

“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,” **Hebrews 6:1 NKJV**

In this series, we will cover the six “building blocks” that are essential for a person to have the kind of strong spiritual foundation that is needed to stand strong through storms and seasons in life

- Scholars are not sure who wrote the book of Hebrews
- Perhaps the Apostle Paul
- Some believe Barnabas
- Others believe it could have been Aquila or Priscilla

What we do know is that whoever penned the letter God was the author

The Holy Spirit seemed concerned about the condition of his readers

“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.”

(Hebrews 5:12, NKJV)

- It seems the Hebrew believers were stuck spiritually

At a time that they should have already been very advanced, they needed to be taught the spiritual ABCs of their Christian faith all over again

Imagine you are walking down the hallway of an elementary school and you gaze look in the window of one of the classrooms

- You see a classroom of first-graders in their desks, studying along with their teachers

But then you notice in the middle of all of those first-graders is a 60-year-old man, sitting on his little chair at his tiny desk

- Oversized and squeezed into his tiny space studying his ABCs and other elementary principles
- Stuck in first grade
- This was the state of the Hebrew church and I believe the state of much of the Church in our day
- Just because you grow older doesn't mean you are maturing
- This is true naturally as well as spiritually

So, I ask you: What is your level of maturity right now?

Would you say you're still in elementary school or have you attained college level?

- Or perhaps you're somewhere in between
- *Most importantly, what is your spiritual status in the eyes of God?*

We all need to look at ourselves honestly to understand where we are and what we need to change to grow spiritually

“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.”

(Hebrews 5:12, NKJV)

Ought – *“An obligation; a necessity; something you should have achieved or accomplished; something that is owed; or a moral duty”*

- It refers to a response to something a person has seen or heard

In this case, Christians who have heard and seen a great deal of God’s truth and are now morally obligated to be able to correctly communicate or even teach that truth to others

Teachers – *“A masterful teacher or someone who is superior in his field of expertise”*

- The word used in the first century to describe rabbis

So, the writer of Hebrews was saying to his readers, *“After all the church meetings you’ve attended and after everything you have heard with your ears and seen with your eyes, you are morally obligated by this time to be masterful at your subject.”*

“You need to be superior in this field of expertise — in foundational biblical truths. In fact, with all you’ve seen and heard, you ought to be like a spiritual rabbi by now — qualified to teach someone else because of everything you’ve heard and everything you’ve seen.”

Consider the deluge of sermons and teachings we have available to us

- Teachings in church
- Audio and video recordings in Bible studies and classes
- On the internet and through social media
- Consider the volume of spiritual information you have digested over the years
- We could easily conclude that we should be quite far along spiritually

Unfortunately, that is not the case for many of us!

Need – *“A lack, a need, or deficit that needs to be met”*

The Hebrew church was saved, but they didn’t know the fundamental truths of Scripture they needed to build their lives upon

- They were still at a baby stage spiritually

Principles – *“Basic elements, fundamentals, or rudimentary knowledge” “The first, the beginning, or something elementary”*

The writer is saying that there are elements that form the *“building blocks”* without which nothing else could find existence

- These are the principles that are the basic truths of our faith
- The entire house of New Testament truth rests upon these principles

The Hebrew believers, as many in the church today failed to learn these fundamentals and because of that, they are not as far along as they should be in their Christian faith

- Many Christians try to act like they are on a very advanced spiritual level
- Too often they don't even know the ABCs of their faith
- That lack of knowledge causes them to make critical mistakes
- Many believers are full of passion and want to be used by God
- Passion without knowledge is a recipe for mistakes

The believers in our text needed someone to teach them the basics again because they were not ready for “*solid food*” but were only ready for milk

- Milk – “*The substance that is given to sucklings – Baby food*”

“*For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.*” (Hebrews 5:13, NKJV)

- Unskilled – “*something unskilled, untested, undeveloped, or inexperienced*”
- The Church is filled with people who fit this description
- This is why so many are confused about what is morally right or wrong
- They remain silent on issues in our culture because they are confused or have a fear of being viewed as judgmental
- Because of their spiritual state, they are left “*blowing in the wind*” on many subjects

“that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,”

(Ephesians 4:14, NKJV)

Immature believers don't even understand what the Bible says about eternal judgment

They think that because they are “in Christ” they will never be judged

Many Christians today mix truth with incorrect teachings

- This weakens their foundation
- It also minimizes their ability to produce fruit that is eternal

It can also pull them off course and eventually cause them to end up in a spiritual shipwreck in various areas of their lives

Because they are spiritual babes they are unable to walk out God's plan for their lives as adults

“And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?”

(1 Corinthians 3:1–3, NKJV)

“But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” (Hebrews 5:14, NKJV)

- Full age – *“An adult with adult responsibilities”*
- Someone prepared to handle every aspect of life on this earth wisely and maturely as adults
- Exercised – *“English root for gymnasium” “Describing a Greek athlete who would train naked”*

An athlete so committed to their commitment they would remove every possible impediment to train or compete without hindrance

- When we are diligently working on removing spiritual hindrances we can *“discern good and evil”*
- Discern – *“To perceive, to discern, or to judge”*
- The word of God is working in your heart and mind
- As the Word works in you it elevates you to a higher level in the Lord

When we allow the Word of God to work in us we don't have to wonder what the will of God is in a specific situation

- You already know His Word and have been exercised by it
- You know how to act as a spiritual adult

The writer in Hebrews is drawing a picture of the fiercest kind of exercise

- Referring to truly strenuous spiritual activity
- When you fully commit to this process it will bring you to a place of maturity

“Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.” (1 Corinthians 9:26–27, NKJV)

People who are indoctrinated in biblical truth are out in front of the rest of the crowd

- We run to win the race that is set before us
- Advancing to higher levels of education in the Lord
- Our part is to obey the principles we already know
- When we do that, God will teach us more from His word about what it means to be a spiritual adult

“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.”
(1 Corinthians 9:24, NKJV)

“For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;” (Colossians 1:9–10, NKJV)

“According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,”

(1 Corinthians 3:10–12, NKJV)

- Builders lay a foundation so they can build on top of it
- If the foundation is faulty the whole building is
- Paul was saying that he was laying a foundation for the believers to build on
- And he said, *“let each one take heed how he builds”*
- How – *“the kind of methods, the kind of motivation, and the kind of materials used to build”*

Paul was saying that we should be concerned with the quality of the methods, materials, and motivation involved in building upon the foundation that has been laid

- It's our responsibility!

Christians who fail to learn these foundational truths of the Christian faith often face struggles down the road as a result of faulty ways of thinking that in turn result in wrong decisions

Exercising the truth of these elementary doctrines could have helped them avoid many of the twists and turns they encountered in life

- Allow these truths to become part of your internal makeup and way of life
- They will enable you to better overcome challenges and difficulties in this fallen world
- Don't allow yourself to live life stuck in “*beginners' class*”

In our text, the word *leaving* (*Hebrews 6:1*)

- Leaving – “*to leave it, or let go*”
- Not referring to an abandonment of truth but realizing that maturing requires pressing upward to the next level
- God's desire is for us to grow and move on to the deeper truths of the faith

“Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (*Philippians 3:13–14, NKJV*)

This is the reason the writer of Hebrews continued by saying we must "...go on to perfection

- "Go on" – *"to carry or to bear" "a force that carries one onward or a force that bears one further"*
- It could be translated, *let us be carried*

It conveys the idea that as we grow spiritually, the Holy Spirit picks us up and personally carries us forward in our knowledge and understanding of God – **John 14:26**

"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue (moral excellence), to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." (**2 Peter 1:5–8, NKJV**)

Perfection (**Hebrews 6:1**) – Refers to *"a child graduating from one class to the next until he finally reaches maturity"*

- Until we meet Jesus face to face in Heaven there is no end to our spiritual growth
- Remember you can't go on to the next grade until you pass the first grade
- Only when these basics are understood will you be able to advance

“...*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

The *foundation* of repentance from dead works

Foundation – “*a foundation that cannot be easily moved or shaken; or something so solid that it will endure the test of time*”

- No one notices the foundation unless there is a problem with it
- If there is a problem with the foundation it puts the whole building in jeopardy

“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)

A majority of regular church-going Christians are not likely able to provide an accurate description of these principles

- These elementary principles are the starting points that every believer should know

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

“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, NKJV)

What you give your attention to determines what you believe

- Your beliefs determine what information you will act upon to build your life
- You must choose how you will build
- Whether on the bedrock of Scripture and sound doctrine or something else
- What sets at the core of your beliefs?
- How prominent of a place does the Word of God occupy in your life?

“The sower sows the word. And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word’s sake, immediately they stumble. Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.””

(Mark 4:14–20, NKJV)

It's not the truth you know, but the truth you put into practice that determines your strength, stability, and capacity not only to endure but also advance in life