

Th122 Foundation Doctrines

Lesson Th122 - 1 Introduction

People build houses in different ways. Some people build with wood. Others use stone or bricks. Many homes today are built from concrete blocks. No matter how the house is built, there is one thing that all houses need if the builder expects the house to remain. Every house needs a good foundation to build upon.

My life and your life are like houses. We build our lives with knowledge, relationships, and life experiences. But our lives, just like a house, must have a good foundation. In this course we will learn what the Bible teaches are the foundational or basic doctrines of Christianity. There is a book in the Bible called ‘Hebrews.’ It was a letter written to Hebrew Christians, laying out a broad foundation of teaching about Jesus Christ. It was written from a Hebrew perspective so that the Jewish readers could easily understand the principles being taught.

The author of the Book of Hebrews wrote: "Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of instruction about washings, and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment" (Heb 6:1-2). From this we learn that there are six elementary or foundational doctrines that every Christian should understand. These six foundational doctrines will be taught in this course. Every pastor should include lessons on these six doctrines in his teaching to his congregation.

The first doctrine is “repentance from dead works.” Repentance is the first and foremost step in the life of every Christian.

“Faith toward God” is also a requirement for becoming a Christian. One must, of course, believe that God exists before one can come to him.

Third, the doctrine of “washings,” or “baptisms,” includes water baptism and the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

“Laying on of hands” covers a number of important aspects of ministry within the church.

Christians do not live without hope. We have been promised that every Christian who dies will be raised from the dead. This is the fifth doctrine, “resurrection.”

Finally, there will be a day when everyone who has ever lived will stand before God. Each will be judged for their lives and actions. This is “eternal judgment.”

Let's say these six foundation doctrines together. Please repeat after me: Repentance (Pause) Faith (Pause) Baptisms (Pause) Laying on of Hands (Pause) Resurrection (Pause) Eternal Judgment (Pause)

Let's say these six foundation doctrines again. Please repeat after me: Repentance (Pause) Faith (Pause) Baptisms (Pause) Laying on of Hands (Pause) Resurrection (Pause) Eternal Judgment (Pause)

Every person building a house understands the importance of having a good foundation. Jesus himself told a story about two men who decided to build houses.

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and *yet* it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell. And great was its fall” (Matt 7:24-27).

The “rock” is Christ himself and his teachings. The crowds who heard this story were amazed at Jesus’ teaching. He taught as one who had divine authority. He said that a wise person would not only hear, but also obey what they had heard him say. In this course you will learn the foundational teachings of Jesus Christ. You will be encouraged to put them into practice as you build a strong foundation for your life and ministry. Faith in Christ the rock brings about changed lives, established firmly on him.

This lesson is **important** because it teaches the six foundation doctrines of Christianity.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that the six foundational teachings in Hebrews will help every Christian to lay a firm foundation upon which to build their lives.

Let us **review** this lesson by answering the following questions:

1. We learned that the author of the Book of Hebrews said that there are six foundation doctrines to Christianity. What are the first three doctrines? [Pause]
A. If you said, “Repentance, faith, and baptisms,” then you are correct.
2. Can you name the next three foundation doctrines? [Pause]
A. If you said, “Laying on of hands, resurrection, and eternal judgment,” you are correct.
3. Jesus told the story of a man who built his house upon the rock. What happened when the storm came against the house built upon the rock? [Pause]
A. If you said that it withstood the storm, you are right.

Your **assignment** for this lesson is to quote the list of six foundation doctrines at least ten times until you have memorized the list. Here is the list one more time:

Repentance (Pause) Faith (Pause) Baptisms (Pause) Laying on of Hands (Pause)
Resurrection (Pause) Eternal Judgment (Pause)