

“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.”

(Hebrews 6:1–2, NKJV)

“...*Not laying again* the foundation of repentance from dead works...”

- Not laying again – “*to lay something down*”

The writer is saying that the elementary principles of the Christian faith should be laid down like a strong, immovable foundation as soon as we come to Christ

- Once this is set in place there should never be a need for it to be laid down again

These six truths should be so rock-solid in our lives that we are immovable and unshakable when it comes to the basic and essential doctrines of Christ

They are the fundamental bedrock of the Christian life

- Repentance from dead works
- Faith toward God
- The doctrine of baptisms
- The laying on of hands
- Resurrection from the dead
- The doctrine of eternal judgment

So far, we've looked at:

Repentance from dead works

- You begin your Christian life with repentance, and you'll be repenting the rest of your life

Faith toward God

- This is faith that is rooted in Christ and Christ alone

The doctrine of baptisms

- Again, the word "baptisms" is plural

The laying on of hands

Impartation through the Hands – Both God and Man

From the very beginning of time, God has used the laying on of hands for the supernatural transfer of power, authority, blessing, spiritual gifts, healing, deliverance to the sick and oppressed, and so much more

- Your Hands are God's Instruments

"And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." (Mark 16:17–18, NKJV)

- Every single believer is ordained to lay their hands on the sick
- Through your hands, God will impart His blessing, power, healing, and deliverance

Resurrection From the Dead

When my father died I remember looking at his stone-cold, lifeless body

Although I loved my father and would miss him deeply, I was not gripped with the same sense of sorrow that others might feel because I know what the Bible says about those who die in Christ

- I knew that the body lying there was not my father
- It was just the vessel he had lived in during his lifetime
- I knew that my father was already in the presence of the Lord
- When I see him again he will have a new, heavenly body

“We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.”

(2 Corinthians 5:8, NKJV)

“It (earthly body) is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.”

(1 Corinthians 15:43, NKJV)

- One day in the future, he and I, along with all of our family, will have a glorious reunion in Heaven!
- This is an amazing truth and is foundational to our faith

Because of Christ's resurrection and our future resurrection death has lost its sting!

“The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.”

(1 Corinthians 15:26, NKJV)

“O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” **(1 Corinthians 15:55, NKJV)**

- Death is no longer something we need to fear!

Our belief in Jesus' resurrection from the dead is an important part of the bedrock of our faith

In fact, if we don't believe in Christ's resurrection and our future resurrection, we really don't have anything to base our faith on

“And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.” **(1 Corinthians 15:14, NKJV)**

What does Resurrection mean?

The word translated as resurrection throughout the New Testament is the compound Greek word, anastasis

- Ana – *to repeat something, or do it again*
- Stasis – *to stand*
- Combined – *to stand again, to stand upright, or to be raised from the dead*

“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.”

(John 11:25, NKJV)

- Jesus was speaking about a physical resurrection

His resurrection power is not limited to just the physical realm

- Jesus is Anastasis!
- That means if you've been knocked down by life
- If your emotions have been crushed
- If your finances have been negatively impacted
- If you're down in any area of life
- The resurrection power of Jesus can cause you to stand up again!

He is Resurrection itself! – He is “*stand-up*” power!

“If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

(1 Corinthians 15:19–20, NKJV)

- Christ’s resurrection from the dead is our guarantee that we will also be raised from the dead
- Christ was the first fruits
- His resurrection is the promise that another harvest of resurrection will follow Him

When you study the Old Testament, you find three concrete examples of resurrection – of people who were raised from the dead

- *1 Kings 17:17-22; 2 Kings 4:32-35; 2 Kings 13:20,21*
- However, there must be more than just these specific accounts...

“Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.” (Hebrews 11:35, NKJV)

There are three people recorded in Scripture as being raised from the dead during the earthly ministry of Jesus

- *Luke 7:11-15; Luke 8:41,42,49-55; John 11:1-44*
- But there were more than these accounts

(as Jesus yielded up His Spirit on the cross) “and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised;” (Matthew 27:52, NKJV)

In the book of Acts, if we count the apostle Paul himself after he was stoned in Lystra, there are three concrete examples of people being raised from the dead

- *Acts 9:36-41; 14:19,20; 20:9,10*
- All of these who were raised eventually died again (*OT, Jesus’ Ministry, Book of Acts*)
- Their resurrections were temporary

There is only One person who rose from the dead who did not die again – Jesus Christ!

Without Jesus’ sacrificial death on the Cross, and His resurrection, the Life that God has for us could not have been made available

“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.”

(Hebrews 2:9, NKJV)

“I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.”

(Revelation 1:18, NKJV)

“For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.” **(Romans 6:10, NKJV)**

“but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,”

(2 Timothy 1:10, NKJV)

“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,” **(1 Corinthians 15:3–4, NKJV)**

Some may argue that the Cross is the cornerstone of the Christian faith

- Thousands and thousands of people over the years have been crucified
- Only One was raised from the dead!
- If Jesus had died but no resurrection, we would not have a living faith

And it's important to understand that after the resurrection, the reality of that event was verified multiple times

Jesus' resurrection was affirmed when He appeared ten different times to different individuals and groups of people

- He appeared to Mary Magdalene (see Mark 16:9; John 20:11-18)
- He appeared to other women (see Matthew 28:9,10; Luke 23:55 – 24:10)
- He appeared to Peter (see Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5)
- He appeared to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus (see Luke 24:13-33)
- He appeared to ten of the disciples all at once (see John 20:19,20)
- He appeared to 11 disciples eight days later (see Matthew 28:16,17; John 20:26)
- He appeared to James, the Lord's brother (see 1 Corinthians 15:7)

At the moment of His ascension, He had appeared to the 11 apostles (see Acts 1:6-11)

- He also appeared to seven disciples at the Sea of Tiberius (see John 21:1-25)

In fact;

“After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.” (1 Corinthians 15:6, NKJV)

- Jesus appeared over and over again after His resurrection
- This is most likely not the full list

*“to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by **them** during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.”*

(Acts 1:3, NKJV)

- Them – plural
- It’s talking about multiple appearances and a vast number of people saw Him
- And it was proof to all that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead

Three Future Resurrections for Two Groups of People

“Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”

(John 5:28–29, NKJV)

- There is going to be a resurrection for those who are righteous
 - Those who are saved by faith in the redemptive work of Jesus
- There will also be a resurrection of condemnation or damnation
- This truth about the coming resurrections for two groups of people is taught throughout Scripture
- But when will they take place?

The First Resurrection – The Rapture of the Church

“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

(1 Thessalonians 4:14–17, NKJV)

- Here you see that the dead in Christ will rise first

When Jesus comes for the Church, if you have already died you will be raised from the dead to meet Him in the air

- If you are still alive you will be caught up in the air
– the Rapture

He goes on to say...

“Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

(1 Thessalonians 4:18, NKJV)

- This knowledge is intended to comfort and strengthen God’s people
- A future resurrection when Jesus comes again to receive His Church

“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.” **(1 Corinthians 15:51–53, NKJV)**

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.” (Philippians 3:20–21, NKJV)

When the righteous are resurrected they will receive a new glorified body just like Jesus’

- He could effortlessly move from one place to another, even walking through walls – **John 20:19**
- He did things He couldn’t have done in His natural body
- There will be no more sickness, infirmity, or problems
- We will be everything we always wished we could be
- We will be like Jesus
- What a day that will be

In the twinkling of an eye, we will change and put on immortality

The Second Resurrection – The Resurrection of the Righteous

- This will be at the end of the Tribulation
- It will be for those who died as martyrs during the Tribulation
- They will be raised from the dead
- They will reign with Jesus for one thousand years
- The rest of the dead do not live again until after the Millennial Rule

“And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.”

(Revelation 20:4–5, NKJV)

At the end of the Tribulation, everyone who has died in faith will have already been resurrected, and the righteous will partake of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and stand before the Judgement seat of Christ to receive rewards

“Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” **(2 Corinthians 5:9–10, NKJV)**

- When Jesus returns to set up the Millennial reign on earth the righteous will come with Him
- He forms the government of His Kingdom here on earth
- We reign with Him One Thousand Years
- It is at the end of this reign that the next resurrection takes place

The Third Resurrection – The Resurrection of the Unrighteous

“And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”

(Revelation 20:12–15, NKJV)

- The unsaved will be summoned to be judged before the Great White Throne Judgement
 - Those who have never received Jesus as their Savior and Lord
- This will occur at the end of the Millennial reign of Christ on the earth
- We will talk more about this when we talk about the doctrine of eternal judgment

The Bible is clear that unsaved people are destined for the fire of an eternal hell

- I know this is not considered culturally correct
- But this is what the Bible teaches
- We are obligated to talk about this truth

It's crucial to understand that there is a future judgment of the unsaved

- None of us wants anyone to experience that

May God ignite our hearts to obey Him more fully regarding our responsibility as believers to share the Good News

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

(John 3:16–18, NKJV)

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.”

(Matthew 28:18–20, NKJV)