## Disciple 201 – Chpt 01 Robert Dow

Moving on to Maturity

Opening prayer and statements from each of what you are trusting God for in growth.

This Study Series will be relying on the Holy Spirit to take participants into greater maturity of faith. There will be a greater understanding serving God in the work of the Spirit and the development of spiritual gifts. It will use the Prayer Guides that are downloadable from the Materials page on the website, "foundationchurchbuilding.ca". This is a journey into faith together. Keep confidences.

Hebrews 6: 1-3, Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, <u>2</u>instruction about cleansing rites (baptism), the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. <u>3</u>And God permitting, we will do so.

What does it mean by, "from acts that lead to death"? Remember in that day these are basic fundamentals. Why is baptism important? What is involved in moving on from basic fundamentals to maturity? Comment on, "and be taken forward to maturity". Discuss.

What is God asking from us in our walk of faith? Our 'faith' is a term used to describe the status of our relationship with God. It is the Father who draws us to Jesus as Lord and gives us faith as we believe.

Acts 15:27 - 29 "Therefore we have sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will also report the same things by word *of mouth*.

28 For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these essentials:

29that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols and from blood and from things strangled and from fornication; if you keep yourselves free from such things, you will do well. Farewell."

God is not forcing us to do anything. He had drawn us to himself because he loves us and has a calling for us to fulfill purposes that he has. It is up to us if we desire to follow God. All he requires of us is to keep our hearts pure.

1 Peter 3:15 "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,"

James 4:2,3 says "you have not because you ask not, or you ask with wrong motives."

How do each of these passages apply to us regarding growing into maturity?

You will now take time to pray for each other individually by laying on of hands. You want each one to have increased filling of God's Spirit but with a deeper and broader faith and experience a greater awareness of the work of the Spirit within. Record 1 thing each is trusting God for.

Pray also for a greater vision for the Kingdom of God.

After this time you may have a regular group prayer for anything you feel to pray for.