

Chapter 1

FOUNDATION 1 ***IMPORTANCE OF FOUNDATION***

- I. Introduction: The importance of foundation. (Hebrews 6:1-3)
 - A. A proper foundation is important because the storm will come. (See the account of the wise and foolish builders, Luke 6:46-49).
 - 1. The same storm came to both houses but the outcome was dramatically different. The foundation made all the difference.
 - 2. Jesus makes it very clear that foundation is not laid through knowledge of truth (merely hearing His words) but through response to truth (hearing and doing - obeying His words).
 - B. A proper foundation is important because there will be a shaking of all things. (Hebrews 12:26-29)
 - 1. In this passage from Hebrews we find the picture of a "shaking" that will affect all things (and all people). The idea of the "shaking of all things" is a picture of the effect of an earthquake.
 - 2. The shaking we experience is not always something that can be blamed on circumstances, on the devil, or even on one's own right or wrong behavior. Though we may be "shaken" by a number of things with different causes, this kind of shaking comes from God and has a purpose.
 - 3. The result of the shaking is that the shakable is removed and the unshakable remains. The shaking tests the foundation. The shaking exposes the faulty foundation and confirms the proper foundation.
 - C. A proper foundation is absolutely important to withstand the storms and shakings of life.
 - 1. Foundation is important because everyone will at some time experience the storms of life and everyone will experience some kind of personal earthquake, a shaking.
 - 2. The survival and endurance of the structure is determined by having laid a proper foundation.
 - 3. Foundation is laid by doing the Word, not merely by hearing the Word. It is our response to God's Word (hear, believe, and obey) that gives us a foundation for life; a foundation that will face the storm and endure... James 1:22 "*Do what it says.*" James 2:20 "*...faith without works is dead.*"

- II. Another important factor in the life of a Christian believer that is related to a proper foundation or a right beginning is progressive maturity. (Hebrews 5:12-14)
- A. The book of Hebrews tells us that though we all begin as spiritual infants there is an expectation of developing maturity with the passing of time. The current spiritual condition of many believers is that they *"...Ought to be teachers, but still need to be treated like infants."* (Hebrews 5:12-14).
 - B. In the natural there is a level of expectation for growth and maturity that is related to chronological age. Knowing how old someone is gives us a certain expectation of their level of maturity in attitude, thought, speech, and behavior. When this expected level of maturity is not manifested, we are disappointed.
 - C. The spiritually mature are those who have exercised and trained themselves by consistent practice to distinguish good from evil. Knowledge must be used and applied or you don't really "have it." (Hebrews 5:14)
 - D. *For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do [it], and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments. (Ezra 7:10 AV)* Ezra prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, to DO IT, and to teach it.
- III. What is the proper foundation for a Christian life of progressive maturity and effective service? (Hebrews 6:1-3)
- A. The Foundation Stones
- There are six elemental truth-experiences listed in Hebrews 6:1-3 that give foundational strength to a Christian believer's life. They establish a foundation to weather the storms of life and they prepare one to go on to maturity as a believer.
- ❖ Repentance from Dead Works
 - ❖ Faith towards God
 - ❖ Doctrine of Baptisms
 - ❖ Laying on of Hands
 - ❖ Resurrection of the Dead
 - ❖ Eternal Judgment
- B. In the next four lessons we will deal with each of these foundational truth-experiences and look at how these foundation stones can be laid in the life of a believer and how we can then go on to build on this foundation for maturity and effective service.
- IV. God desires and has made provision for each of us to go on to maturity. (Hebrews 6:1, 3)
- "Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity... .. And God permitting, we will do so."* (Hebrews 6:1, 3)
- A. In these verses, God is seen as the divine building inspector who must inspect the

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foundation and give the permission to continue on with the building and maturing process.

- B. It is our destiny as Christians to mature, to “grow up into Him.” It is our destiny as Christians to be able to face the tests and storms of life and come through successfully. (See Ephesians 4:11-16)
- C. Our purpose in this Foundation for Christian Service Course is to help each individual believer to test his or her foundation for faith against the truths of God’s Word. We want to see each person respond to truth in such a way that faulty foundation stones will be replaced with the unshakable foundation of “hearing and doing” the truths of God’s word. We desire to see each person grow and go on to maturity as a Christian, finding and fulfilling God’s will and purpose.

***IT’S NOT WHAT YOU KNOW,
IT’S WHAT YOU DO WITH WHAT YOU KNOW.***

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

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- 1. What do you consider to be the three most important reasons for having a proper foundation for faith and the three greatest dangers when foundation is lacking or improperly laid?
- 2. Do you feel that people have misconceptions about what a proper foundation for faith actually is and how it is accomplished? Explain.