

KINGDOM KINDERGARTEN

Babies and little children bring joy to a family, along with a lot of work. Babies are innocent, but they are also self-centered, ignorant and can be irritable. They are unable to take care of themselves and need to learn many things as they grow. Such is also the case with those who are newly born in Jesus Christ. They have many things to learn. Our goal here is to help Christians grow to full maturity. There are Christians who have attended church all their life who still act like mere infants; self-centered, worldly, carnal and unable to teach others. - 1 Corinthians 3:1

Though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's Word all over again. You need milk, not solid food. Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. Therefore, let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith towards God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of the resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits. - Hebrews 5:12-14; 6:1-3

In the above scriptures we see several elementary or kindergarten teachings which must form the foundation of the Christian's life. A good foundation is necessary in order to withstand the storms of life. Most towns have building permit requirements if one is to construct a new building or make an addition or a renovation. Inspections are made along the way to insure that building codes are met to assure the safety and stability of the project.

God does not give Christians a permit to build on their life until the proper foundations are laid, otherwise, they will be susceptible to all kinds of extremes in beliefs, practices and experiences which cause them to lose their balance, fall down and even fall away from the faith. Throughout this website, we have various sections which will go into detail about the various foundations. For this intro message, we will give a brief overview. Thanks for joining us!

Foundation = themelios....to ground someone, to establish them, to render firm and unwavering

The foundation is the most crucial part of a structure. The bigger the building, the deeper and wider the foundation needs to be, as it must bear the weight of the structure. The apostle Paul was aware of this importance.

By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. - 1 Corinthians 3:10-11 NIV

JESUS IS THE CORNERSTONE

The cornerstone is the first stone set during the building process. It is measured very carefully and squared to ensure the proper alignment of the remainder of the building. Jesus revealed this truth to Peter and he later wrote about it.

*As you come to him, the living Stone - rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him - you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in scripture it says: 'See, I lay in Zion, **a chosen and precious cornerstone**, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.'* - 1 Peter 2:4-6 NIV (Isaiah 28:16)

'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!' (Peter's words to Jesus)
Matthew 16:16

Jesus went on to tell Peter, that this revelation was the Rock (Petra = Mass of Rock that could not be moved, such as the Rock of Gibraltar)

Peter was referred to as a petros (a stone or rock that could be moved or thrown)

RIGHTEOUSNESS IS THE SCEPTER OF THE KINGDOM

*But about the Son he says, 'Your throne O God, will last forever and forever, and **righteousness** will be the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness...'* - Hebrews 1:8-9a NIV

A scepter was a rod or staff used by a king or sovereign ruler as symbol of royal authority. Power is a seductive force which is commonly misused by leaders throughout history who often rule through fraud, force or fear.

All tyranny's rule through fraud and force, but once the fraud is exposed they must rely exclusively on force. - George Orwell (author of 1984)

The kingdom of God is **righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.**
- Romans 14:17

James Beall has an excellent book called, **Laying the Foundation**. (available at alibris books) At the beginning of his book, he writes about the visitation at their church in Detroit.....

'We had experienced years and years of revival - the refreshing rain of his presence among us. We had seen hundreds and even thousands come to God in salvation, water baptism and the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Some received notable healings. Others began to demonstrate God-given abilities or gifts of the Spirit. Many sought out fields for ministry. **But something was wrong.** After a time these people did not continue to grow. Some of those who had received marvelous experiences with God did not remain in the faith. We began to lose people. Sometimes they would hear a truth and then suddenly go haywire. They were susceptible to all kinds of teachings and doctrine. We as ministers began to seek the Lord about it and asked Him what the problem was. The answer we received was precise and clear. He said:

"You are building too much building for the amount of foundation that these people have. These people do not have a proper foundation. No one ever really taught them the proper foundation."

SIX FOUNDATION STONES - Hebrews 6:1-3

Repentance from dead works

Leave Sin

Faith towards God

Cleave to the Son

When a man gets married, he is to leave his family and cleave to his wife as they begin a new family. - Genesis 2:24. When a person comes to Christ, they must leave their old life behind with all of its useless, fruitless dead works, whose roots must be cut off. One then becomes one in Spirit with Christ Jesus alone as their Savior, Master, Lord and husband to be as they receive his righteousness and their new identity in Him.

1 Corinthians 6:16-17, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; 11:2-3, 2 Timothy 2:19.

Baptisms

Laying on of Hands

Water ... Bury the old man

Holy Spirit ... Empower the new man

*Water baptism refers to immersion and identification. - 1 Corinth. 10:1-2. Israel was cut off from their old world Egypt when they crossed through the Red Sea. Then they lived under the cloud of God's Spirit as they went forward to live in another place. Jesus came to restore the fallen human race back to a relationship with God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The price was high. Brutal, torturous, painful death on a cross. That brought us **FORGIVENESS OF SINS**. Jesus' resurrection from the dead brought us **NEW LIFE**. His ascension to heaven brought us access to heaven's throne and a **NEW AUTHORITY**. The sending of the Holy Spirit brought us **NEW POWER**. Laying on of hands is a way to pass on the blessings of God.*

Resurrection of the dead

Eternal Judgment

All will rise

All will face Jesus the Judge

Paul spoke of the resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous. - Acts 24:15.
Jesus spoke of a resurrection of life and a resurrection of judgment. - John 5:28-29
There is a fixed day when God will judge the world through the man Jesus - Acts 17:31.
He will separate the sheep from the goats - Matthew 25:31-32. God keeps detailed books about our life and works - Revelation 20:11-15. The judgment of Christians is more about rewards. - 1 Corinth. 3:12-15. God judges motives, and also brings praise. 1 Corinth.4:5.

(The subject of judgment is rarely taught today, which explains the careless attitude we see among society and even among Christians. When I first read about the judgment seat of Christ in my late 20's, it motivated me to get serious about serving Christ. I was inspired by Jesus' words that we could '**lay up treasures in heaven**'. - Matthew 6:20). For some, this might sound selfish, but it is actually honoring Jesus to do good works in his name and be fruitful for his kingdom purposes.)

As I meditated on these foundation stones, I noted how often they were evident in the preaching and practices of Jesus in the 4 gospels. He often preached repentance, spoke about faith, resurrection and eternal judgment. **Why did Jesus preach so much about repentance? It was because of his heart of compassion. He knew that he would have to judge each person one day and wanted them to be ready for the final examination.**

Preachers often tell the church what to do, but they really need to show **how** to do things. Paul the apostle knew this well. - 1 Thessalonians 4:1. He taught them **how to live**. Physical babies need to learn many things. Spiritual babies need to learn the same things in the spiritual realm! Here are some examples which we will cover in more detail as you read our various topical messages.

GROWING TO MATURITY

How to eat: How to eat the Word of God for themselves no more spoon feeding!

How to walk: Walk in love, the light , the truth, in purity and power in the Holy Spirit

How to talk: Learn the language of faith, praise, thanksgiving, and in the Spirit

How to Eliminate Learn how to confess your own sins, be cleansed with the Blood of Jesus. Spiritual detox - Colossians 3:5-9, 1 John 1:9, James 5:16

How to bathe Learn how to take a spiritual bath by soaking in the Word of God and and in the presence of God in worship and prayer -

How to Dress Put on the new man. Put on the armor of God. Be clothed with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience
Ephesians 6:10-18, Colossians 3:10-12

How to Discern Hebrews 5:11-14 Learn to be led by the Holy Spirit.
Is that voice of the accuser or the comforter? Jesus relied on the Holy Spirit - Isaiah 11:2-3

How to Fight Satan is a big blow hard bully who is actually scared of you if you know who you are in Christ. Jesus disarmed satan at the cross!
- Colossians 2:15

How to Work Jesus first disciples had jobs when he called them to follow Him.
Jesus considers lazy people to be WICKED! - Matthew 25:26,
Colossians 3:23

How to Have Kids and Raise Them Sharing the good news of salvation through Jesus leads to the conversion of sinners as the Holy Spirit brings new life into the them through the Word of God. Discipleship is learning to see God's kids brought to full maturity!
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