

LESSON 1 - FOUNDATIONS OF CHRISTIANITY

Growing Into Maturity

Christianity has foundations.

It's important to understand these foundations in order to grow into maturity.

Maturity is the goal the Lord has for us after we are born again.

We grow into the new nature that we have in Christ.

God's Desire for Our Growth

1 Thessalonians 4:1–3 shows us that God's will for believers is our **SANCTIFICATION**.

You cannot grow into maturity without a solid **FOUNDATION**.

The Foundations of Our Faith

Hebrews 6:1–2 lists the elementary teachings (the “ABCs”) of Christianity:

1. Repentance from **DEAD** works and faith toward **CHRIST**

2. Baptisms and the laying on of **HANDS**

3. Resurrection of the dead and eternal **LIFE**

A house cannot stand without a solid **FOUNDATION**. If the foundation cracks, everything built on it will eventually **FALL**.

Foundation #1 – Repentance from Dead Works

Repentance has often been misunderstood and misused, but every gift from God is **GOOD**(James 1:17).

The New Testament word repentance literally means “to **CHANGE** your **MIND**.”

Repentance is not just feeling sorry — it is choosing to agree with GOD about what is right, good, and best for your life.

Jesus said: “REPENT, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 4:17)

Without repentance, there is no true SALVATION.

Foundation #2 – Faith Toward God

Faith gives us access to GOD and is required to PLEASE God.

Faith believes that God IS and that He is a REWARDER of those who seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).

Faith comes by HEARING the Word of Christ (Romans 10:17).

God gives each believer a MEASURE of faith, and we are responsible to grow it.

Faith is not only something we believe — it is something we SPEAK AND ACT UPON.

Reflection Questions

1. Why is repentance necessary?
2. What initiates repentance, and what should our response be?
3. What is the result of godly sorrow?
4. When repenting, what are you turning away from and what are you turning to?
5. Why is it impossible to please God without faith?
6. Do you find it easy or hard to believe that God is a rewarder?
7. What do you think about the 4 pillars of building faith (hearing, believing, speaking, doing). Where have you found the struggle in your life?

8. If you really had a belief that Jesus was as good as the Bible says He is, how would that change how you live?