

Agape House of Worship
Midweek Service & Bible Study

Elementary Principles of Christ
Principle #2 - Faith toward God

Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020
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Hebrews 6:1-3 “Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3 And this we will do if God permits.” **NKJV**

The Six Elementary Principles of Christ: This is the core foundation upon which spiritual maturity is built. It is impossible to go higher in our walk with God without the basic foundations listed in Hebrews 6:1 having been established in our lives

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

In principle #1, we learnt that repentance is the first of the foundation stones of faith in Christ. Without true repentance you can never have true faith. To repent is to change the way you think (metanoia) and to turn around (teshuvah) – a 180-degree turn.

Principle #2 - Faith toward God: In the scripture, repentance is always followed by faith in Christ Jesus (gospel)

Mark 1:14-15 - " After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Acts 20:20-21 – “how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, 21 testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”

What is Faith?

- Faith comes from the word of God. **Romans 10:17**- So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
- Faith gives substance to hope and evidence to the unseen. **Hebrews 11:1,2** - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.....By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.
- Faith takes us to the realm of the invisible: **2 Corinthians 5:7** - For we walk by faith, not by sight.
- Faith is in the heart – Hope is in the mind: **Romans 10:10** - that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
- Faith is a matter of character – faithfulness, loyalty, commitment.

What is the Good News? The Object of Our Faith is the Good News (Gospel)

1 Corinthians 15:1-5 - Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.

1. Christ died for our sins, according to the scriptures
2. He was buried, according to the scriptures
3. He rose from the dead the third day, according to the scriptures

Salvation and Righteousness - Through Faith – Not Works

Ephesians 2:8-10 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Romans 4:4-8 - Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. 5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, 6 just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works: 7 “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; 8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin.”

- Salvation and righteousness are by grace (gift of God), they cannot be earned by works
- Salvation and righteousness are received through faith

Works (of the Law)

- Works are what you do to earn something from God
- Works foster pride – God wants a way of coming to him that does not foster our pride
- We are not justified by works. **Galatians 2:16** - *knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.*
- Works of the law are external works, dead works or works of the flesh.
- Works of the law brings us under a curse. **Galatians 3:10** - *For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them. James 2:10-11*

The Purpose of the Law:

- To bring the Knowledge of sin - **Romans 3:20** - *Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. Galatians 3:19* - *Why, then, was the law given at all? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come.*
- To show our sinfulness and bring us to grace: **Romans 5:20** - *God’s law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God’s wonderful grace became more abundant.*
- Strengthens Sin - **1 Corinthians 15:56** - *The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.*

Grace

- Grace is the gift of God through Jesus Christ – it is what you receive from God without working
- Grace fosters a life of worship and thanksgiving. **1 Corinthians 15:57**, **Ephesians 1:3**, **Colossians 1:12**.
- Grace is received by faith – it takes faith to receive the grace of God. **Hebrews 4:2**. **Galatians 3**
- Grace brings blessings. Jesus is the ultimate blessing. **John 1:17**, **2 Corinthians 8:9**
- Grace works internally - **Titus 2:11-12**.

Grace and works are mutually exclusive. The attitude of self-dependency shuts out grace from your life.

- **Romans 6:14** - *For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.*
- **Romans 11:6** - *And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.*

Faith

- Faith is the means of accessing the grace of God
- Faith is active - **Hebrews 10:23** - *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.*

What is the Place for Works? Works must be an output (fruit) of faith not as an input (effort). Salvation cannot be earned by works but salvation produces good works

- **Ephesians 2:8** - *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*
- **Philippians 2:12-13** “.... continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.”

How Do We Produce The Good Works (The Fruit of Our Faith)

- **Lead by the Spirit: Romans 8:14** - *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. Galatians 5:18* *But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*
- **Powered by love: Matthew 22:**
Romans 8:3-4 - *For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*
Galatians 5:6, 14 - *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.....For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*
1 Timothy 1:5-6 - *Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, 6 from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk,*