

**Agape House of Worship
Midweek Service & Bible Study**

**Elementary Principles of Christ
Lesson 7: Summary**

**Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2020
Facilitator: Pastor Jide Lawore**

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

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

The elementary principles are essential components to spiritual progress and maturity. They are the core foundation upon which spiritual maturity is built. It is impossible to truly experience higher truths and deeper revelations without these basic foundations having been established in our lives.

PRINCIPLE #1 - REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS

What Are Dead Works?

- Dead works are the works of our hands, they are the works of flesh. Galatians 5:19-21
- Dead works are anything not done in faith, or that does not originate from Christ. Romans 14:23 - “... everything that does not come from faith is sin.” Faith alone gives life to what we do.
- Dead works are works of self-righteousness, and they are called “dead” works because they lead to death. “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death. (Proverbs 16:25, Proverbs 14:12)

What is Repentance?

Repentance is not an emotion, being remorseful, sorry or an act of weeping and wailing for our wrongdoing. Repentance is not willful self-affliction, self-punishment, or penance. It is not equal to public shaming. The full meaning of repentance can be derived from both its the Hebrew and Greek words:

- The Greek word for repentance is “metanoia” which means to change the way you think.
- The Hebrew word for repentance is “teshuvah” which means to return or to turn around (180-degree turn)

PRINCIPLE #2 - FAITH TOWARD GOD

In the scripture, repentance is always followed by faith in Christ Jesus (gospel)

Salvation and Righteousness are received through faith not works

Ephesians 2:8-9 “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.”

Romans 4:4-5 - 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”

- Works of the Law: Works are what you do to earn something from God. Galatians 2:16
- Grace: Grace is the gift of God through Jesus Christ – it is what you receive from God without working. Hebrews 4:2. Galatians 3
- Faith: Faith is the means of accessing the grace of God

PRINCIPLE #3 - THE DOCTRINE OF BAPTISMS

What is Baptism? The phrase “to baptize” is transliterated into English from the Greek. When a word is transliterated, it is not defined, just put into English format. The Greek word is “baptizo” which becomes our word “baptize” means to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge. Baptism means total immersion.

Two Elements of Every Baptism

- Baptized in or with – the element you are immersed in or with (water, Spirit)
- Baptized into or for – the end product of the baptism (repentance, Christ)

Three Major Doctrinal Kinds of Baptisms In The Bible

1. John's baptism. Matthew 3:11. John's baptism is WITH water and INTO repentance
2. The Christians Baptism - Identification with Jesus in his death, burial, and resurrection
3. The baptism in the Holy Spirit. IN the Spirit INTO the Body. Corinthians 12:12-14

PRINCIPLE #4 – LAYING ON OF HANDS

Laying on of hands is an essential element in the history of God's people. It has been a way spiritual blessings and God's covenant has been transmitted throughout generations of God's people. Laying on of hands uses an important aspect of our natural life which is human contact to achieve a spiritual function. There are two main purposes of laying on of hands in the Bible:

1. To transmit: blessing, authority, wisdom, Holy Spirit, healing, spiritual gifts etc.
2. To commission into ministry (ordination). Genes 48:8–19. To commission is to:

Purposes of Laying on of Hands in the New Testament

1. To impart healing to the sick. Mark 16:17–18
2. To receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Acts 8:14–20, Acts 9:15-18, Acts 19:1–6
3. To impart spiritual gifts. 2 Timothy 1:6, Romans 1:11–12
4. Commission for ministry assignment. Deacons (Acts 6:1-7), Elders (Acts 14:23), Apostles (Acts 13:1–4)

Laying on of Hands Must be Done Carefully. 1 Timothy 5: 19-22

PRINCIPLE #5 – RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

The Christian faith does not terminate with time; it goes until eternity. The Christian faith hinges on the fact that there will be resurrection of the dead. The word resurrection was translated from the Greek word, *anastasis* which means "up again", "stand up" or "stand again". In the scripture, it describes the rising up again of the dead human body to reunite with the spirit and soul.

What Happened to the Dead Before Christ?

- Jesus gives us a picture of what happens when people die in Luke 16:22-26
- All departed souls pass into an unseen realm. The place of departed souls/spirits. (Sheol, Hades)

The resurrection of Jesus, changed the destiny of the righteous: Paradise

- The resurrection of Jesus is the guarantee of our own resurrection. 2 Corinthians 4:14.
- The resurrection of Jesus is a pattern for ours. Phil 3:20-21.

The Nature of Our Resurrected Body: 1 Cor 15:35-38, 42-44, 52-53.

- Sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable
- Sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory
- Sown in weakness, it is raised in power
- Sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body
- Mortal must cloth itself with immortality

PRINCIPLE #6: ETERNAL JUDGEMENT

One of the critical elements of eternity is judgment. *Hebrews 9:27* "And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment" (NLT). God wants Christians to understand the truth of the judgments, not just for information but also to comfort and motivate them to godly living. He also wants unbelievers to know so as to motivate them to trust in Christ as their personal Savior because He bore the judgment for their sin in their place

Five Series of Eternal Judgments

1. The Judgement Seat of Christ (Bema). Judgement of believers for reward not condemnation. 2 Cor.5:10
2. The Judgment of Israel - During the tribulation. Jeremiah 30:3–7, Ezekiel 20:33–38
3. The Judgment of Gentiles Nations – Based on their treatment of Israel. Rev. 16:12-16, Matt. 25:31-46
4. The Final Judgment of Satan - for deceiving the whole world. Revelation 20:1–10
5. The Great White Throne Judgment – Judgment of the wicked dead. Revelation 20:11–15