

Power Principles

For Life on the Rock

Preface

The foundational doctrines of Christ, outlined for us in the sixth chapter of the letter to the Hebrews, are: (1) repentance from dead works, (2) faith toward God, (3) the doctrine of baptisms, (4) laying on of hands, (5) resurrection of the dead, and (6) eternal judgment. The writer of Hebrews states:

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, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits.

Hebrews 6:1-3 (NKJV)

These are the foundational truths— the *elementary principles*— that every Christian should know and experience in life! These doctrines of Hebrews 6 should form the bedrock of our Christian faith! Indeed, how can we *go on to perfection* without first having gained a working understanding of these *elementary principles*?

The importance of a strong foundation cannot be over-emphasized. For the Christian, a firm undergirding in doctrine is an absolute necessity. It becomes the rock upon which to stand when personal faith in Jesus Christ is challenged.

Jesus Himself taught the importance of a firm foundation of faith in His doctrines:

Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.

Matthew 7:24-27

The rock upon which the wise man built was *hearing* and *doing* the things that Jesus taught. Many people assume that the rock spoken of in these verses is Jesus. But Jesus himself stated that the rock was also *hearing* and *doing* what He said! You can't really be claiming to stand on The Rock, Christ Jesus, unless you are *hearing* and *doing* the things that He has spoken! "Therefore whoever *hears* these sayings of Mine, *and does* them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock" (verse 24).

In another place Jesus said:

And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges *him— the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.*

John 12:47-48

On judgment day, the word that Jesus Christ has spoken will be the standard by which we will be measured. On that day He is going to ask, "You had my word! Why didn't you live by it?" How will those who have not really believed and lived their lives by the word answer Him?

The average home in America most likely has one, if not two or three, Bibles. The problem isn't that we don't have access to the words of Christ; it is that we don't study them to understand them, and apply them to our lives. It seems to me that many adherents to other faiths in the world demonstrate more hunger and zeal for their particular religion—by reading, studying, praying, and witnessing—than do many Christians in our churches. *It is time, Christian brother and sister, to awake out of sleep.* It is time to get into the words of Jesus, and do what He, and all of the Bible, says. It is time to apply the truth of the word of Christ to our hearts and lives. We each must come to the place where we can “contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3)!

We must not underestimate the vital importance of hearing *and doing* the words of God! Psalm 138:2 tells us that God exalts His word even above His name! His word is that important! Jeremiah 1:12 states that God watches over His word to perform it! He is looking for obedience to His word so that through His word He can perform His works! Jesus rebuked the Sadducees for “not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God” (Matthew 22:29). Don't be like these Sadducees, ignorant of basic doctrines! Get to know the truth of the word of God!

Clearly, we are wise to hear and do what the Master has said. Hearing and obeying the words of Jesus is the foundation that will cause us to stand, here and now, as well as in the future when the winds of judgment begin to blow upon this earth! And we ought not hear and do only what is written in the Gospels, but we would be wise to hear and do *all* the word of God, even as the apostle James admonishes us (James 1:21-25).

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