

The Necessity of Foundations

To start the course on Leadership Foundations we will first study the biblical reasons for laying foundations; we will look at what they are, why and how they are important to us as followers of Christ.

Why We Need Foundations

Hebrews 5:11-14 & 6:1-3

TO PROVIDE A BASE TO BUILD ON

Every structure needs the appropriate base on which to be built.

- **The Natural Building** – 1 Kings 7:9-10. Solomon's Temple and Palace were built on huge stones of 15' (4.5 metres) and some of 12' (3.6 metres). When God wants to lay a foundation, He wants the best quality stone to support the building – note the temple was 13.5 meters high (45ft). Compare depth of normal house foundations.

- **The Spiritual Building** – Ephesians 2:19-22. As in the natural, so it is in the spiritual. We are all being built into a spiritual temple.

TO PROVIDE STABILITY

Luke 6:46-49. The storms of life will come.

BECAUSE IT'S IMPORTANCE IS CONFIRMED BY GOD'S WORD

Jesus said that not one jot or one tittle would be removed from the scriptures, indicating the importance of every word, number or mark within the Bible. Everything is there for a purpose. Our God is a God of perfection. Here follows an example of the placement of certain scriptures and numbers to show this perfection.

The number given in Scripture to represent a new beginning is 8. The Hebrew numerical value of the letters that make up the name of Jesus is 888.

The number given in scripture to symbolise man is 6. God made man on the 6th day; the number of the Beast is the number of a man, 666. Therefore the number 6 is very significant in respect to mankind. Note the placement of the foundational truths of the Gospel and their importance to the believer - Hebrews 6:1-6, and there are 6 Foundational Doctrines.

It is no accident that God places the teaching on foundations and their importance to us in this chapter and these first few verses. The spiritual man must be built upon spiritual foundations.

The foundational truths of the Gospel are the essential foundational building blocks of the Christian Faith. The spiritual temple of God is resting upon these truths. Jesus being the BedRock on which they rest.

What are Biblical Foundations?

JESUS CHRIST

Deuteronomy 32:4 Isaiah 28:16 1 Corinthians 3:11

What we rest our foundations on is of primary importance. Sand and clay are dangerous bases on which to build - refer to laying natural foundations. Bedrock is the safest of all bases on which to build. Jesus is the Rock of our Salvation. He is the Rock on which we must build.

THE WORD OF GOD

Matthew 7:24-27 Ephesians 2:19-22 2 Timothy 2:16-19

The foundation of the Apostles and Prophets is not subjective, i.e. consisting of the Apostles and Prophets, but objective, i.e. laid down by the Apostles and Prophets, just as God's solid foundation is not the Church but Jesus, the Word of God.

SPECIFIC DOCTRINES

Hebrews 6:1-3

Once the person of Jesus has been made the centre of our lives, we must begin to lay the right foundations upon the Rock. It is very important what we lay as our foundations. Here we will take a look at the difference between primary and secondary doctrines.

- **Primary Doctrines** – These are the doctrines which form the basis of Christianity and are vital to the unity, spiritual progress of our faith and the message of the Gospel.

- Repentance from Dead Works
- Faith toward God
- Baptisms
- Laying on of Hands
- Resurrection of the Dead
- Eternal Judgement

- **Secondary Doctrines** - These are the doctrines which are not of primary importance to the unity of the Body and not vital for the preaching of Salvation. The following are a few examples.

- Giving and Receiving
- Suffering
- Miracles

- Servanthood
- Commitment
- Angels

What Biblical Foundations Create

When the storms of life such as persecution, trials and temptations come, these foundations will become the building blocks of our lives, on which we can rely to keep us focused as God remains faithful to His Word to perform it. Here are a few of the characteristics that will be manifested in the person who has built their house upon the Rock –

Righteousness – We give no room or foothold to satan through a lifestyle of repentance and faith.

Stability – As we exercise faith in God’s goodness and His everlasting love towards us during trials.

Security – As we accept that we are His and the incredible price He has paid for us that we may have eternal life. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Endurance – As we look forward to the hope that is set before us.

Commitment – Knowing that our lives belong to Him and His plan for our lives will unfold as we are obedient and committed to the local Church.

Servanthood – Knowing we will receive rewards on the Day of Judgment for the work that we do in the body.

Power – What comes from understanding the fullness of Christ’s victory over sin, death and the devil.

Love – Truly understanding the depth of His love and his forgiveness towards us releases us to be able to love others. We can only love Him because He first loved us and gave Himself up for us as a sacrifice for sin.

Why do we lay Biblical Foundations?

The depth of these foundations will be determined by the amount of digging we are prepared to do.

Study – 2 Timothy 3:14-17 What we read and believe is very important. The stone for the Temple had to be quality stone. It must be made of the right material.

Meditation – Biblical meditation is a must for the serious reader. God reveals the depth of His Word to those who give themselves to meditate on the Word Joshua 1:8 Psalms 1:2-3, 19:14, 119: 97-99.

Confession – It is important that we give voice to our belief. For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. As we speak what we believe, the foundations will become stronger. We are strengthening our spirit through faith; we will be delivered from our doubts and fears - Romans 10:10.

Experience – Only God can work this out. We must trust Him to bring into our lives the experiences that will force us to exercise our faith in His Word and stand back and watch what He will do for us and in us - Philippians 2:12-15.

Action – We are to live according to our beliefs. If we believe what we read then our actions should come into line accordingly - Luke 6:46-49.

Conclusion

Without solid foundations we will not be able to move on to maturity in the things of God. Our destiny can only be fully realised as we grow in the knowledge of God. As our spiritual life is built upon solid foundations we can then move on to the solid food that God has for us. Remember, that the bigger the building, the deeper the digging.