

BREAD OF LIFE MINISTRIES

FOUNDATION PRINCIPLES COURSE

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Introduction

Hebrews 5 v 10 - 14 & 6 v 1 - 2

- The writer of Hebrews admonishes the believers because they had not grown in their faith, nor had they become fruitful in teaching/discipling others.
- There comes a time in every Christian's life when God expects us to be able to share the fundamental principles of our faith with others. We all reach this stage at different times but God expects us all to arrive and begin to produce fruit.
- Only once we have mastered these basic principles can we begin to mature in the things of God.
- Ironically, most Christians do not fully comprehend these basic principles of the Christian faith.

What are these First Principles (5 v 12) or Elementary Principles (6 v 1) of the Christian Faith?

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|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Repentance from dead works | 4. Laying on of hands |
| 2. Faith toward God | 5. Resurrection of the dead |
| 3. The doctrine of baptisms | 6. Eternal judgement |

FOUNDATION PRINCIPLES – LESSON 1 - REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS

What are “dead works”?

Isaiah 64 v 6 (NIV) “... all our righteous acts are like filthy rags”

Philippians 3 v 1 - 9

- Although Paul had been obedient to the Mosaic Law and was zealous for the Jewish traditions, he counted these good works as rubbish (skubalōn – dung) in the light of Christ's righteousness.
- The Apostle Paul did not rely on his own righteousness through obedience to the Law but relied on the righteousness that comes through faith in Jesus.
- His faith was in the finished work of the cross of Calvary for his salvation and right standing with God.

Romans 10 v 1 - 4 (NKJV) “Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”

- Israel was zealous for God but their zeal was not according to God's word but rather their good works.
- Their pre-occupation with their own righteousness hardened and blinded their hearts to God's righteousness through Jesus.

Galatians 3 v 10 - 14 (NIV) “All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.” Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, “The righteous will live by faith.” The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, “The man who does these things will live by them.” Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law

by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit."

- Obeying the law or doing good works in order to earn God's righteousness brings about a curse.
- The curse of disobeying the law was once and for all removed through Jesus.

Galatians 3 v 19 – 25 (Read)

- The purpose of the Mosaic Law was to,
 1. Show man God's standard of holiness
 2. To keep our sin nature restrained by meeting out consequences for our disobedience.
 3. To point man to God's plan of salvation through the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

Definition of dead works,

*Dead works are the laws we try to obey and the works we do **in order to earn** God's righteousness apart from submitting to the finished work of the cross.*

How do I repent from dead works?

Salvation – Is a Free Gift from God it cannot be earned and we do not deserve it. It is given by a merciful and gracious God

Romans 3 v 20 - 26

- Understand that God's righteousness is separate from the law of Moses i.e. it exists and operates independently and separately of the Mosaic law. The law and prophets foretold of the righteousness that would come through the new covenant sealed in Jesus' blood. (**Jeremiah 31 v 31 – 34; Isaiah 53 v 1 – 12** are just two of many examples)
- Every individual has sinned against God and cannot by any self-effort earn their forgiveness.
- We are forgiven and justified freely (without any cost), by faith, in Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, alone.

Ephesians 2 v 4 - 9

- Salvation was purchased for us while we were still sinners, through God's mercy, born out of His love for man.
- God does not want us to first become righteous before coming to Him for this is the sin of dead works. Rather He saves us in the mire and depths of sin *and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.* (**Romans 5 v 6 – 11**)
- Salvation is a free gift, it is neither deserved nor earned, it is bestowed on those who receive by faith the Lord Jesus.

All our Sins Forgiven

Colossians 2 v 13 - 14

- Jesus has forgiven us for every single sin we ever have or will commit.

Hebrews 10 v 11 - 18

- Jesus' one sacrifice has forever paid the penalty for man's sin.
- God has chosen to never again remember the sins we have committed.

2 Corinthians 5 v 21

- In Christ we are as righteous as God is. Our righteousness is given as a gift from God through Christ and is not earned.

How do we Receive Salvation

Galatians 2 v 16

- By believing and putting the hope of our salvation alone in Jesus and the finished work of the cross

Romans 10 v 9 – 13

- We are saved through faith in the finished work of Calvary.
- We are born again when we by faith confess Jesus' lordship over our lives and surrender, without reservation, ourselves to Him.

Romans 8 v 28 – 39

- The Father has predestined believers to become like Jesus in nature and character. **2 Corinthians 3 v 17 & 18**
- God has called us, He has justified us from sin and He has glorified us in Jesus.
- There is nothing in all creation that can separate us from God's love, except ourselves.

Crucifixion of the Sin Nature

Understanding the sin nature

Romans 5 v 12

- All of us inherit a sin nature at conception as a result of Adam's sin. **Psalms 51 v 5**
- **Galatians 5 v 16 - 17** *"I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish."*

Romans 7 v 13 - 25

- Our sin nature is extremely powerful before salvation and controls our actions.
- It usurps our desire to obey God's law and wages war against our spirit through our minds (soul)

Romans 8 v 6 – 8

- Our sin nature cannot be saved *"for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be."*
- As long as our sin nature dominates our lives we cannot please God.

How does God deal with our sin nature?

Romans 6 v 5 – 14

- Our sin nature was crucified with Jesus on the cross.
- It was made powerless to rule over us through the cross of Jesus. Sin's power was broken when we died to self and were born-again.
- In order to walk in this spiritual victory, we must acknowledge and receive this spiritual truth by faith.
- Only by renewing our minds to agree with God's word, do we experience all the things that God has freely given us in Jesus our Lord. **Romans 12 v 2**

Walking in newness of life.

Galatians 5 v 24 - 25 *"And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."*

Ephesians 4 v 17 – 23

- To live in obedience to God we must choose to put off our old sin nature by accepting the finished work of Calvary.
- We are to renew our whole soul (mind, will and emotions) to line up with our spirits.
- Clothe yourself with the knowledge that you are a new creation in Jesus. **2 Corinthians 5 v 17** *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."*

FOUNDATION PRINCIPLES – LESSON 2 - FAITH TOWARD GOD

What is faith?

Hebrews 11 v 1

- True faith is an assurance deep in ones spirit that God will do what He says in His Word. Faith in God is not moved by the circumstances of life but rather looks to the unseen, omnipotent God who is able to change circumstances regardless of what our currant situation looks like.
- **2 Corinthians 5 v 7 (NKJV)** *“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”*

What is faith towards God?

2 Timothy 1 v 12 (NKJV) *“For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.”*

- The word faith comes from the Greek word *pistis*, which is translated as, assurance, confidence, conviction or faith.
- Therefore faith towards God is to have assurance, confidence and conviction in God and in His Word.
- Faith is a verb and therefore is expressed through action and conduct (**James 2 v 14 – 18**).

Where does faith come from?

Romans 12 v 3 (KJV) *“...God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”*

- Faith is a gift that is given to each believer by God.
- We all receive the same measure of faith at salvation

Ephesians 2 v 8 - 9

- Faith is a gift from God that we receive when we open our hearts to the gospel message.
- We cannot work to earn faith, it is freely given by God who by grace alone gives us the gift of faith that saves us.

How much faith does the Christian need to be effective for God and live a life pleasing to Him?

Luke 17 v 5 – 6 Read (Matthew 17 v 20)

- Jesus taught His disciples that faith the size of a mustard seed was all that is required to do great exploits for God.
- Faith is not measured in size but in depth. The closer we draw to God through relationship with Him, in prayer and in the knowledge of His Word, the deeper our faith grows.

Faith toward God must become a lifestyle

Hebrews 10 v 38

- God demands that those of us who are saved must continue to live by faith in Him. Faith in God must become a lifestyle to the Christian. We are to trust God in every area of our lives i.e. work, family, relationships, church, protection, finances etc.
- God takes no pleasure in us when we cease to live by faith and go back to a life of self-reliance, independence, doubt and unbelief.

Hebrews 11 v 6

- The only way to *please* (*ëuarëstëö* – please well, gratify entirely) God is through faith. God takes no pleasure when we doubt Him.

How do we to apply faith, or, How does faith work?

Hebrews 11 v 13 *“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”*

2 Corinthians 4 v 13

- True faith speaks out what it believes with conviction in the heart. Confessing God’s word without having conviction in your heart is not a Christian, but a new age philosophy/doctrine.

- The mouth cannot convince the heart to believe but rather the heart convinces the mouth to speak forth what it believes.

Is positive confession faith in action?

Mark 11 v 22 - 24

- Faith speaks out that which the spirit of man has been made assured of by the Holy Spirit.
- Positive confession seeks to persuade the spirit of man to believe that which the soul of man is assured of.
- A positive confession of faith from the re-born spirit is faith in action. A positive confession from the unregenerate soul is presumption.

Addressing positive confession

Proverbs 18: 21 *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue and those who love it will eat its fruit.”*

Proverbs 23: 6 – 8 (Read) *“For as a man thinks in his heart so is he”*

Romans 4:17 *“who calls those things which did not exist as though they did.”*

- The above three scriptures are used by the Word of Faith movement to support their doctrine that believes that Christians have the ability to change their circumstances by the words they speak.
- However these scriptures speak of firstly, God’s ability to create with His Words and not ours. Secondly, that the mouth can only speak out what is already in the heart. This has to do with a persons heart attitude and not an ability to “create” with our words.
- Compare with **Matthew 12:33-37**

How does our faith grow?

Romans 10 v 17 (NKJV) *“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*

- Faith comes when we expose ourselves to God’s word. As we learn more about God and His promises to us, our faith then is extended to trust God for the things that we come to know are in His will for us.

Hebrews 4 v 1 - 3

- Knowing God’s Word and will does not automatically mean that we have faith in Him, faith must embrace His Word and trust despite circumstances.

James 1 v 2 - 4

- Trials and tests of faith that are endured without doubt, will always result in stronger and deeper faith towards God.

How do we use our faith if we cannot find Scripture to stand on?

Matthew 14 v 22 - 33

- If you cannot find a Scripture to stand on then seek the Lord’s will and direction in prayer and stand in faith on the direction He gives.
- Stand on that word He gives you as Peter stood, without doubting and that word will sustain you.

What is presumption?

Deuteronomy 17 v 12 - 13 & Psalm 19:13

According to the Oxford Dictionary, as a noun it means, arrogance; assurance; taking for granted. As a verb, it means, unduly confident; arrogant; forward.

- Presumption is acting arrogantly and having confidence in that which we have not received through God, either by *rhema* or *logos* through His word or by confirmed prophecy.

What is the difference between faith and presumption?

Numbers 14 v 39 - 45

- Presumption is acting on God's word out when it is appropriated out of context, or in rebellion or disobedience.
- Presumption is the fruit of ignorance of God and His word.
- Faith seeks to act in obedience and submission to God and His word. Presumption acts through self.
- God never blesses us when we act presumptuously even if our motives are pure.

FOUNDATION PRINCIPLES – LESSON 3 - THE DOCTRINE OF BAPTISMS

PART 1 - WATER BAPTISM

Where does baptism have its origin?

Leviticus 17 v 15 - 16 & 22 v 4 – 7; Deuteronomy 23 v 9 - 14

- Under the Law of Moses, anyone who came into contact with bodily discharge or anything that had died was considered to be unclean. Such a person was isolated from the people until they had washed with water.
- The camp of Israel was a holy place and no uncleanness was permitted. Although sin was atoned for daily through blood sacrifices, uncleanness and impurity were dealt with through ceremonial washing which was symbolic of the spiritual cleansing that was to come through Jesus the Messiah.
- This type of bathing became known as the *mikva* and has been practised by orthodox Jews for thousands of years. When John came baptising unto repentance, the Jews understood the spiritual significance of his baptism.

What does baptism symbolize?

Romans 6 v 1 - 7

Colossians 2 v 11 – 12 & 3 v 3

- Baptism symbolizes in the natural that which Jesus has done for us in the spiritual through His death, burial and resurrection.
- The water is symbolic of the grave in which our old man (sin nature) now lies dead and defeated. It also symbolises the washing away of our sin through the blood of Jesus. We arise out of the water as new creations in Jesus
- It is through baptism that we demonstrate symbolically that we are truly a new creation in Jesus and that the life we now live, we live by faith in His sustaining grace.

Why do we have to be baptised?

Isaiah 1 v 20 (NKJV) *"If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land; But if you refuse and rebel, You shall be devoured by the sword"; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."*

John 14 v 15 (NKJV) *"If you love Me, keep My commandments."*

- We are baptised out of love and obedience to our Lord.
- Baptism is the first instruction that Jesus asks the new convert to obey. If we cannot obey His first instruction to us then we will not obey any others.
- Jesus is only Lord of our lives when we walk in obedience to Him. We are baptized because Jesus asks it of us.

Does baptism save us?

Mark 16 v 15 - 16

- Although Jesus says that *"he who believes and is baptised will be saved"*, He is not saying that the act of baptism saves us. We know that we are saved through faith in God's grace alone. Baptism does not save us but the act of baptism demonstrates faith and willingness to obey our Lord and Saviour. If we refuse to be baptised we are in rebellion towards God and therefore Jesus is not our Lord.

When are we to be baptised?

Acts 2 v 38 (NKJV) *"Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

Acts 19 v 1 - 6

- We are to be baptised once we have repented and surrendered our lives to the lordship of Jesus.
- Baptism should always follow soon after conversion, this is the biblical pattern. **Acts 8 v 26 - 39**

Is infant baptism biblical?

Luke 18 v 15 – 17 (Read)

Mark 16 v 16 (NKJV) *"And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."*

- As we have already seen, baptism must follow conversion. Conversion can only take place where there is true repentance.
- Because a baby or a young child is incapable of understanding the concept of sin and repentance they are not hold accountable for their sin until they reach an age of understanding.
- Infant baptism is not only unscriptural but causes those who believe in it to disobey God all their Christian lives because they never obey His command to be baptised after repentance.

Sprinkling or immersion?

Acts 8 v 26 – 39 and John 3 v 22 - 23

- The Greek word for baptise is *baptizō* which comes from the primary verb *baptō* meaning, "to cover wholly with a fluid. *Baptizō* means, "to make fully wet" or "to make overwhelmed." By implication, baptism is the act of saturating an individual by making fully wet or totally immersed. This is true of both water baptism and baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- John who baptised Jesus chose a place where there was a vast amount of water in which to baptise people.
- Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch both went into the water and were baptised following the ancient custom of the Jews. There is no example of anyone being baptised by sprinkling with water in the New Testament.

PART 2 – BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

We have already learned that the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in our hearts at conversion. He brings the life of God into our spirits and begins the work of transforming our nature into the image of Jesus.

There is another baptism for the believer and that is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. He is in us for salvation but comes upon us for ministry to others.

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." **Acts 1:8**

Read Acts 8:4-17

- Jesus never intended the Church to be His witnesses in their own strength and ability. He said in **John 15:5**, *"...for without Me you can do nothing."*
- Jesus said to His disciples, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father."* **John 14:12**

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a baptism of God's power that enables the Lord to work His wonders through us. The Book of Acts is filled with accounts of miracles, healings, signs and wonders done by the Holy Spirit through the disciples and apostles. Throughout history, the Holy Spirit has empowered the Church to be effective witnesses for Jesus by anointing us with His power and gifts. The same gifts that are recorded in the Bible are at work today because *the Lord is the same yesterday, today and forever*

Who is the Holy Spirit and what is His function in this dispensation?

Who He is.

2 Corinthians 3 v 17 - 18

- The Holy Spirit is God. He is as much God as the Father and the Son. He is in no way inferior.

His Function.

The Holy Spirit has seven main functions in this current dispensation

1. John 16 v 8 – 11

- He is at work convicting the world of their sin and God's judgement. It is the Holy Spirit who draws and points men to Jesus that they might be saved.

2. Acts 1 v 4 – 8

- The Holy Spirit empowers the believer with Gods *dunamis* (miraculous power) so that our witness for Christ will be infused with Gods' power and ability. Jesus wants His church to live and witness by the power of the Holy Spirit and not in our own limited human ability.

3. 2 Corinthians 3 v 17 - 18

- The Holy Spirit is at work in every believer moulding and conforming us into the image of Jesus our Lord. God's ultimate purpose for each of us is to be conformed into the image of Jesus (**Romans 8 v 29**), and this the work of the Holy Spirit.

4. John 14 v 26 & John 16 v 12 - 15

- The Holy Spirit is our teacher, He teaches us things that we cannot grasp with our natural mind because they are spiritually discerned.

5. John 14 v 15 - 23

- The Holy Spirit is our Helper, helping us to live out the Christian life by the strength and grace that He gives. The Father and Son manifest themselves to us through the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who leads, directs and speaks to us on behalf of the Father and Son.

7. Romans 8 v 26 - 27

- The Holy Spirit helps us to intercede often by praying on our behalf.

6. Acts 13 v 1 - 4

- It is the Holy Spirit who is guiding and leading the church on earth today. Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven, making intercession on our behalf, until He will one day return in glory. In the meantime the Holy Spirit is interacting with the church on behalf of the Father and Son.

- **Is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit for Everyone**

Acts 2 v 38-39 & Luke 11 v 9 – 13

- According to Scripture, all who are born again should experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

- **When are we Baptised in the Holy Spirit**

In both the above Scriptures in Acts, individuals had come to salvation. We now know that this is a work of the Holy Spirit, yet they had not received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The disciples in Jerusalem were filled with the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost after they had been with the risen Christ for forty days. The Samaritans received the baptism of the Holy Spirit after they were converted and baptised in water. Only then were hands laid on them by Peter and John. The baptism in the Holy Spirit can happen at salvation (**Acts 10:44-48**) or at any time there after.

- **How are we Baptised in the Holy Spirit**

- It is God's will that we are baptised in the Holy Spirit. Like salvation, it is a free gift and we receive it through faith. Once we are assured of His gift to us, He will baptise us when we ask Him in faith

The Scriptures reveal two methods that God uses to baptise us in the Holy Spirit.

- The first and most common method is through the laying on of hands in prayer. Here are two good examples, **Acts 19:1-6** and **Acts 9:17**. In both these examples a person who has been baptised in the Holy Spirit prays for those who have not been.
- The second method is when God in His sovereignty fills individuals with His Spirit. Again there are two good examples in the book of Acts, namely **Acts 2:1-4** and **Acts 10:44-48**.

- **Is the Baptism of the Spirit a Single Experience**

*“And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” **Acts 4:31***

- The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a once off experience. However, as we see from the above scripture, we can be continually filled or saturated by the Holy Spirit. The apostles were baptised in the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and they were filled again when they sought the Lord in prayer. We should continue to seek to be saturated by the Holy Spirit through, prayer, fasting and obedience to God. We should continue to ask the Father to fill us with the Spirit in order for us to be effective witnesses for Jesus.
- *“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,” **Ephesians 5:18***
The Greek verb *filled* is in the present tense implying that the individual must be “continuously being filled with the Spirit.”

- **Evidence of Being Filled with the Holy Spirit**

- The most obvious signs that a person has been baptised in the Holy Spirit is first boldness and many others then begin to either prophesy and/or speak in tongues.

*“And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;” **Mark 16:17***

*“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” **Acts 2:4***

*“For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.” **Acts 10:46***

*“And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.” **Acts 19:6***

- It is the Holy Spirit who enables the believer to speak from his spirit in an unlearned tongue. This language does not proceed from the mind and the mind does not understand the words of the spirit.
*“For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.” **1 Corinthians 14:14***

There are many other evidences and gifts that the Spirit imparts when a believer receives His baptism. However, the most important evidence of the Holy Spirit indwelling us should be the fruit of the Spirit, which is, “...love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...”

Galatians 5:22-23

FOUNDATION PRINCIPLES – LESSON 4 - THE DOCTRINE OF LAYING ON OF HANDS

The doctrine of laying on of hands transcends (comes before) the New Testament. In **Genesis 48:10 -19 (Read)** we see that Joseph understood that there was great blessing that came upon individuals through the laying on of hands. That is the subject of this teaching, the blessing, anointing and power of God that comes upon individuals through the laying on of hands.

There were two different circumstances when hands would be laid on people, or animals, under the Old Covenant.

Firstly, **Leviticus 4:1-6** and **verses 13 – 16** (can also read **Numbers 8:12**)

- For the sin offering, hands were laid on the head of the animal indicating that the sin of the person or people was being **transferred** from themselves and onto the animal.
- The Lord would accept the transference of sin and atone for Israel's sin.
- The animal, in God's eyes, would "receive the guilt of the sin" onto its self through the laying on of hands.
- **Leviticus 24:10-15** Hands were laid to pronounce that the witnesses had given faithful and true witness and that the guilt of the transgressor should remain on his own head.

Secondly, hands were laid on Joshua in order for God to impart an anointing on him to do His will.

Numbers 27:18-23 & Deuteronomy 34:9 "*Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him...*"

- Though the laying on of Moses' hands, Moses gave Joshua some of his authority by impartation of the Holy Spirit.
- This is the only account in the Old Testament that hands were laid on another to receive an impartation from God for service. (In **Numbers 8:10**, the Levites had hands laid on them as a dedicating into service without there being a Spiritual impartation)

In the New Testament we lay hands on others for them to receive an anointing from the Lord.

How does it work?

- In order to lay hands on someone it is vital that you are filled with the Holy Spirit.
- When you lay hands on someone, it is the Power of the Holy Spirit that is in you that flows through you and into the other person.
- Often (not always) you will feel the power of the Lord move through your body, up your arms and through your hands.
- Both the person praying and the one being prayed for must have faith. The one to be a vessel for God to work through and the other to receive (**Mark 6:1-6**)

When do we lay hands on others?

1. When we pray for **healing** (**Mark 16:17-18; Acts 5:12; James 5:14**) Oil can also be used in the laying on of hands for healing.
2. For **receiving the Holy Spirit** (**Acts 8:14-17; Acts 19:1-6**)
3. For **imparting spiritual gifts** needed for ministry (**2 Timothy 1:6**)
4. For the **separation/ordination** of an individual for the work of the ministry (**Acts 13:1-3; I Timothy 5:22** (read 17 – 21 for context, Paul is speaking about Elders i.e. pastors).

What about Being Slain in the Spirit?

Sometimes people may fall to the ground when being prayed for. This happens for **three reasons**.

- **Firstly**, it can be emotion or hypnotic suggestion. This is a work of the flesh and displeasing to God.
- **Secondly**, it can be demonic **Mark 9:17-18; Luke 8:26-28**. If someone is demonically possessed or oppressed, the demon will try to keep them away from the anointing of the Holy Spirit. It will cast them to the ground and may not always manifest. It is always imperative that you be led by the Spirit and not depend on what you see to determine what is happening when you minister.
- **Thirdly**, God does often come upon you with great power, presence and awe. In such times the human body just cannot stay standing in His presence or power. How people fall does not determine if it is of God or not as some people fall backwards (**John 18:6**), some fall forwards (**Ezekiel 1:28 & 3:23; Daniel 8:18**) and others just fall (**Acts 26:14; Revelation 1:17**)

FOUNDATION PRINCIPLES – LESSON 5 - Resurrection of the Dead

Do the Scriptures teach a resurrection message?

Daniel 12 v 1 - 2

- The resurrection of the dead is a fundamental teaching that runs through both the Old and New Testaments.
- Daniel receives a vision concerning the end of the age in which God instructs him concerning the final resurrection of all those who have died.

Matthew 22 v 23 - 33

- Jesus rebuked the sect of the Sadducees who unlike the Pharisees did not believe in either a spiritual realm nor in a resurrection of the dead. Their theological stance was not based on scripture but rather on intellectual arguments.
- They erred on two points. Firstly, they did not believe in a resurrection which the scriptures firmly teach. Secondly, they had no faith or knowledge of God's omnipotence which is able to resurrect that which has died.

1 Corinthians 15 v 12 - 19

- There were some people in the church of Corinth that did not believe in a resurrection of the dead. Paul argues that if there is no resurrection then Jesus could not have risen from the dead, if He is not risen then we are not justified and our sins are not forgiven (**Romans 4 v 25 (NKJV)** "*who was delivered up because of our offences, and was raised because of our justification.*"). If this is then true, then our faith and hope is futile for we are all then doomed to a Godless eternity.

2 Corinthians 5 v 1 – 8 (read at home)

What form will we take in the resurrection?

1 Corinthians 15 v 20 - 41

- Paul explains that Jesus "*has become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.*" First-fruits as the Mosaic Law teaches, implies that Jesus' resurrected form will be the exact representation of the rest of God's harvest i.e. the eternally redeemed.
- As we have taken the form of Adam so those who are saved must take the form of Jesus in the resurrection. "⁴⁹*And as we have borne the image (ëikōn meaning representation) of the man of dust (Adam), We shall also bear the image (ëikōn meaning representation) of the heavenly man.*"
- Our resurrected bodies will be able to relate to both the physical and spirit worlds.

1 John 3 v 1 - 2

- Although we know from scripture that we will have a resurrected body similar to that of our Lord Jesus and be like Him in nature, we do not know what we shall be in eternity.

The resurrection of creation.

Romans 8 v 18 - 23

- Creation is God's creation is in a state of imperfection and decay because of Adam's transgression. It too is eagerly awaiting for our resurrection because it will be resurrected and recreated like us.

Revelation 21 v 1 – 4 God will recreate the heavens and the earth

FOUNDATION PRINCIPLES – LESSON 6 - Eternal Judgement

What is eternal judgement?

Hebrews 9 v 27 (NKJV) "*And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgement*"

2 Corinthians 5 v 9 – 11 & Romans 14 v 10 - 13

- Every soul, whether saved or unsaved, will appear before God to be judged.

- God's judgements are eternal and the sentences or rewards given can never be reversed. This is eternal judgement.

THE JUDGEMENT OF THE SAVED

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

1 John 5 v 13 (NKJV) *"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God."*

- It is imperative for Christians to understand that as long as we continue to serve Jesus as Lord and Saviour we shall be saved and not be judged with the same judgment as the unsaved. (read the following at home **1 John 2 v 28; 4 v 17 - 18**)

Matthew 24 v 13 (NKJV) *"But he who endures to the end shall be saved."*

- Our salvation is guaranteed and secure as long as we do not forsake our love and obedience to Jesus.

How then are Christians judged?

1 Corinthians 3 v 10 - 15

- Our works, or Christian service, done in the Lord will be judged by God's exposing/revealing fire.
- God will test our motives for service and if they were not done with a pure heart they will be consumed and we will receive no reward. We will be saved as through fire with our works being destroyed and enter eternity with no reward.
- This is why Jesus says *"lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven."* **Matthew 6 v 20 (NKJV)**

Matthew 7 v 1 – 2

- We will be judged by God with the same criteria that we judge others with. We are not to judge others outside the strict guidelines that scripture allows otherwise we will be judged in the same way by God.

Where do Christians go when they die?

Philippians 1 v 23 (NKJV) *"For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better."*

1 Thessalonians 3:13 and 4:14 The dead in Christ are already with the Lord and when He returns at the Rapture, He returns with them.

2 Corinthians 5 v 8 (NKJV) *"We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord."*

- As soon as a Christian dies, he is taken to Heaven to be with Jesus for eternity.
- However, this was not so before the resurrection of Jesus.

Luke 16 v 9 – 11; Matthew 27 v 52 – 53 & John 20 v 11 - 17

- Before the resurrection, the saints of old went to Abraham's bosom or Paradise because they had to wait for Jesus to cleanse all sins before they could stand before the Father. Once Jesus had presented His blood before the Father He then took all who were in Paradise to Heaven.
- Since the resurrection of Jesus, believers go directly to Heaven when they die.

THE JUDGEMENT OF THE UNSAVED

Matthew 25 v 31 - 46

- Those who are not saved will go into everlasting fire.
- Hell was never created for people but for Satan and his angels. However, those that choose to reject Jesus and His salvation banish themselves to hell. (**John 3 v 16 - 21**)

Revelation 20 v 4 - 14

- At the Great White Throne Judgement, all those that are not found in the Book of Life are cast into the Lake of Fire (*gehenna*) which is called the Second Death. The first death is the death of the physical body and the second death is eternal separation, in hell, from God.
- Punishment in hell is eternal.
- Are there different degrees of judgement?

Matthew 10 v 14 - 15 & Matthew 11 v 20 - 24

In both Luke's and Matthew's gospel Jesus speaks of different degrees of torment for those who reject God's word and law. There seems to be a harsher judgement for those who reject Jesus and the gospel compared to those who sinned in the Old Testament dispensation. *"Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!"*

Where do unbelievers go when they die?

Luke 16 v 9 – 11 & 2 Peter 2 v 4 - 9

- Both the above scriptures reveal that the spirit and soul of the unsaved go to hell when their bodies die.
- Hell (*hades*) is described as a place of torment and anguish where the unsaved are reserved for the Great White Throne and ultimately *Gehenna* (which is the Lake of fire **Revelation 20v 14-15**).

What about those who have never heard the gospel?

Romans 2 v 12 – 16 & 26; Jeremiah 17 v 1 & Acts 10 v 34-35

- Conscience will be the judge of those who have never heard the gospel. They will be judged according to their obedience to their conscience. Our conscience is the voice of our spirit which was created by God and seeks after God.
- If they kept the spirit of the law of God they will receive God's grace.