO BE DEAD TO SIN AND ALIVE TO GOD
- Rom.6;4** WE WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE
- 2 Cor. 5:15** THE BELIEVER LIVES FOR GOD
- Col. 3:1-2** OUR MINDS ARE SET ON HEAVENLY THINGS
- John 5:29** ALL ARE RAISED TO LIFE: THE GOOD TO THE RESURRECTION OF LIFE; EVIL DOERS TO THE RESURRECTION OF CONDEMNATION
- Acts 24:15** THERE IS RESURRECTION OF BOTH THE JUST AND THE UNJUST
- P.6**
- John 6:39-40, 44,54; JOHN 11:24**
THE RESURRECTION WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE LAST DAYS
- 1 Cor. 15:23** CHRIST FIRST, THEN THOSE WHO ARE HIS AT HIS COMING
- 1 Thess. 4:16** THE DEAD IN CHRIST WILL RISE FIRST
- 1 Cor. 15 :52** AT THE LAST TRUMPET SOUND
- 1 Cor.6:14, 2 Cor. 1:9, 2 Cor.4:14**
GOD RAISES THE DEAD
- John 6:39-40, 44, 54**
JESUS WILL RAISE US UP
- Acts 4:2; Acts 17:18,32; Acts 23: 6**
PETER, JOHN, PAUL PREACHED THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD
- P.7**
- 1 Cor. 15:38** EACH ITS OWN BODY
- verse 43** RAISED IN GLORY AND POWER
- verse 44** A SPIRITUAL BODY
- verse 42,,53** AN INCORRUPTIBLE BODY; IMMORTAL
- verse 20** ALIVE
- verse 49** THE IMAGE OF THE HEAVENLY MAN
- Phil. 3:21** CONFORMED TO HIS GLORIOUS BODY
- 1 John 3:2** WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM
- 1 Cor. 15:34** THE BELIEVER IS AWAKE TO RIGHTEOUSNESS AND DOES NOT SIN
- 1 Cor. 15:58** STEADFAST, IMMOVABLE AND ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD, CONFIDENT IN THE LORD
- 1 John 3:3** THE BELIEVER PURIFIES HIMSELF

ETERNAL JUDGMENT

Understanding eternal states: living eternally in the heavenly kingdom with God; or living forever in hell – eternal separation from God.

Scripture tells us that there are rewards for the righteous in heaven based on their service and obedience to the Lord during their lifetime.

Scripture also tells us that there is punishment in hell based on the person's treatment of Christ and His brethren.

Jesus warns

- those who **see and hear but do not repent**

Matthew 11:20-24: What did the people in those cities see and hear? _____

- and those who **hear and do not do**

Matthew 25:40-45: What did these people **not** do? _____

Word meaning:

to judge = to separate; to make a distinction between; to exercise judgment upon; to estimate; to call to account; to bring to trial; to sentence; to govern.

Who is condemned?

Once a person comes to faith they are taken out of condemnation (judgment) and brought into life.

Read *John 3:16-21* and write *v.18*

“Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgement on all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him”
Jude 14-15.

Who is not condemned?

John 5:24: _____

Faith leads to freedom from condemnation, that is judgement, and this brings life instead of death. *Romans 8:1:* _____

Understanding the judgement

Believers

Believers are judged according to *“the things done in the body, according to what he has done whether good or bad”*. The Scripture says, *“We must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ”* (2Cor.5:10).

“Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him” 2Cor.5:9. As believers we need to live our lives, knowing that there is a future accountability for our service as believers.

Unbelievers

Unbelievers are already judged by their refusing to believe in Jesus Christ. The Bible speaks of a final great judgement where all the dead are judged by God. John said, *“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened”* Rev.20:11-12.

What is the answer?

All unbelievers will face a final judgement, but the important thing is that as soon as we come to faith in Jesus Christ we are delivered from judgement, because Jesus took our sins on the cross. That is why we must preach the gospel.

“All have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). All have broken God’s law. The penalty for sin is death (Rom.6:23): spiritual and physical death leading to eternal spiritual death.

If we believe in Jesus Christ and we accept the forgiveness of our sins through His sacrifice on the cross, we are saved from death into life. We are delivered from condemnation and the judgement we deserve.

2 Corinthians 5:21: _____

Some Scriptures that illustrate the **judgment of, and the rewards for Christians.**

1. **Eternal life: Matthew 25:46:** _____

Quote *John 3:16*

2. **Give Account: Romans 14:12:** _____

1 Corinthians 4:5: _____

3. **Each one’s work: 1 Corinthians 3:12-15:** (give summary) _____

4. **Things done in the body: 2 Corinthians 5:10:** _____

5. **Crown of righteousness: 2 Timothy 4:8:** _____

What is Heaven like?

i. God is in heaven, **Matthew 6:9:** _____

He looks down from heaven, **Psalm 14:2:** _____

ii. It is God's throne, **Isaiah 66:1:** _____

iii. Heaven rules earth, **Daniel 4:26** and **Matthew 6:10:** _____

iv. Heaven's life is eternal life, & Jesus came from heaven, **John 6:51:** _____

v. There is a reward based on hope in heaven for us, **Colossians 1:5:** _____

vii. Heaven is a place of joy, peace and righteousness in the Holy Spirit, **Romans 14:17:** _____

viii. There is no pain, weeping, death or sorrow because God is very present and looks after His people perfectly, **Revelation 21:3-4:** _____

*The **kingdom of God** and the **kingdom of heaven** both refer to heaven. Therefore the Scriptures about the kingdom of heaven and about the kingdom of God help us understand what heaven is like. It is God's purpose for heaven to be experienced in the earth. This is the gospel of the kingdom and our experience of the heavenly kingdom begins with the new birth.*

***Romans 14:17** is describing the kingdom of God here on the earth. It is what we are to experience in coming to Christ: heaven on earth.*

***Revelation 21:3-4** is describing what life will be like on the earth when God is fully present with His people – the Holy City has come down from heaven.*

How does God judge?

a) According to the light people have received:
Romans 2:12: _____

Please read: **Romans 1:20, Matthew 12:41-42**

b) According to truth of the word:
Romans 2:1-2: _____

Please read: **John 12:47-48:** _____

c) According to deeds:
1 Peter 1:17: _____

Revelation 20:12-13: _____

Includes the intents of the heart:
Romans 2:16: _____

Please read: **1 Corinthians 4:5 & Hebrews 4:12-13 & 1 Samuel 16:7**

d) Without partiality – God has no favourites:
Romans 2:11: _____

Please read: **James 3:17**, the wisdom of God is without partiality.

e) In righteousness:
Read **Psalm 9:8**

Acts 17:31: _____

2 Timothy 4:8: _____

f) According to our obedience to the Gospel:
2 Thessalonians 1:8: _____

What is Hell like?

i. Everlasting punishment, **Matthew 25:46:** _____

ii. Everlasting destruction away from the presence of the Lord, **2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 and Revelation 11:18:** _____

Foundations of our Faith

- iii. A lake of fire, **Revelation 20:15**: _____

- iv. Fire that never is quenched, and their worm does not die, **Mark 9:43-48**: _____

- v. A place of total frustration, **Proverbs 27:20**: _____

- vi. A place of death and wickedness, **Psalms 55:15, Psalm 9:17**: _____

- vii. A place of torment, **Luke 16:23**, by flame **verse 24**: _____

- ix. A life of evil (selfishness) is the doorway to hell, **Luke 16:25**: _____

- x. a place of desperate separation from all that is good and able to comfort the soul, **Luke 16:26**: _____

- xi. A place of sorrow, **Psalms 18:5, 2 Samuel 22:6**: _____

- xii. Folly leads to hell, **Proverbs 9:18**: _____

- xiii. A place of condemnation, **Matthew 23:33**: _____

THE PLACE OF THE DEAD

Called *Sheol* in the Old Testament; called *Hades* in the New Testament. Both words refer to the place of the dead; the region of departed human spirits; also the place of demonic spirits. Before Christ came, Hades included the ‘righteous dead who were waiting for Jesus to come and deliver them out of that place into the heavenly realm.’

In the story of the rich man and Lazarus in **Luke 16:19-31**, the righteous dead were kept in a safe place in Hades, called Abraham’s bosom. The unrighteous are in a place of torment from the time that their soul leaves this present life. Since Jesus Christ came and took away sin through the cross, those who die in the faith are ushered immediately into God’s presence, “*To be absent from the body [is to] be present with the Lord*” **2Corinthians 5:8**.

Within Hades, before the cross there was a place for the righteous dead, but there was also a place of torment, which we know as hell. The word used in the Bible for hell is the word *geenna*, written in English as *Gehenna*. Gehenna referred to a place in the valley of Hinnom,

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just outside of Jerusalem where all the rubbish and refuse of the city was thrown and was constantly burning with smoke constantly arising. This was the part of Hades where the rich man found himself in torment.

There is no intermediary place, called Purgatory in the Roman Catholic dogma.

Hebrews 9:27 “*And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgement*”. When a person dies, the body literally dies, and goes back to dust, but the soul of man lives forever. This is why faith in Jesus Christ is so important and essential, because the only way to eternal life with God is through faith in Jesus Christ. Those who refuse to believe in Jesus Christ and those who disobey the gospel, “*These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His power*” **2Thess.1:8-9**.

The antidote for judgment is mercy!

We are not to judge except according to the Lord's instruction, e.g. Paul judged the immoral in **1 Corinthians 5:3**.

We warn men of the judgment that is imminent, **James 5:8-9**.

We are to preach God's great mercy to save and forgive now! God's mercy is such that He is “*willing for none to perish but that all should come to repentance*” (**2Peter 3:9**). Men can be saved by coming to the knowledge of the truth (**1Timothy 2:4**). We are able to reach others with the testimony of Jesus, firstly through prayer and secondly by preaching.

Romans 11:33: “*Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!*”

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Answers for session 7

P.3

Are all Christians going to be in heaven?

Mt. 25:26-30, John 4:17, Malachi 3:18, John 2:26

THESE SCRIPTURES ALL SPEAK OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN GIVEN A GIFT AND HAVE NOT USED WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN

GOING ON TO MATURITY

Hebrews 6:1: “Therefore leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us press on to perfection [maturity, completeness], ...”

Once the foundations are laid let us move on. There are many pictures of maturity in the Scripture including:

1. The model of a mature church in ***Ephesians 4***, with the **fivefold ministry fully operational and the body functioning;**
2. The guide to **mature practice and lifestyle** in ***Romans 12:9-21***;
3. The way of **ministering the gifts of the Spirit in love** in ***1 Corinthians 12-14***;
4. The model and practice of the **new person in Christ** in ***Colossians 3:1-17***;

In this study we are taking a few scriptural insights from the book of *Hebrews* as that is the immediate context of our series of studies.

The writer to the Hebrews is concerned that the Christians have not graduated from the milk of God's word. Peter calls the milk, “***the word of salvation***” (***1 Peter 2:1 NASB***). Hebrews list the six foundations as the milk of the word and calls the “***meat of the word***”, “***the word of righteousness***” (***Hebrews 5:12-14***). A person who is mature is “***skilled in the word of righteousness***” and able “***to discern both good and evil***” through the use (or practice) of their spiritual senses. The way to maturity is through practice. There are no short-cuts. We must go through the experience of growth.

Paul says, “***we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery ...***” (***1 Corinthians 2:6-7***). This wisdom is revealed by the Spirit (***verse 10***). **The wisdom of God comes through His word. We are called to study the word of God.**

The writer to the Hebrews says we can only go to maturity if God permits; “This we will do if God permits” (6:3). God will only permit us to go in His word more deeply if we have obeyed Him in laying the foundations properly. In other words it is vain for us to seek to go deeper into God's word if we have not been immersed in water for a full scriptural baptism. It is vain to try to go further if we have not received the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands. All of us probably admit to being ill-taught in the foundations of the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. May God open up these truths for us and restore the reality of them to His church in our day.

EXPECT TO SEE THE DEAD RAISED!

EXPECT TO WITNESS JUDGMENT IN THE CHURCH AS IN ACTS 5.

1. BEING ABLE TO TEACH:

“by this time you ought to be teachers”

In ***1 Peter 4:7-18***, the apostle gives us guidelines for service and suffering as mature Christians. “***As each one has received a gift minister it to one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks let him speak as the oracles [utterances] of God.***” (***verse 11***)

In *Colossians 3:17*, Paul says, "whatever you do in word or deed do in the name of the Lord Jesus" and in *4:6*, "Let your speech always be with grace seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one".

One of the qualifications of an elder is "to be able to teach" (*1 Timothy 3:2*).

God wants to give each one a "teaching" to share at the meeting (*1 Corinthians 14:26*).

2. WHAT DO WE TEACH?

- a) Teach who the Son is (*Hebrews ch.1*).
There are many Old Testament quotes in the book of Hebrews. By studying these quotes we learn how to read and understand the Old Testament Scriptures, finding Christ in them. In Luke 24:44-45, Jesus opened their understanding to the Messiah in the Old Testament writings. Have your eyes been opened? Can you show others the Christ in the Old Testament Scriptures?
- b) Teach concerning the cross and the great fruitfulness of the cross, the reality of the Son of God becoming a man for the suffering of death; the defeat of Satan, the real model of Jesus' life (*Hebrews ch.2*).
- c) Teach concerning the Son's faithfulness and the unfaithfulness of Moses' church - the problem of unbelief; how important it is to heed the word of God today (*Hebrews ch.3*).
- d) Teach the "rest of God" and the power of the word of God to bring us into His rest (*ch.4:1-12*). Is this Sabbath rest? What does the commandment "to keep holy the Sabbath" mean? The Bible teaches "the rest of God" from *Genesis 2:2-3*. God finished His work of creation and rested; the seventh day was a perfect day, an eternal day without evening and morning. The rest Joshua referred to was more than a literal Sabbath rest; he was pointing to the rest of God.
- e) Teach concerning the great high Priest, "the order of Melchizedek" - the apostle is very concerned that the Hebrew Christians know so little about Melchizedek, and we know less! (*ch.5 and ch.7*) The only other references to Melchizedek are *Gen.14 & Ps.110*. However there is considerable teaching throughout Scripture on the King/Priest and the "royal Priesthood" *I Pet.2:9*

Probably the two most asked questions for me as a teacher are: what is the unforgivable sin? and who is Melchizedek? Can you answer the second question?

- f) Make sure the foundations are thoroughly taught; warn that we can go too far in turning away from salvation - there is no further repentance for those who are like Esau {how does this teaching in Hebrews relate to the unforgivable sin?}; but there is real hope; it is through faith and patience that we inherit the promises (*ch.6*).
- g) Teach on the priesthood - a new and better priesthood; find out more about Melchizedek - he is first introduced in *Genesis 14* and mentioned in *Psalms 110*. Then there is the teaching in *Hebrews 7*. Study it carefully neither adding to it

nor subtracting from it. Then you will be able to answer people's questions directly from the Scripture (**ch.7**).

- h) Teach on the new priestly service: there is a pattern for worship! and the new covenant; how is it new? (**ch.8**) How do we worship the Father "*in spirit and truth*" ?
- i) How do we enter the sanctuary? Where is it? Why is Moses' tabernacle relevant? **Verse 5**, "*of these things we cannot now speak in detail*", but many chapters of **Exodus** are devoted to the tabernacle; 8 times in **Exodus 40** it says Moses did according to all the LORD had commanded Him (**ch.9**).

Take **Hebrews 9:1-5** as your guide and study the Tabernacle of Moses. Where is the blood of Christ today? What does the Bible teach about the blood of Christ?

- j) Why does God require blood sacrifice? In what way did the sacrifice under the Law point to Christ? Teach concerning fulfilment - how Christ came to fulfil not abolish; warn against sin: the just shall live by faith (**ch.10**).
- k) **Hebrews 11** is about faith : there is so much in this chapter. What do you know of the men and women of faith in the Old Testament? Do you know how to do a character study and teach a relevant message from it?
- l) **Chapter 12** focuses us back to Jesus, so we can handle the trials (discipline); the true home of the believer is revealed : Zion! Do you know Zion? How do we ascend God's holy mount?
- m) The conclusion in **chapter 13** is rich in instructions concerning godly living and the spiritual sacrifices of the Christian: praise!

Each of these areas could be divided even further and deep teachings presented on each section. The Book of Hebrews expects and demands a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Old Testament. Such wisdom is for the mature! Let us prove to be able workmen, approved by God, "*rightly dividing the word of truth*" 2Tim2:15.

***"The goal of our instruction is
love from a pure heart
and a good conscience
and a sincere faith"
(1 Timothy 1:5).***

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