

# *The Elementary*

## *Principles of Christianity*

***6 foundational teachings every  
believer should know***

**Plus Understanding -**

- **The sovereignty of God**
- **The Goodness of God**
- **The Deity of Christ**



**by Pastor Bruce R. Edwards**

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ISBN - 00000000000000000000

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# Preface

## *Why Doctrine is Important*

Does it *really* matter what we believe as long as we believe in Jesus Christ? Yes, it does! While it is true that Jesus is at the very heart of our faith and He is the cornerstone of that faith there are some very specific beliefs – doctrines that are necessary for true and authentic Christianity.

If we lack or drift from or change or distort any of these foundational doctrines it can be harmful and even have eternal impact. Paul warns us about unsound doctrine in 2 Timothy 4:3-4, which says, *“For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.”*

Sound doctrine only comes from the Bible. We are not talking about Church Doctrine or denominational beliefs or traditions of men. In this book we are going to study the six Elementary Principles of Christ. These are foundational doctrines of the Christian faith. There are other important doctrines that should and need to be studied, but these six are the “elementary” doctrines of our faith. All other doctrines stand on top of these. If you don’t know these six doctrines and you’re not established in them, you won’t be able to move on with confidence and success with the others.

The writer of Hebrews chastises the believers for not being established in these elementary teachings of

Christ. Hebrews 5:12-4 says this, *“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. <sup>13</sup>For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. <sup>14</sup>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.”*

In other words, without these six foundational doctrines, you remain a baby spiritually and you are unskilled and incompetent. You are unable to know the difference between good and evil.

God makes it crystal clear just how important Bible doctrine is in 2 John 9-11, *“Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; 11 for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.”* Sound Biblical doctrine is of utmost importance!

So, take time to study the next pages as we take a journey through these six elementary teaches of Christ and position ourselves to be able to grow into full maturity and be fruitful for the kingdom of God.

# Introduction

The writer of Hebrews in chapter six verses 1 & 2 lists the “Elementary Principles of Christ”. There are six separate teachings identified and described as the basic foundational doctrinal teachings every believer should understand in order to grow spiritually and move from immaturity into perfection, meaning maturity or completeness.

*“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, <sup>2</sup>of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.” Hebrews 6:1-2*

It is amazing how few Christians have an understanding of these basic principles of Christianity and even more surprising how few can even list these six foundational teachings. Yet the writer says these are

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*To properly know good from evil you need to know these 6 Elementary Principles of Christ.*

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necessary for a believer to be able to discern good from evil and to be skilled in the word of righteousness. This may be why so many believers are struggling in their walk with Christ.

I want to help you strengthen your spiritual

foundation so you are able to discern good from evil, grow into maturity and enjoy the fruits of righteousness so you can live the abundant life Jesus came to give you. In order to step into that dimension of Christianity you need to understand and be able to apply these six “Elementary Principles of Christianity” in your life.

This book will take each principle and explain the meaning of each and tell you how to apply them in your life.



# Chapter One

## *Repentance from Dead Works*

One of the most difficult truths of Christianity to grasp is that salvation is a totally **free** gift. In other words, anybody, rich or poor, young or old, male or female, Jew or Gentile can receive the gift of eternal life (being born again) by receiving it. You cannot earn it, you do not deserve it, you cannot pay for it, you cannot work for it. It is received by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8). Over the years many have tried to add their own additional list of requirements but only to the peril of those who try to follow such religious traditions.

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*Salvation is a free gift you cannot earn it, pay for it, or work for it. You simply must receive it!*

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This first of the Elementary Principles of Christianity is to make sure believers do not revert back to old covenant thinking or allow themselves to be trapped into sectarianism. Repentance means to change your way of thinking. The traditional thinking of the Jews and early church believers was draped in “works” thinking. In other words, they had a list of do’s and don’ts that had to be followed to be “saved” and be right with God. This is understandable because of how they had been trained under old testament law. It was self-centered religion.

There were laws that had to be followed and adhered to by each person. It was all about what the person could do and accomplish. However, no one could follow the law. Everyone came short of the glory of God based on self-righteousness - their works.

(Romans 3:23). In the new covenant, righteousness by faith is revealed and a person is justified and made righteous by their trust in the work of Jesus and not their own works. The works of self-righteousness are what is referred to as “dead works”. The belief that one can aid their salvation through “good works” is a sign of immature Christianity.

Most of the time when “dead works” is defined you will hear or read it defined as works of the flesh such as mentioned in Galatians 5:19-21 and other types of sin. Obviously, we need to repentant of sin, but the issue here is “works of self-righteousness”. If sin was the focus the writer would have called it “repentance from sin”.

This is not to say good works are bad or not important, because they are very important. Ephesians 2:10 clearly tells us, “We are God’s workmanship created in Christ Jesus for **GOOD WORKS**.” The issue is not the good works but the motive behind the good works. If a believer is doing the things, they are doing to improve their position with God or for personal recognition and gain they have missed it. In fact, 1Corinthians 3:12-15 tells us those works will be burned up.

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast.”*

## Ephesians 2:8-9

Repentance is key for us to build a successful foundation in life. However, it is extremely important to understand what repentance is. Many are confused and misunderstand true repentance. Most think of repentance as being sorry for what they've done and asking for forgiveness. While the Word clearly teaches that sorrow leads to repentance (2Corinthians 7:9) sorrow itself is not repentance. As a

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***Repentance is not being sorry. It means to have a change in our thinking and the attitude of our heart.***

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Pastor I have ministered to literally hundreds of people who after being caught in a sin or confronted by their spouse be extremely sorrowful for what they have done. I have watched grown men cry and beg for forgiveness, they are sorrowful, but they never repent (change their thinking and actions). While confessing our sins and asking for forgiveness is instructed by 1John 1:9 that is not repentance, but it is an important part of true repentance.

We have no choice or option concerning repentance, for God commands it (Acts 17:30--"*And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commanded all men everywhere to repent*"), true repentance means we are being transformed in our thinking (Romans 12:2). Its true meaning is a "change of mind", or a change of heart and attitude. It means "to have a radical change in one's attitude toward sin and God".

The key point of this first elementary principle is to change our thinking about our relationship with God. In other words, to repent of dead works, that is, works that are not of faith. Particularly works done that we think will save us. We can even do good and they will be dead works, if they are not done according to the will of the Father. It is imperative that we turn from dead works, because they only serve to frustrate the work of God in our lives.

Jesus said in Matthew 7:21-23,

*“Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”*

This is often misinterpreted. Usually when you hear this taught or preached it is used to warn people who are not living Godly lives and are in danger of not making heaven. Yet the context of this is being applied to those who think they are right with God based on their “good works”.

Good works such as witnessing, prophesying, casting out demons, and doing all kinds of wonderful things like helping the poor, going to church, praying

etc. will not get you to heaven.

In fact, heaven will be filled with bad people and good people. Hell will be filled with good people and bad people. Why? Because it is not your goodness that gets you into heaven and it's not your badness that gets you into hell. You can never be good enough to earn your way into heaven.

It's not that all of these works are not good because they are and we need to be doing them all, but notice it is the motive in which they are being done that is being attacked. Even though a person has religiously done all these wonderful things

Jesus said, "I never knew you". The focus of this verse is on people who think they are right with God based on going to church, reading the Bible, giving their tithes, witnessing, etc. Again, all these things are good and important. They are things we should be doing as believers. They just don't get you into heaven.

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*Hell will be filled with good people. A lot of bad people will get into heaven. Why? Because it is not your goodness that gets you into heaven and won't be the badness of people that send them to hell.*

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We must change are way of thinking, **repent**. God desires a people who will worship in Him in Truth and in Spirit (John 4:23, 24). We have not been redeemed by corruptible things, but by the blood of Jesus Christ (I Peter 1:18, 19). Thus, our attempts toward making

ourselves acceptable to God are futile. We must place are focus and trust on Jesus who helps us turn our hearts from the performance of dead works and birth within us a desire to serve the living God in faith. (Hebrews 9:14)! This the first “elementary principle of Christianity” - repentance from dead works

*“not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,”* Titus 3:5

# Chapter Two

## *Faith Toward God*



Faith toward God is a logical progression from “repentance from dead works”. As Christians we are being transformed from being self-centered to God centered. When we put our trust in our works or anything other than God they are “dead works “As followers of Christ we make a change from trusting in our self and others to putting our full trust in God. Faith is trust and our faith must be towards God. If we are to move from milk to solid food and into maturity, then we must understand and apply the second “Elementary Principle of Christianity” - Faith Toward God.

Psalm 20:7 says, “*Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God*”. This may not make sense to us today because most of don’t have any horses or chariots.

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*Faith is trust. The question is, where is your trust? It is in things or people or in God?*

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There are really two keys to this second elementary teaching - 1) understanding what real faith is and 2) focusing that faith toward God. Today many put their trust in things other than God - their education, job, government, others, etc. As followers of Christ our faith must be in God. Who are you trusting in?

Real faith is a foundational doctrine that is absolutely required for salvation and our life as believers. Ephesians 2:8 tells us, “*we are saved by grace*

*through faith.*” Without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6), and according to Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11 and Hebrews 10:38 “the just or righteous are to live by faith “.

The righteous and just are believers in Jesus. We are the righteous. Not because of what we have done, but because of what Jesus did. *“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”* (2Corinthians 5:17) We are to live our lives by faith and not by sight.

### **Abraham Kind of Faith**

What exactly is faith? Is it just blind confidence? Or is it based on something substantial? As I mentioned, faith can be defined as trust, but it is much more. Perhaps giving an example would provide some understanding.

The Bible instructs us to live by faith 4 times – once in the Old testament and 3 times in the New Testament and in 4 different books - Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38.

When God emphasizes something in His Word like this we better pay attention.

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***Abraham believed God. He did not waver at the promises of God even though it looked impossible in the natural. He did not consider the circumstances – He trusted God!***

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Abraham is called the "father of faith." His example can give us some insight to what real faith is. God promised Abraham that he would become a "*father of many nations*" (Rom. 4:17). However, in the natural it looked impossible because he was in his 90's and his wife Sarah was well past the child-bearing age.

But Abraham did not consider the natural circumstances and facts that seemed to make God's promise impossible. He looked only to God's promise to make him a father. This is a huge key for real faith - not looking at what we see but keeping our focus on what God has said.

In addition, the Bible says that Abraham, "*being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: he staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform*" (Rom. 4:19-21). This is another key for real faith - not doubting but being fully convinced and confident that God is faithful to what He has said in His Word.

Abraham had faith. He trusted God more than what he could figure out and beyond what seemed reasonable. He put his full confidence in what God had said and did not doubt. This is real faith.

### Thomas Kind of Faith

Opposite of the Abraham kind of faith is the Thomas kind of faith. When the other disciples had told Thomas, they had seen Jesus alive after dying on the cross and being buried

Thomas said, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.” (John 20:25) This kind of faith is the kind of faith many live their lives by.

They need to be able to see it, touch it, feel it, or figure it out before believing. But real faith believes because the Word of God says it even when you cannot see or figure it out.

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*Thomas would only believe after he saw and touched. I will believe it when I see it.*

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Hebrews 11:1 defines faith this way, “*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*” Notice faith starts with hope but then moves to possessing that hope before it is seen. Faith can also be defined as “the hand that receives from God.” Everything we receive from God is by faith. We are saved by faith, our prayers are answered by faith, we are led by the Spirit by faith, etc. Therefore, faith is the hand

that reaches out and receives the promises of God. Now that you are a follower of Christ begin to trust God and live your life by faith.

### **Increase Your Faith**

How do you get this kind of faith? First every believer is given a measure of faith. (Romans 12: 3) However, it is up to us to develop and strengthen that faith. Faith is similar to the muscles in our body. Every person is born with the same muscles, but some develop their muscles more than others. Those muscles are developed and made stronger by proper diet and exercise.

Just like our muscles, we can develop our faith with the proper diet and exercise. The proper diet for faith is the Word of God "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17).

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***You can develop your faith. You can become a person of great faith. You need the right spiritual diet and spiritual exercise.***

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To develop and increase our faith we must have a consistent diet of hearing God's Word. This can be accomplished by reading the Word, listening to the Word, meditating on the Word and speaking the Word.

We exercise our faith by acting on what the Word says. We must become doers of the Word. (James 1:22) As we act on the Word daily, we are exercising our faith and as we do, our faith becomes stronger.

The key to putting God's Word into action is "speaking our faith". 2 Corinthians 4:13 tells us the spirit of faith is "I believe and therefore speak". There is power in our words and our faith is released when we speak God's Word. Paul makes this clear in Romans 10:8-10, "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart that is, the word of faith which we preach 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. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Notice for a person to release their faith to receive salvation they must speak it.

Jesus puts it this way in Mark 11:22-23, "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. "Notice again the importance of what we say. Jesus said we will have whatever we say.

The second elementary principle of Christianity is Faith Toward God. Make a decision today to put your trust in God and begin building your faith by hearing God's Word daily and putting God's Word into action in your life by speaking the Word.

# Chapter Three

## *Baptisms*

The third “Elementary Principle of Christianity is the Doctrine of Baptisms. The first thing to note about this principle is the word baptism is plural. There are several different baptisms in the Bible. There are four baptisms in the New Testament, and it is very important to understand each and the relevance for us today. Three of the baptisms we want to partake of and one we want to avoid. The four new testament baptisms are:

- 1) Baptism with Jesus
- 2) Baptism with water
- 3) Baptism with the Holy Spirit
- 4) Baptism with fire

The English word baptism comes from the Greek word baptizo. The Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words defines it as "consisting of the process of immersion, submersion and emergence “So, when something is baptized it is immersed into something. If you were making chocolate covered strawberries, you could say “the strawberries were baptized in chocolate”. When talking about the baptisms of the New Testament there are always three components involved in this process regardless of the kind of baptism we are talking about.

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***The word baptism is plural. This is because there are several different baptisms in the Bible. There are four in the New Testament.***

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They are:



- 1) the person being baptized - immersed or submerged
- 2) someone doing the baptizing
- 3) something they are being baptized into.

We will explain the four baptisms by addressing these three components in each of the different baptisms. This will help clarify each and their purpose.

## **Baptism with Water**

Let's first talk about the one baptism most everyone is familiar with, Water Baptism. In water baptism the *one being baptized* is a person who has become a Christian. They have received Christ as their Lord and Savior, they have become "born again". (John 3:3). According to the teachings of Jesus and the early

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***Water baptism serves as an outward sign and testimony of what Jesus has done spiritually on the inside by grace..***

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church when this happens the believer should be water baptized. Water baptism symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the believer's identification with Him. When a person receives Jesus as Lord, he identifies fully with what happened to Jesus.

Water baptism serves as an outward sign and testimony of what Jesus has done spiritually on the inside by grace. The believer has been

crucified with Christ, buried with Him and raised together with Him to walk in newness of life. As a person is submerged in the water it symbolizes dying to the old person they use to be and to the works of sin and then being raised out of the water into a new life in Christ. The water baptism itself does not bring salvation; salvation inspires the water baptism. It should follow after we are "born again."

The person doing the baptizing is usually the Pastor, Elder or a leader from the local church in which the person has become connected with. They perform the baptismal ensuring the person has been born again and instructing the person of the significance of what is taking place and then baptizes them in water.

The thing they are being baptized into is obviously water. Water is symbolic of cleansing away impurities and a primary building block for life. Without water there is no life.

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***Water baptism is  
not required for  
salvation.***

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There has been a lot of controversy and confusion about water baptism. Many denominational conflicts concerning water baptism have been the result of thinking water baptism is the only baptism in the Bible. Therefore, they think every mention in Scripture of the word *baptize* refers to water -- which is not true. Water baptism is important, and every believer should be water baptized. However, water baptism is not required for salvation. Salvation is a gift that is received

by grace through faith. Everyone who receives the gift of salvation will want to make that outward declaration of what God has done in them. Let's look at the other New Testament baptisms.

## Baptism with Jesus

The second baptism we will discuss is the most important and the first one a person needs to receive. It is the only absolutely necessary baptism. It is the Baptism of Jesus. Many confuse water baptism with the "Baptism of Jesus".

The one being baptized with Jesus is the sinner who has just received Christ. They have believed in their heart and confessed with their mouth Jesus as their Lord. (Romans 10:9) They have become a Christian.

The person doing the baptizing is the Holy Spirit.

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***The baptism with  
Jesus is  
salvation. It is  
the "ONE  
BAPTISM"  
mentioned in  
Ephesians 4:5 and  
1 Corinthians  
12:13.***

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I have found very few who really understand this and the process of becoming a Christian. The moment someone accepts Jesus, the Holy Spirit baptizes them into Jesus. This is part of the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the lost (non-Christians). The Holy Spirit is working diligently ministering to *non-believers* convicting them of

sin, righteousness (not being right with God), and judgment. (John 16:8). He is helping prepare the way for Christ into their lives. It is our (followers of Christ) responsibility to share the “good news” of Christ and bring people to a place of conversion. The moment that happens the Holy Spirit baptizes them into the body of Christ.

The verse that explains this most significant event in a person’s life is **1 Corinthians 12:13**: *"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."* Here the Apostle Paul gives insight to the new birth and how a person is baptized (immersed) into the body of Christ. This momentous event is administered by the Holy Spirit (one Spirit).

This is not referencing water baptism or baptism with the Holy Spirit. This is the baptism with Jesus. There is only one baptism for salvation. This is what Ephesians 4:5 is referring to when it says, “there is one... Lord, one faith, one baptism... “Paul is not eliminating the other baptisms but enforcing the truth of salvation being a onetime experience and described as one baptism referring to being baptized into the body of Christ. This is the baptism with Jesus.

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*When a person receives the baptism with Jesus they are being baptized into Jesus, the body of Christ.*

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When a person receives the baptism with Jesus they are **being baptized into Jesus**, the body of Christ. The moment a person confesses Jesus as Lord the Holy Spirit immerses them into Christ.

## **Baptism with the Holy Spirit**

The third baptism is the baptism with the Holy Spirit. The ***one being baptized*** is a person who is already saved and desiring to receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit. The baptism with the Holy Spirit is always subsequent to the baptism of Jesus. Jesus makes this very clear in John 14:17, "*And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him;*". Notice Jesus said the world cannot receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

So, Jesus is not talking here about a person getting saved because if He were no one could ever get saved because only the "world" is in need of salvation. No, Jesus is talking about the baptism with the Holy Spirit which is available only to believers. Now, a person can receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit immediately after receiving the baptism of Jesus, they do not have to wait for a certain period of time or do they need to earn it or work for it. It is a free gift available to all believers.

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***The world cannot receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit. (John 14:17) The world needs the baptism with Jesus.***

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The baptism with the Holy is a gift from the Father. To receive this gift a believer prays and asks the Father to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Luke 11:13 says, *“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”*

It is amazing how some have called being baptized with the Holy Spirit of the devil. Jesus dealt with this same spirit in His day when people accused Him and the good works He did as “of the devil.” Jesus clears up any confusion by making the point the Father in heaven is not going to give anyone the devil if they are asking for the Holy Spirit.

Once a believer asks for the Holy Spirit the person doing the baptizing is Jesus. Luke 3:16 gives us this revelation, *“I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He (Jesus) will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”* This is John the Baptist speaking and the person mightier than he is Jesus. John said Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. So, Jesus is the one who baptizes a believer with the Holy Spirit. Remember it was the Holy Spirit who baptizes the lost person into Jesus and now it is Jesus who baptizes the believer into the Holy Spirit.

They are being baptized into the Holy Spirit. When a believer asks the Father to be baptized with the Holy Spirit Jesus immerses them into the Holy Spirit. The baptism with the Holy Spirit will empower you to be more effective as a witness for Christ. (Acts 1:8) This does not mean you are any more saved than before. You are not more special than before. This is not a merit badge you earn or deserve it is simply a gift available to every believer.

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***The baptism with the Holy Spirit is not about a person getting the Holy Spirit. Every believer has the Holy Spirit in them.***

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As a point of clarification, the baptism with the Holy Spirit is not about a person getting the Holy Spirit. This has been miss taught and caused confusion for many. Every believer has the Holy Spirit in them. Once a person accepts Jesus the Holy Spirit comes and lives on the inside of every believer - "***do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own***". (1Corinthians 6:19). However, when a believer receives the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, they become immersed into the Holy Spirit. To illustrate I can drink a glass of water and the water is in me. However, I can jump in a swimming pool and I am immersed with water.

## Baptism with Fire

The last baptism we will cover is actually one that we don't want to be baptized with. In Matthew 3:11-12 we read, *"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. But he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."*

The one being baptized is a person who has rejected Christ. God's desire is for everyone to be saved. God loves the whole world, but every person is given the freedom to make their own choice. Those who choose to reject the love of God and the gift of eternal life through Jesus will be baptized with fire.

I know in Pentecostal and Charismatic circles, sometimes people like to talk about being baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire. They equate the fire to being more on fire for God, to have a greater fervency and passion for the things of God. I believe in the fire of God and being on fire for God, but the baptism with fire by Jesus is being thrown into the lake of fire.

*They will be baptized into the fire.* The baptism of fire is when those who have been given a chance to choose God's way instead refuse to repent and the consequence of that choice ultimately ends in them being cast into the lake of fire for ever: *"And death and hell*



*were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire” (Rev. 20:14–15).*

Paul makes it clear in Romans 6:23: *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* God will give everyone who has ever lived a chance to know the truth and to choose to follow Him. However, everyone who does not put their faith in Christ will stand before the Great White Throne Judgment Seat and face the devastating sentence of being “baptized (emersed) into the fire.

The *person doing the baptizing* is Jesus. This baptism cannot and will not happen until the end of the Millennial Reign of Christ. At this time Jesus will be the Judge at the Great White Throne Judgment. Anyone who’s name is not found in the “Lamb’s Book of Life” will be cast into the lake of fire. At that time people who had not put their faith in Jesus will face

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*The person who is baptized into fire is one who has rejected Christ. Jesus is the one who will put them into the fire at the Great White Throne Judgment. This is the second death.*

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# Chapter Four

## *Laying on of Hands*

The next “Elementary Principle of Christianity” we will cover is laying on of hands. It is one of the most basic doctrines of our faith. This may be surprising to some, since many churches neither teach it nor practice it. However, Jesus said, “*And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name . . . they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover*” (Mark 16:17-18).

While some go to the extreme in their practice of this basic doctrine others neglect it totally. The right understanding about the elementary principle of laying on of hands will help us to have the balance needed to properly use the practice of laying on of hands. Clearly, the laying on of hands is a foundational principle that helps us to grow into maturity and experience the abundant life God has for us.

### **Meaning of Laying on of Hands**

Laying on of hands is simply the act of placing the hands on someone for a specific spiritual purpose. It is often accompanied with a prayer or prophetic word spoken over the person.

The laying on of hands was practiced by Jesus and His Apostles, this practice has not been revoked and it is meant to last till the end of times, So, what is the spiritual purpose or significance of laying on of hands?

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*The laying on of hands was practiced by Jesus and His Apostles, and is for all believers today.*

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## New Testament Purposes for Laying on of Hands.

There are several New Testament examples of people using the principle of laying on of hands. We are going to go through several of them to help explain the different purposes.

### 1. Physical healing

Jesus, the apostles and early church practiced the laying on of hands regularly to minister healing to the sick. Matthew 8:2-4, 14, 15; 20:34; Mark 1:41; 6:5; 5:3; 7:32, 33; 8:23, 25; 16:18; Luke 4:40; 13:13; 22:50, 51; Acts 9:10-12, 17; 28:8.

All believers have the privilege to lay hands on the sick. This practice is not limited to the clergy or a special few. Jesus makes this clear in Mark 16 when He declares *“these signs will follow them that believe.”*

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*The laying on of hands for healing is not a practice limited to the clergy or a special few, it is believers.*

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He did not say these signs will follow the apostles, or evangelist or pastors but those who “**believe**”.

It is important to understand the person laying hands on the sick is not healing anyone. Jesus is the healer. When hands are laid on a person it is a point of focus for a person to release their faith in Jesus the Healer.

This is not the only way healing can be ministered. The Bible gives many other ways to minister healing - prayer for the sick, anointing with oil, gifts of healing, etc. However, laying on of hands is used to minister healing.

## **2. Separation for service & ministry.**

Another purpose for laying on of hands is to be used as a sign of recognition and support to those who are making a decision and have been chosen for works of service and ministry. This is not to be confused with ordination for those called into the fivefold ministry.

For example, hands were laid upon Barnabas and Saul as they were to be sent on a missionary trip to serve the Lord. "So, after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and send them off" (Act 13:3)

Also, we see the Apostles lay hands on chosen men to serve in the ministry of helps in the local church. In the church at Jerusalem, apostles laid their hands on seven chosen men to appoint them as deacons (Acts 6:6) They were of good report ..... Full of Holy Spirit and wisdom. (Act 6:3).

In the New Testament spiritual authority is not

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*Spiritual  
authority is not  
transferred by  
laying on of  
hands, but laying  
of hands is a  
confirmation of  
what God has  
made evident.*

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transferred by laying on of hands but the hands are laid upon the elders and deacons, and those who have already been called by God, to recognize their calling.

### **3. To receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit**

We find several examples of the Apostles laying hands on new believers that they may receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8:14-24, 9:10-17, 19:6) However, laying on of hands is not limited to only the apostles.

In Acts 9 :17 we read, “Ananias, being an ordinary disciple laid his hand on Saul that he may receive the baptism of Holy Spirit.” Mature believers can lay hands upon those who are asking for the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Also, remember from our discussion on baptism, that every believer has the Holy Spirit within him, but to receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit someone can lay his hands upon him to help receive.

However, laying on of hands is not required or necessary for someone to receive the baptism. Also, it is important to remember the baptism with the Holy Spirit is the work of Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 1:5) It is not the person laying hands on a believer that causes the baptism with the Holy Spirit. It is a point of contact for a believer to release their faith to receive the gift.

#### **4. To impart spiritual gifts**

The Apostle Paul refers to the impartation of spiritual gifts by the laying on of hands in his writings to Timothy and in Romans. He said, "Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands." (1 Timothy 4:14) Then in 2 Timothy 1:6, "Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands." Then in Romans 1:11 he says, "For I long to see you that I may **impart** to you some **spiritual gift**, so that you may be established" (Rom 1:11)

These verses are clear about spiritual gifts being imparted through laying on of hands. Although spiritual gifts can be imparted through laying of hands, they are distributed according to the will of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:11) not as determined by man. However, every believer in has the ability and direct access to receive spiritual gifts from the Holy Spirit even without the laying on of hands.

#### **Cautions About Ministering Laying on of Hands.**

There is a need for wisdom in the ministering through the laying on of hands. As with every truth in the Bible it is possible to go to extremes and instead of being a blessing, we can become a stumbling block and miss what the true purpose and benefit of what God has given us. Paul writes to Timothy in 1 Timothy 5:22 to, "lay hands suddenly on no man." It is important to be

led by the Holy Spirit when using laying on of hands. We should be sensitive to the situation and person or people being ministered to. We should always minister in a spirit of prayer and humility. Always mindful, it is not by our might nor by our power, but it is by the Spirit of the Lord Jesus.

## **Conclusion**

The laying on of hands is an elementary principle of Christianity that is fundamental to our Christian faith. Without a good understanding of it, we cannot go on to perfection. God has established the laying on of hands as a means of blessing His people and helping them receive.

The first 4 principles are about being born again.  
the last two are about the outcome.



# Chapter Five

## *Resurrection of the Dead*

The last two elementary principles of Christianity as listed in Hebrews chapter six are the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. These last two principles are the only possible outcomes of mankind, whether they were born again or not. These two are very closely related and really go together, but we will deal with each separately.

The common thread through all six elementary principles is salvation through Christ through eternity. The Master Plan of God was and is for Jesus to be our Redeemer. In fact, that's what the Bible is all about, from Genesis to Revelation God reveals His plan of redemption through Christ. Jesus is the foundation or the root or focus of all of these elementary principles, after all they are called the "elementary principles of Christ".

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*The common thread through all of these elementary teachings is salvation through Christ through eternity.*

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They begin with putting faith (trust) in the finished work of Christ, not our works or efforts. When we do that we enter into the Kingdom of God. Second, we live our life by faith - faith towards Him, trusting in Him, then thirdly receiving the baptism of life, water baptism, power from the Holy Spirit, and fourthly experience the benefit of the impartation that comes from the laying on of hands. When we understand and experience these first four elementary teachings, we are ready for the consequences of the last

two principles. So, let's look at what the "Resurrection of the Dead" means.

In John chapter 11 we find the story of Mary and Martha. These two sisters loved the Lord and were very close to Him and He was close to them. They had a brother named Lazarus, who was very sick. The two sisters sent word to Jesus to come quickly. They knew Him as the Healer. They had faith that if Jesus would come, Lazarus would be healed, but Jesus delayed His coming.

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*Jesus is the  
resurrection and  
life whoever  
believes in Him  
will never die!*

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We read the story in John 11:17-26-

*So, when Jesus came, He found that he [Lazarus] had already been in the tomb four days.*

*Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away.*

*And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.*

*Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went out and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. [Mary was miffed that Jesus hadn't come, so she's in the house pouting. Martha went out to meet Him.]*

*Now Martha said to Jesus, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died.*

*"But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You."*

*Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."*

When Jesus said Lazarus would rise again Martha immediately thought of the resurrection of the dead at the end of the age. And when she said this, Jesus gives a very powerful response: He said,

*"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.  
"And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"*

**Verses 25-26**

Listen, death is not the end. Jesus said, *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me shall never die."*

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*There are 3 kinds  
of "Death" in the  
Bible -*

- 1. Spiritual Death*
- 2. Physical Death*
- 3. Eternal Death .*

What a revelation for people to understand that death is not the end. You will live forever. The only question is where will you live for eternity? There is a whole lot in this verse that we need to grasp. We need to know -

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1. What death is?
  2. What happens to people when they die?
  3. What is meant by resurrection?
  4. When does resurrection take place?

## 1. What is Death?

First, there are 3 different kinds of death in the Bible;

- 1) Spiritual death- which means separation from God.
- 2) Physical death - which means the physical body ceased to have life.
- 3) Second or eternal death - which is being cast into the lake of fire (hell).

When you read the word death in the Bible it is important to be able to discern which kind is being referred to in order to rightly understand what the scripture is saying. There is nothing more certain in life than physical death. Hebrews 9:27 says, "*it is appointed unto men once to die*". This is referring to **physical death**.

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*Death is not the end! Every person will live forever. The only question is where will you spend eternity?*

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In Genesis 2:17 God told Adam and Eve, "*But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eat thereof thou shalt surely die.*" This is speaking of **spiritual death** - separation from God. When Adam and Eve ate of the fruit at that moment they died, not physically but spiritually. Their relationship with the Father ended, they were separated for God.

In Revelation 21:8 we read, *“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”* This is the third kind of death - **eternal death** and will be painful, reserved for those who have rejected Christ.

## 2. What Happens to People When They Die?

Physical death is not the end. God created us to be eternal beings. We are a three part being; spirit, soul, and body. We are a spirit that has a soul and lives in a body. Paul refers to the body as our earthly tent or building. (2 Corinthians 5) When we die physically only the body ceases to live. Our soul and spirit live forever.

Every person born into this world will live forever. The only question is where will we live?

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*The moment a person dies (physically) they immediately go either to be with Jesus in heaven or to a place called hades.*

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The moment a person dies (physically) there is a judgment made that determines where they (their spirit & soul) will go at that moment. *“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”* (Hebrews 9:27)

Those who have put their faith in Jesus Christ go to be

with Him. *“To be absent from the body is to be with the Lord.”* (2 Corinthians 5:8).

Those who have not put their faith in Christ go to a place called Hades. Again, it is only the spirit and soul of people that go to be with Jesus or to be separated from Jesus in Hades when they die.

### **Addition Explanation**

#### **Abrahams Bosom – Hades – Paradise – Heaven**

*“So it was that the beggar died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup>And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.”* Luke 16:22-23

Prior to Jesus death on the cross, no one went to Heaven (John 3:13). They went to the place of the dead. It had two chambers. One for the righteous dead which was a place of comfort (v. 25). It was called "Abraham's bosom" and also was referred to as Paradise. The second chamber was for the unrighteous, those who had **not** put their faith in the Messiah. It is called 'Hades" it is a place of torment and torture by fire. Between these two chambers communication apparently was possible (verses 24-31). However, passing from one chamber to the other was impossible (verse 26). There was a "great gulf fixed" between them. The destiny of each person was settled and could not be changed.

After the death of Jesus on the cross a great change took place with respect to the location of Abraham's Bosom. Jesus moved Paradise to Heaven. Ephesians 4:8 says, *"Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men."* The saints in Abraham's Bosom were waiting for their sins to be paid for by the finished work of Christ on Calvary's cross. Once this great event took place, Jesus came and got them and took them to be with Him in the heavenly paradise.

So, now when a believer dies their body may be buried, cast into the ocean, cremated, blown to pieces in an explosion, etc. but ultimately the physical remains of a person will decompose and go back to dust, however their spirit and soul continue to live. The righteous go to be with the Lord in paradise. The unrighteous still go to Hades to join all those who have gone before them.

All who have died will one day have their bodies resurrect. That is what this "elementary principle" is about. This fifth elementary Principle of Christianity - **"The Resurrection of the Dead"** is all about the resurrection of the physical body of every person who has died. However, the timing of the resurrection is not the same for all. We will explain that in a minute. Let's go on.

### 3. What is Meant by Resurrection?

The Apostle Paul said in Philippians 3:11, *"that he had forsaken his own righteousness and trusted only*



*and completely in Christ "in order that" he might attain the resurrection from the dead".* What exactly did Paul mean by this? What is the resurrection of the dead?

The word resurrection is applied to those who have experienced physical death and it means their bodies will come back to life- they are resurrected from the dead. However, it is NOT their old bodies that come back to life. The old bodies will eventually decompose and return to dust. Everyone l who has ever lived will receive a new body at some future appointed time.

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***Resurrection means a person who has died is given a new spiritual body to live in and never die again.***

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Jesus was the first to be resurrected, not just raised from the dead. There were many people who were raised up from the dead throughout the Scriptures, but all of them died again. Jesus was resurrected and 40 days later would ascend into heaven to never die again. (Acts 1:9) Also, His body was different. In fact, those who had lived with Him did not initially recognize Him. His resurrection is the "first fruits" or seed or guarantee of the future resurrection of all who die.

In fact, the apostle Paul tells us that in 1 Corinthians 12:20, "***But now [as things really are] Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, [and He became] the first fruits [that is, the first to be resurrected with an incorruptible, immortal body, foreshadowing the***

*resurrection] of those who have fallen asleep [in death].* (AMP) In other words Jesus' resurrection was the seed of the resurrection of the dead to come for all who die.

The resurrection of Jesus is a cornerstone of our faith. It is the undeniable proof that Jesus was who He said He was – The Son of God. This is why the resurrection is constantly attacked and questioned.

Paul wrote at length concerning the resurrection of the dead, because even some of the early Christians in Corinth taught “that there is no resurrection of the dead” (vs. 12).

As one of his proofs for the resurrection of the dead, Paul pointed to the fact of the resurrection of Jesus. Paul explains the two stand or fall together, saying, “*if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins*” (vs. 16-17)!

Consider for a moment just some of the most compelling evidence for Jesus' resurrection:

- Old Testament prophets predicted it.
- Jesus predicted it openly and numerous times.
- After Jesus rose from the dead, he appeared 12 different times to over 500 eyewitnesses in multiple locations and times over a 40-day period.

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*Jesus was the first to be resurrected, not just raised from the dead. His body was changed and He ascended into heaven.*

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- The transformation of the disciples was radical. They went from being fearful cowards to confident followers who weren't afraid to die for their faith. People don't knowingly die for a lie.
- The explosion of the church started in Jerusalem, the same place where Jesus was crucified and then resurrected. For 25 years, right where Jesus did his teaching, people could ask questions and get answers from hundreds of eyewitnesses.

Jesus is alive. The tomb is empty. Yes, Jesus died and was buried, but on the third day He came out of the

***The resurrection  
of Jesus is proof  
the Jesus is who  
He said He was –  
the Son of God..***

grave. (1Corinthians 15:3-4)  
This is what the gospel is! The Christian faith, rests upon the truth of Jesus and His resurrection. Paul put it this way in 1 Corinthians 15:14, *“And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty, and your faith is also empty.”*

So, the resurrection of the dead is established on the resurrection of Jesus and makes way for the resurrection of every person who has ever died. One day we all will receive a new resurrected body. The question is when will the resurrection of the dead happen?

### **When Does the Resurrection Take Place?**

The Bible is clear that the resurrection is a reality, and this life is not all that there is. While death is the end

of physical life, it is not the end of human existence. Many erroneously believe that there is one general resurrection at the end of the age, but the Bible teaches that there will **not** be just one resurrection, but instead a series of resurrections, some to eternal life in heaven and one to eternal damnation.

Jesus explained this to the Jewish leaders of His day in John 5:24-29 -

*“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. <sup>25</sup>Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. <sup>26</sup>For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, <sup>27</sup>and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. <sup>28</sup>Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice <sup>29</sup>and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”*

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*There are six different resurrections:*

- 1. Jesus*
  - 2. Church Saints*
  - 3. 2 Witnesses in Rev. 11*
  - 4. Old Testament Saints*
  - 5. Tribulations Saints*
  - 6. The Unsaved*
-

Each resurrection will happen at its appointed time. Here is a brief list of each resurrection:

### **1. Resurrection of Jesus**

As we just explained Jesus was the first resurrection. It already has happened. Three days after Jesus died on the cross He was resurrected.

### **2. Resurrection of Church Age Saints**

The next resurrection will be the Church. Every person who was saved during the Church age will be resurrected. This resurrection will happen at the time of the rapture. We don't know exactly when that will be, but it is getting closer every day.

### **3. The 2 Witnesses of Revelation 11:3**

After the rapture, the Tribulation is the next event after the Church Age in God's chronology. This will be a time of terrible judgment upon the world and is described in great detail in Revelation chapters 6-18.

God will empower two witnesses to minister during this time and will be killed, but they will be resurrected and take to heaven.

### **4. The Old Testament Saints**

At end of the rapture when Christ returns to earth (His Second Coming) the Old Testament Saints will be resurrected at this time. They will receive their new bodies and enter into the Millennium to rule and reign with Jesus. We read about it in the first part of verse 4 in Revelation 20 and in Daniel 12:2 and Ezekiel 37:12-14.

## 5. Tribulation Saints

After the rapture, all Church Age believers will be gone, but millions of people left behind on earth will come to their senses during this time and will put their trust in Jesus as their Savior. Tragically, most of them will pay for their faith in Jesus by losing their lives (Revelation 6:9-11; 7:9-17; 13:7, 15-17; 17:6; 19:1-2). These believers in Jesus who die during the Tribulation will be resurrected at Christ's return and will also reign with Him for a thousand years during the Millennium along with the Church saints and Old Testament Saints. The second part of verse 4 in Chapter 20 of Revelation is referring to the resurrection of these tribulation saints.

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*There will be tens of thousands get saved during the Tribulation period. Most will be martyred.*

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## 6. The Unsaved Dead

There is still one more resurrection that will happen at the end of the Millennium. At that time all those who have died that did not believe in Jesus will be resurrected to face judgment.

We read about in Rev 20:11ff, "*And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were*

*written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."*

Everyone who is raised up at this time will stand before the Great White Throne Judgment. We will cover the outcome in the next Elementary Principle - Eternal Judgment.

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***Only unbelievers will stand before the Great White Throne Judgment.***

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### **What will our resurrected bodies be like?**

This is the exact question Paul brings up in 1 Corinthians 15:35, "*How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?*"

Paul proceeds to answer the question in detail in verses 35 -58. We will look a few key verses that help us identify 5 definitive things about our new resurrected bodies.

Vs. 42-43, "*The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.<sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.<sup>44</sup> It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.*

Vs. 53, *“For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”*

Notice it is our natural bodies that are “sown”, but it will be our new spiritual bodies that will be raised up. Our new bodies will be similar, but different. We will be recognizable to others, but we won’t look exactly the same. We won’t be confined by space or by the limitations we have in the natural. Here are 5 characteristics of our resurrect bodies in contrast to our natural bodies:

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*Our new resurrected bodies will be similar, but different. We will be recognizable to others, but we won’t look exactly the same.*

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## **1. Incorruptible**

No longer will a person fall to temptation or sin. No longer will man be corrupt. This corruptible must put on incorruption.

## **2. Immortal**

No longer will a person be subject to physical death. People will no longer be a mortal being. The new resurrected body will never age, and it will never decline. This mortal must put on immortality.



### 3. Glorious

We will be raised in glory. There will be a brightness, a radiance, and a glory that not only emanates *around us*, but *in us*. Think about the face of Moses, when he came down the mountain after he had been in the presence of God. His face was shining. Think about the transfiguration of Jesus: There was a brightness and a radiance about him. Our mortal bodies will be sown in dishonor but raised in glory!

### 4. Powerful

Our new resurrected bodies will not only be stronger in the physical sense – more stamina, durability, etc. but we will have greater capabilities and fully responsive to the Holy Spirit. Our mortal bodies are weak. This will not be the case with our resurrection bodies. The new bodies of believers will have new capacities. Like Jesus who was able to suddenly appear in a locked room.

### 5. Spiritual

Although we will receive spiritual bodies, we will not be pure spirit. We won't just be spirits, without any form or substance. The resurrection body of Jesus had certain characteristics that we should note. The body was real, visible, capable of being handled, and recognizable. Yet at the same time it was able to pass through solid objects and disappear. We will be

sown a natural body but raised a spiritual body. (1 Corinthians 15:44)

**The most important truth, however, is this:**

This life is not all there is, for those who have made Jesus their Lord and Savior there is eternity with Jesus - heaven. Do you have that hope in your heart? You can, by giving your life to Jesus. Then you too will have "*a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ*" (1 Peter 1:3).

# Chapter Six

## *Eternal Judgment*

The last Elementary Principle of Christ is Eternal Judgment. Most people have heard about "Judgment Day ". Many people have some understanding or notion that someday, judgment will come, but most believe it will be based on what people have done. There will be those who have done "good" and will receive their reward and those who have been "bad", and they will be punished. This is not what eternal judgment is about.

### What is Judgment?

First, we need to understand what judgment is. The English word is defined as to separate or make a

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*God's judgments  
are sometimes  
seen in the  
present life, but  
often it is the  
future judgment  
that is in mind..*

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difference between, it means to make a determination or to form an opinion or estimation of after careful consideration. This can include bringing to trial, examining evidence, determining guilt or innocence. There are all kinds of situations in which we are called upon to make judgments, but our study of

eternal judgment is not about human judgment, it is focused on the Judgment of God.

Contrary to some teachings you may have heard or read God does judge, but He is the perfect judge. God is a just and righteous judge. Sometime His judgments are seen in this life, but often they are future. Let's get some insight to the judgment of God.

In the Bible there are three different Greek words translated judgment in the New Testament:

- 1) “katadikadzo” - means to condemn or render judgment against
- 2) “krima or krino” - means to judge or pronounce judgment and involves guilt, condemnation, and punishment.
- 3) “bema” means elevated platform. In the days of the Bible the “bema” was used to judge contests and athletic events in order to determine rewards.

### **What is Eternal?**

The word eternal means constant or forever. When you add the word “eternal” to judgment it raises the importance and significance of what we’re talking about. Eternal Judgment refers to the final judgment that God will declare on individuals. This judgment will determine our state for eternity.

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***Eternal judgment  
is the final  
judgment and it  
determines where  
you spend  
eternity.***

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### **Other Judgments**

There are other judgments the Bible mentions that occur before final eternal judgment:

***There are several judgments in the Bible besides Eternal Judgment.***

- Judgment at the Cross,
- Judgment at the moment you die,
- the Judgment Seat of Christ,
- Judging our self,
- Judgment of the Sheep & Goats, etc.

Let's take a brief look at some of these different judgments the Bible talks about.

### **1. Judgment at the Cross**

This is the judgment of sin. It happened at Calvary when Jesus died on the cross. In that moment He paid the price for all sin for all mankind for all age's past, present and future. God the Fathers demand for justice was satisfied at that moment. He accepted the sacrifice of Jesus as payment for all sins. Jesus as the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world endured the full wrath and punishment of God for all of the sins that had or would be committed by everyone who has ever lived. (Romans 3:21-26, 1 John 2:2) The judgment of all human sin by God through the propitiatory sacrifice of his Son on the cross has made it possible for all men everywhere to be freely forgiven and thus reconciled to God.

### **2. Judgment at death**

The moment a person dies they face this judgment. The result of this judgment determines where that person's spirit and soul will go until it's time for

their next judgment. Some will be sent to Hades and others will go to be with the Lord. Hebrews 9:27, *“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,”*

### 3. Judgment Seat of Christ

Paul tells us that we (Christians) will all appear before the Judgment seat of Christ. *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”* (2 Corinthians 5:10)

This judgment will occur after the rapture. Believers, those who have died and those alive will at this time receive their new resurrected bodies and come before Jesus at Judgment Seat of Christ.

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*The Judgment Seat of Christ is for believers only and will be a place of judging for rewards. It is not a place of decision for a person's eternal destiny.*

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The issue here is not salvation and it is not a judgment of sin - believers are justified by FAITH and stand in perfect righteousness in Christ. The focus here will be “what we have done for God and for His Kingdom - what kind of steward have we been with what He entrusted us with.

This is not a place of decision on a person's eternal

destiny. For Christians that has already been decided this place of “judgment” is all about the opportunity for Christ to reward His followers. In fact, the Greek word here for judgment is “Bema” which is a place where awards (ribbons, medals, etc.) are handed out. The result of this judgment will some receiving rewards while other will suffer the loss of rewards. (1 Corinthians 3:15; 2John 1:8)

#### 4. Self-Judgment

As followers of Christ, we are instructed to judge ourselves. This judging our self is to be done - NOW at this very moment. Not to delay or put off until latter. 1 Corinthians 11:31-32 tells us, *“For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.”*

God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Often our pride keeps us from examining our own lives. Judging yourself and humbling yourself is the greatest thing you could do in this life! Self-judgment requires each be-

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*Christians do sin - however they do NOT practice sin. If we do sin we are to “judge ourself”. This means we need to recognize we sinned, confess that sin, and repent.*

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liever to be spiritually discerning, with a goal of being more like Christ. This is not about self-condemnation or demeaning yourself or belittling who you are. This is should always be done in the light of who you are in Christ.

However, as followers of Christ we do - miss it. We do things we shouldn't. We say things we shouldn't. We have attitudes that aren't right. We don't do things we should. The act of judging ourselves is a matter of enough maturity to admit when we have missed and repent. *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (1John 1:9)

### **Hell - the Lake of Fire**

Eternal Judgment is centered on the final settling of the issue of who will spend eternity in hell. There is no one in hell right now. The devil is not in hell - yet. There are many people who pray, saying they are bombarding the gates of hell. I always ask them, "Why are they doing that since there is no one there?" - at this moment in time.

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***Hell is the final destination for all unbelievers and is for eternity. It is a place of torment and misery and separation from God. It is called the "lake of fire" and was made for the devil.***

God created hell (the

lake of fire) for the devil and his angels. (Matthew 25:41) Jesus will cast the devil, the beast, and false prophet into the lake of fire at the end of the millennium. *“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”* However, there will be many people who join the devil in that lake of fire.

Our decision regarding Jesus determines our eternal judgment. If we accept Jesus as our Lord, we will spend eternity with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If we reject Jesus, as our personal Savior, we will spend eternity in the lake of fire.

### **The Judgment of Unbelievers**

Unbelievers will face eternal judgment at the end of the millennium. They have been in hades since they died physically, but at when the 1000-year reign of Christ on earth is over they will be resurrected and brought before the Great White Throne for their last and eternal judgment. Believers will have already been judged and have received their resurrected eternal bodies and have been with the Lord. They will not face the Great White Throne judgment only unbelievers. Notice how unbelievers will be eternally judged:

*“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. And any one not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.*  
“(Rev. 20:12,15 NKJ)

Those who die without Christ will partake of what the Bible calls "the second death." The first death is when a person dies in this life. The second death is when an unbeliever is cast into Hell. The ultimate outcome for each one will be the same - banished forever in hell. There will be no believers at this judgment.

The only basis of this judgment is whether or not their name is in the Lamb's Book of Life. The only names

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***Only those whose names are in the Lamb's Book of Life will escape the lake of fire.***

***ONLY those who have put their faith in Jesus will have their names in the BOOK. Not one person at the Great White Throne will find their name in the book..***

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in this book will be those who have put their faith in Christ. No one standing their will find their name in the book. This is God's way of proving to them His goodness and fairness. They will all have an opportunity to try to defend themselves, but to no avail. They will be without excuse. (Romans 1:20)

Those who stand before the Great White Throne will plead their case by trying to testify of all the good things they have done to no avail. Jesus addresses this in Matthew 7:22-23 -

*“Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ <sup>23</sup> And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”*

There will be thousands of bad people in heaven and 1000’s of good people in hell. Why? Because it is not your goodness that will get you into heaven and it won’t be the badness of people that put them in hell. There will only be one thing that determines if a person is in heaven or hell – did they reject Christ or receive Christ.

If people do all kinds of good works, but fail to accept Jesus as their personal Savior, they will be judged to spend eternity in the lake of fire which is commonly known as hell.

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*Heaven will be filled with bad people and hell will be filled with good people = because it is not your goodness that gets you into heaven and it’s not the badness of people that gets them in hell!*

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*“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”*

Ephesians 2:8-9

When Jesus judges Christians it will be for their works while living on the earth (Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10). This judgment will determine their placement in the Kingdom of God forever. It is not to judge whether we go to heaven or hell. You are not saved by works. You cannot earn or buy your way into heaven. We don't deserve heaven we receive the gift of eternal life with Jesus.

The life we are living now will actually determine our place and position in heaven. The Lord will judge us for the things we have done in this life. For the good things that we do by faith for the kingdom and with the right motive, we will receive rewards. For anything done with wrong motives or not for the kingdom will be burnt.

It's important to realize that all judgment comes through Jesus, the Son of God. "For the Father judges no one but has committed all judgment to the Son" (John 5:22 NKJV).

## **THE REASON FOR JUDGMENT**

The purpose of God's judgment will be to show the true character of each person, to publicly reward or punish each one as determined by the Judge. Judgment will be public. Everyone will publicly be rewarded or condemned. Ultimately judgment will vindicate the righteous character of God. When all the facts are in, God's judgment will be shown to be fair and just.

Mark this down - any person you know, if they have put their trust in the finished work of Jesus at any time before they died, they are with Jesus and will be with Him forever.

*“Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.” (John 3:18)*

Eternal judgment for born-again believers means being with the Lord forever, being glorified and receiving

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***Eternal judgment  
for born-again  
believers means  
being with the  
Lord forever,***

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that resurrected body and looking forward to the days of the millennium and the new heaven and the new earth and the assignment that we are going to have based upon the works that we have done as believers.

Eternity for us as believers is not only about destination; it’s about what we do for eternity. It’s one thing to receive eternal life with the Lord and be in the Kingdom of God, but we need to understand that throughout eternity, we are not just going to sit back and play harps, swing on a hammock, and eat grapes! There will be assignments given in the new heaven and the new earth. I’m not just talking about the millennium.

I am praying that you get a grasp of these elementary principles in your life so that you have a solid foundation, to shore up any cracks, and reinforce your spiritual foundations so you will grow into full maturity and go on to perfection. Why? To be effective and fruitful while you are on assignment here in this world.

### **Bringing Others into the Kingdom of Light**

When these elementary principles are put in place in our life, we can grow into full maturity, receive the abundance God has for us, and be a greater blessing.

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*Eternity for us as believers is not only about destination; it's about what we do for eternity. Throughout eternity we will be given assignments in the new heaven and the new earth based on what we have done in this world.*

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They should motivate us to fulfill the purpose and destiny that God has for us to bring people into the Kingdom of God.

One day we will be in heaven with the Lord, but until then God has given us an assignment. We are ambassadors for the Kingdom of God. Our citizenship is in heaven, but we are on assignment in this foreign land call the "world" where we are to be salt and light.

God is a good God, and He wants us to fulfill our purpose and destiny for our lives. Let's get to work preaching the Gospel and making disciples.

**CHAPTER SEVEN**  
**God is Good.**

*The Goodness of God*



Not only are these 6 Elementary Teaches crucial for our lives as followers of Jesus. We must know without any doubt that God is a good God! He is good all the time. All the time God is good. Growing up I had an image of God as some mean old man with a long gray beard just looking for any chance to get me. Maybe you have a similar image of God. Let me tell you - Nothing could be further from the truth!

I want you to know God is a good. He loves you. Life may be hard, and you may experience some very difficult things in life, but God is good. God is not your problem. He is not the one causing your trouble. Don't blame God - don't run from God. Run to Him. You can count on God being good. He never changes. He is always the same. (Ma. 3:6)

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***God is good all  
the time - all the  
time God is good!  
God is not your  
problem.***

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God has been falsely accused on many occasions as the one bringing death, destruction, calamity, tragedy, or evil. This is why millions of people have difficulty putting their trust in God. Who would trust a God that caused that kind of pain and trouble?

God is not the one causing hurricanes, earthquakes, divorce, or any other acts of terror. In fact, the opposite is true. He is a very present help whenever there's trouble. (Ps. 46:1). God is at work turning bad things and evil things around for good. (Romans 8:28) God is for you not against you.

*“Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good;”*. (Psalm 34:8) *“For the Lord is good and His mercy is everlasting.”* Psalm 100:5 God is good all the time! That is who He is. It is His nature and character. When you know some one’s character and nature you won’t believe things about them that are contrary to who you know them to be.

I know my wife is a very kind and merciful person. She has never said or done anything bad towards someone else. If someone told me something different, I would question the character of the person telling me not my wife’s. Why? I know her. I know my God - He is good! He is not causing bad things to happen. Why not take time to thank God for His goodness. Praise Him for His wonderful works.

Why is this important? You cannot put trust in  
***God is for you He  
is not against  
you!***  
some one if you are not sure of how they are thinking. How can you have faith in God if you think He is your problem or He is against you. Listen - God is for you He is not against you. God is good all the time - all the time God is God.

*“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.”* Psalm 107:1

**CHAPTER EIGHT**  
*THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD*

The sovereignty of God is one of the most misunderstood and maligned Doctrines of the Christian faith. The belief that God controls everything that happens to us is one of the devil's biggest inroads into our lives. Yet this is the way it is taught today in many churches and seminaries. As a result, many Christians have had their faith destroyed.

We had a man who got miraculously saved in one of our services many years ago. He was in his sixties, had been in the navy and had lived a pretty rough life. He

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*The  
misunderstanding  
of the sovereignty  
of God has  
resulted in many  
Christian's faith  
being destroyed.*

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was mad at God because while in the service his mother became sick and died. When the pastor met with him the pastor tried to console the young man by saying, "it was just her time to go and the Lord took her." So, the young man assumed God was to blame for his mother's death, after all God took her. Listen, God never takes any of His children. He receives them, He doesn't snuff out their lives. The good news is that man was gloriously saved when he heard the truth about a God who is a loving good God. He ultimately became the director of our prison ministry and helped lead hundreds of men to the Lord through his testimony.

If we believe that God wills everything, good or bad, to happen to us, it may give us some temporary relief from confusion and condemnation, but in the

long-term, it slanders God, hinders our trust in God, and leads to passiveness. This is not what the t will destroy a person's faith.

God is sovereign in the sense that He is paramount and supreme. There is no one higher in authority or power, but that does not mean He exercises His power by controlling everything in our lives. God has given us the freedom to choose. He has a plan for us. He seeks to reveal that plan to us and urge us in that direction, but we choose. He doesn't make our choices for us.

This is a fundamental doctrine of Christianity that must be understood properly if you want victory in your life. Believing that God controls everything renders a person passive. Why pray and believe for something better? Whatever God wants will come to pass. That simply is not true.

Unfortunately, many people think that the bad things that have happened to them, to their family members, or av in the lives of relatives and the calamities, tragedies, accidents,

and early deaths have come from God. Or they think that God gave permission to the devil to do these things.

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*Many people  
have wrongly  
believed that the  
bad things that  
have happened to  
them have come  
from God.*

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Let's set the record straight. Goel is a good God all the time. Jesus said He is the Good Shepherd; The Good Shepherd doesn't kill or beat the sheep; He gives His life for the sheep. God is on the one side doing good, and the devil is on the other side doing bad.

Let's read Luke 9:51-56 as a foundation for understanding the sovereignty of God:

*Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him (Jesus) to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,*

*and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him.*

*But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. (The Samaritans didn't like the Jews, and Jerusalem was their capital, so they didn't want Jesus coming through their village, They didn't want to meet with Him or talk with Him)*

*And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?"*

*But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of.*

*For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them."*

James and John's viewpoint reflects the views of many people today and that is your mees up God I going to get you. If you have done wrong, God is coming with some type of calamity or tragedy. Other people look back on bad things that have happened to other people or in their own family and they say,

“God did that because of... “They have a list of reasons. As Jesus said, you do not know what manner of spirit you are of to thing this way.

Think of the most famous passage of scripture in the entire Bible, John 3:16: *“for God so love the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him would no perish but have everlasting life”* Verse 17 say *“ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”* Jesus didn’t come for condemnation and destruction. He came to bring good news salvation, deliverance, forgiveness, ae healing.

I have read letters, books, commentaries, and I’ve talked with a lot of people who think God is the author of the bad things that have happened in this planet. If He is not the author, they think He is the One who has given permission to the enemy to do these things.

I want to assure you, God is not giving the devil permission to do evil things. You need to get that kind of thinking out of your mind.

God and the devil are not working together to develop your character. The devil rebelled against God. He is a liar, a thief, and a murderer. Why would your Father use a liar, a thief, and a murder to develop your character?

Wake up! People have made that accusation against

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***God is not giving  
the devil  
permission to do  
evil things to  
you.***

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God many times. Don't blame God for bad things.

When God made man, He gave man dominion over the earth (see Gem. 12h), That dominion is for a specific time frame. "We know from the Book of Revelation that the time will come to an end, since one day Jesus will rule and reign over the entire work from Jerusalem.

In Genesis 3. when man sinned by yielding to lucifer's temptations and disobeying Cod, Satan seized the dominion and authority from clam and Eve in that moment. This is why Satan is referred to as the god of this world in Second Corinthians 4:4. Jesus said, "The ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me" [John 14:30), There was a recognition of what Satan had seized!

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*All the evil that has ever happened on this earth came from the fall of Satan as an archangel and the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden.*

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All the evil that has ever happened on this earth came from the fall of Satan from his place as an archangel of God (lucifer), and from the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden. Those two events opened the door for sin and death to pass upon the whole human race. The trail of tears of human history goes back to this point. This is where sickness, disease, wars, fighting, strife, child abuse, and every evil thing originated God gave the angels and mankind free will,



and free will or choice is the essence of love. Without choice, you cannot love: You may wonder, Why would God make a man who could chose to serve Him or reject Him? When you serve God and love Him, He knows you chose to do it. You are not a robot. What pleasure would it bring to Goel if you were forced to love and serve Him?

People's bad choices have resulted in terrible problems. When you compound this over a period of 6,000 years, you have countless problems in the earth today. Disease and genetic mutations and all types of issues have happened in the human body. When God made planet Earth, it was all good, He did not put tornadoes in the Garden of Eden to wipe out Adam and Eve.

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*Don't blame God  
for the problems  
in the world.  
When God  
created planet  
earth it was all  
good.*

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The fall of lucifer and the fall of man affected our planet. One day God will make the earth and heaven new. But right now, there are things that are in the earth and in the human race that are a result of the fall.

In addition, we see mistakes and sins come from human beings. A mistake is doing something that is wrong and that causes great difficulties. If you had known something was a mistake before you did it, you wouldn't have done it, A sin is a disobedient act against

God. Other people have made mistakes and sins, and we have made mistakes and sins that have all affected us.

So, when you look at what has happened, don't blame God. There are several other alternatives as to the cause of disaster, calamity, tragedy, destruction, stealing, killings, and all those bad things.

We know the original source of these things, and it has many branches as it goes through history and through life. Today we have people who have resigned themselves to saying, "Que sera sera; whatever will he will be." That's fatalism. This kind of believing says, "We have no control over anything. Our lives are like a piece of straw on the ocean, I something bad happen, or calamity or tragedy comes our way, that's just the way it is"

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*Today too many people ho have wrongly resigned themselves to saying, "Que sera sera; whatever will he will be."*

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Then people jump to the next conclusion. Whatever your situation is right now and whatever is going to happen, it must be from God.

However, Your faith can change your world. Your belief in God can bring the good things of the Lord to you and stop the bad things of the devil from coming at your life.

## JESUS PROCLAIMED GOOD NEWS

This is why Jesus came proclaiming good news:

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.”*  
(Luke 4:18)

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor...”* His good news to the poor is: you don't have to stay in poverty anymore. Jesus went on to say, “He [God] has sent Me to heal the broken hearted....” That's not que sera sera. That's not, “You have to live with a broken heart for the rest of your life.” That's getting your broken heart healed.

Jesus was anointed *“to proclaim liberty to the captives...”* This is experiencing freedom and changing your destiny. “And recovery of sight from the blind.” This means sickness and disease can be reversed, and in their place you can have wholeness and health.

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***Faith brings a hedge up around our lives, but fear will bring the hedge down.***

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*“To set at liberty those whose are oppressed.”* This means Jesus will deliver you from all oppression.

Faith brings a hedge up around our lives, but fear

will bring that hedge down. Faith and fear are our opposites. This is why the hedge around Job came down. "The very thing he feared came upon him." (Job 3:25) Today we have the New Covenant, Job didn't. So, today we can say, "God has redeemed us from the hand of the enemy." This was not possible when Job lived, because Jesus had not been crucified, buried, and resurrected yet.

The most important thing that we can grasp is

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*Jesus freed us  
from Satan's  
dominion by His  
love and Great  
mercy.*

---

this: even though Adam lost dominion to Satan, Jesus suffered for our sins, took our sickness, and took God's judgment for our sin, and on the third day He arose from the dead, when Jesus disarmed all of the devil's might and dominion and arose victorious! He delivered us out from Satan's authority, and the devil has no authority over us anymore. Today we are living under a New Covenant relationship. (see Col. 2:14-15; Heb. 2:14)

Jesus freed us from Satan's dominion by His love and His great mercy. [tis vital thar we understand that Cine is lor us and He is on our side,

## TRUTHS TO UNDERSTANDING SOVEREIGNTY

The word sovereign means "one possessing supreme authority and power" So "Sovereignty" means is the ultimate power, the supreme authority wielded by

the predominant One -- whatever. That's God. He is sovereign.

Here are three truths that will help you clearly understand the sovereignty of God:

1. *God has sovereignly revealed who He is, His nature and His character, in the Word of God,*
2. *God has sovereignly revealed His will in His Word.*
3. *God has revealed His principles or His way sin in His Word.*

So, we know God's nature, His will, His principles, and how He operates. Jesus taught the principle of sowing and reaping as He compared the Kingdom of Heaven to a farmer planting seed: first the blade develops, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear,

God gave a lease to Adam and Eve, and they lost their authority and dominion to Satan who seized it. Then Jesus regained it through His death, burial, and resurrection. If you do not

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***Satan has not authority, but by deception he gets people think that he does.***

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understand the importance of what Jesus did, then the devil will lie to you and you will be held by his deception. Even though he has no authority, he deceives people into thinking he does.

Some people doubt or waver in their belief that Jesus regained dominion and authority, and that He gives it to us when we accept Him as Savior and Lord of our lives. Other people know it and believe it, but they don't act on it. If you know something and believe it, but you don't act on it, you are still in a position of ineffectiveness in your faith. Faith believes, receives, speaks, and acts upon truth. It is this truth that will set you free, for Jesus said, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32).

### **GOD'S NATURE IS IN OPPOSITION TO SATAN'S NATURE**

It is critical that we understand the nature of God and the nature of the devil because first of all, we need to finish the race God has given us. We don't want anyone to get on an early bus to go to Heaven. We love Heaven and we are going there on day, but we are not getting up a load right now.

There is race you need to run, a faith to keep, a job to be done, a destiny to be fulfilled. It is appointed to man once to die, but accidents and destruction, calamity, disaster, and disease are not the way God planned for people to leave. There have been people who chose martyrdom. Both Peter and Paul chose that route.

Second, it is important to know the nature of God and the nature of the devil because you have loved ones who need your faith. If you thought the problems,

difficulties, calamities, and tragedies have come from God how can you pray this one off of the family member that you are praying for.

This is where some people have simply resigned themselves in almost a religious fatalism. They call it trust, but it's a fatalistic viewpoint. They are saying, "This is it. God is sovereign. He is all powerful and whatever happens must be from God."

All the bad things that have happened to you did not come from God. I would not accuse your father of it, so don't accuse my Father of it!

### **LET'S SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT**

Here are a few facts to set the record straight regarding God's sovereignty:

**1. God will not change His character, His nature, or who He is. (ever for any reason)**

God is not good one day and bad the next. This how some people have interpreted the word sovereign. "Well, since God is all powerful, He can do what He wants." He cannot and will not change His nature. He is love. He doesn't suddenly change who He is.

**2) God will not violate His Word.**

There are people who have taken the concept of

being sovereign as is if God could say one thing one day and the next day change it. Remember God said, "For I am the Lord, I do not change..." (Mal. 3:6).

### 3) **God will not violate His own principles, His nature, His will, or His Word.**

What does this mean to you and me? It means we can put absolute confidence in the nature of God and in His Word. You can lock your faith into His Word and not get stabbed in the back. The perception some people have had is, "Well, I tried to believe, but then God came around the backside and did this bad thing." They back away from faith, which means they back away from standing on the Word of God.

If you don't know why something happened and you can't explain it, at least don't blame God! Just be honest with God, tell Him: "I don't know why this happened but one thing I know is that You are a good God. You love me, and You are on my side. Whatever I have missed or didn't do right, whatever I didn't know or whatever I could have done, show me Lord."

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***God will not  
violate His own  
principles, His  
nature, His will  
or His Word.***

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That is not heaping guilt on us or pointing the finger at any other person. It is simply saying, "I refuse to put guilt on God." It is vital for your future and for the future of your loved ones, because it is God who is going to bring you through to victory personally and help you bring victory to your loved ones!

**4) God is good, and He loves you with an eternal love.**

That is His nature, and His mercy endures forever.

**5) There is an appointed time to die for every person.**

We know that from Hebrews 9:27: "*It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.*"

There is coming a time for God's final judgment against sin. Right now, though we are walking in a place of mercy. We should be thankful for God's mercy, because if James and John had their way we would already have been consumed by the fire of God. (Luke 9:54) It is amazing this is exactly how some people think: "One strike and you are out of here. "Since they didn't receive You, Jesus, let's get rid of them."

So, what happens when someone sins or they go away from God? God in His mercy continues to love them, and the Holy Spirit continues to deal

with them, work with them, and help them. Maybe you were tough nut to crack and it took long time for you to be saved and maybe you still have some things you are dealing with since being saved. Aren't you glad for God's grace and mercy!

God receives us at death, but He is not out snatching people up. In: John 14:3 Jesus said, *"If I go to and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself: that where I am, there you may be also."*

There is a huge difference between God receiving someone who dies and snatching people up. Yet that is the concept some people have had. "God took them" or, "God picked that flower because, He need him or her up in Heaven to make His bouquet complete!" These are all things I have heard people say. It is amazing the distorted concepts people have come up with.

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***God does not  
take people from  
this world He  
receives His  
children when  
they die.***

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God receives us, and Psalm 116:15 says, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." Why? God only sees His children coming home. Would God call you and anoint you for a purpose on this earth, then take you out prematurely before

that purpose is fulfilled? Absolutely not. That is not His nature and it is against His purpose and plan.

God has a specific plan for each person, and He wants it completed, because there are people you will touch that no one else can reach. There are no lost people in Heaven to witness to, There are no sick people waiting to be healed, 'There are no people bound waiting to be delivered. That work is to be done here in the earth.

- 6) **God works all things together for good to those who love and to those who are called according to His purpose (Rom. 8:28).**

**EVERYONE FACES CHALLENGES,  
BUT NEVER BLAME GOD!**

Everyone encounters trials and tribulation in this world. Jesus told us so, "*In the world you will have*

***God works everything together for good!***

***tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.***" (John 16:33) Notice even though there will be troubles, we are to overcome them because Jesus overcame.

Psalm 34:19 says, "*Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all.*" Again, notice He will deliver us from them (trials and trouble) all. Also, notice it does not say God causes or is behind any of these trials.

Instead, He is the one who will help us through them and deliver us out of them.

God will take the bad things that happen and will turn them around for our good. What the devil meant for evil God will turn for good. (Genesis 50:20) The trouble doesn't come from God but the restoration, the deliverance, and the preservation comes from God. Keep your perspective in the future. Pray, "Lord help us in the days ahead, give us wisdom, and ears to hear from you. We know you are going to work everything together for our good because we love you and trust you." Go can and will turn it and work it for our good because our faith and trust is in the Lord.

### SUMMARY

While the sovereignty of God is infinite, the use of His power is defined by His other attributes. Characteristics such as truthfulness, goodness, faithfulness, righteousness, and love define God's every action. If one attribute were disproportionate or over-emphasized, chaos would result on a universal level.

By the sovereignty of God, we have a free will and are able to make choices and decisions that shape our lives. God's accepts us by welcoming us into a right relationship by faith in Jesus Christ. While we do not possess God's infinite power, we can surrender our hearts, souls, minds to ways that are consistent with His holy will. In this way, we honor the Creator and Sustainer of all things, recognizing God is truly sovereign (Colossians 1:16-17).

**CHAPTER NINE**  
*Jesus Christ Fully Man Fully God*

Jesus is the Son of God and He came to this earth as a human being. He is not half God and half man. He is fully divine and fully man. Jesus is the Word who was God and was with God and was made flesh (John 1:1, 14).

Jesus Christ is at the very heart of our faith as Christians. It is only through faith in Him that a person is saved and becomes a part of the family of God. Christianity is not a religion it is a relationship. It is based on the person of Jesus. Through Jesus we have access to the very throne of God. *“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”* (Hebrews 4:16) As believers it is important for us to understand the humanity and the deity of Christ.

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***Christianity is not a religion it is a relationship - having a personal relationship with Jesus the Son of God..***

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## **The Humanity of Jesus**

The world celebrates Christmas every year to commemorate the birth of Jesus - the savior of the world. Joy to the world the Lord is come. His name is Immanuel God with us. (Matthew 1:23) God become flesh - human. Jesus is God *in the flesh*. The humanity of Jesus is essential to the character of Jesus as the Christ. Second John 1:7 specifically states that those who deny the humanity of Jesus are false

teachers: *"For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist."*

Philippians 2:5-8 gives us a great picture of Jesus, *"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup>but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."*

1. **Jesus was born of woman.** He came into the world as a baby. He didn't just appear one day.
2. **He grew and developed.** Jesus experienced ordinary human growth and development. *"the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him"* (Luke 2:40). Luke tells us that Jesus *"increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man"* (Luke 2:52). Jesus grew intellectually, physically, spiritually, and relationally.
3. **He was tempted.** He was tempted in the same we are. (Hebrews 2:18) In Matthew 4 we read how the devil tempted 3 times with – the lust of the eyes, the pride of life, and the lust of the flesh.

4. *He suffered, died, and was buried.* God cannot die, Je is immortal, but because the God the Son assumed humanity, he is capable of suffering and death as a part of his atoning work. Jesus assumed the likeness of sinful flesh in order to condemn sin in his own body through death (Rom 8:3-4). He was legally reckoned to be a sinner, though he himself was without sin, so that he might pay the penalty for sin (2Cor 5:21).

Very few deny or debate the existence of the man Jesus who lived in Nazareth. The historical evidence of Jesus of Nazareth has grown in recent years. Most admit that this man called Jesus walked this earth and was crucified by the Romans. The great debate or what most take issue with is the DEITY OF CHRIST.

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*Most don't deny  
the existence of  
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of Jesus..*

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## The Deity of Jesus

Many deny the deity of Jesus. All major religions and cultic groups reject the doctrine of deity of Christ. Those who deny Jesus as God often believe Jesus was a great man, or even a prophet, full of wisdom, and character, but not God. Here's the problem with that position. Jesus said He was God. It is the reason He was arrested and sentenced to death on the cross. You cannot with any sense of intellect and reason come to a conclusion the Jesus was just a good man with great



wisdom. Either Jesus was a - LIAR - a LUNATIC - or he is LORD. Let's look at some of the evidence that proves He is God.

### **The Bible (scriptures)**

First, the Bible directly states that Jesus is God in a number of passages. Here are just a few -

1 John 5:20 - And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

1 Corinthians 8:6 - Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

***The Bible clearly  
state Jesus is God  
in many verses..***

Heb. 1:8 - But of the Son He says, "Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom.

Isaiah 7:14 - "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Immanuel literally means "God with us").

Jeremiah 23:5-6 - Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS."

John 1:1,14 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jesus is God who came to this earth as man to redeem mankind, yet His divine nature was not changed when the Word became flesh (John 1:1, 14) Jesus was fully human and fully God. Jesus is God.

### Jesus Own Testimony.

Jesus clearly claimed to be equal with His Father. In John 14:9, Jesus said that to see Him was to see the Father. Jesus also claimed to exist prior to His incarnation. John 8:58 states, "Very truly I tell you . . . before Abraham was born, I am." He taught His disciples to pray in His name. (John 16:23, 24)

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***Jesus himself said  
He was God. He  
said He was the  
"I AM". He said  
if you have seen  
Him you've seen  
the father.***

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He claimed that He and the Father were one and that He was the Son of God. (John 10:30, 36; 14:9; 17:11) He claimed that to know Him was to know God, to see Him was to see God, to receive Him was to receive God, to believe Him was to believe in God and to honor Him was to honor God, while to hate Him was to hate God. (John 8:18; 14:7; John 12:45; 14:9; Mark 9:37; John 12:44; 14:1; John 5:23; John 15:23)

## Others Testimony

The disciples all believed and testified the Jesus was God. In fact, all but John were martyred for their testimony. No one will die for a lie that they know is a lie.

John the Baptist declared that **Jesus** is the Son of God. I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God." Based on the evidence presented to him, John identified Jesus as God's Son. John 1:34

The Samaritan woman whom Jesus met by the well. After Jesus had revealed Himself to her, she went throughout her town presenting her witness: "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" (John 4:29).

The man who was born blind, to whom Jesus miraculously gave sight. When the religious leaders tried to silence Him, He gave this witness: "One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see" (John 9:25).

## Jewish Leaders Recognized Jesus' Claim to Divinity

One of the clearest evidences of the deity of Jesus is the Jewish leaders' reaction to Jesus' words and actions. In Mark 2, Jesus not only heals a paralytic but also forgives his sins (Mark 2:5). This is the reason that the scribes cry blasphemy, for it is God alone who can forgive sins (Mark 2:7).

In his trial before the Sanhedrin Jesus is once again charged with blasphemy because of his response

to the high priest's question: "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" (Mark 14:61) Jesus responded, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven" (Mark 14:62).

Then the high priest tore his clothes, charged Jesus with blasphemy, and condemned him to death (Mark 14:64). Why did the high priest respond that way? Because Jesus quoted from Psalm 110:1 and Daniel 7:13-14 and applied the words to himself. In Daniel 7 the divine Son of Man comes before the Ancient of Days, and all peoples and nations serve him. The Pharisees recognize Jesus' divine claim here and charge him with blasphemy, intending to put him to death.

### The Resurrection

The greatest proof of the deity of Jesus is the resurrection. The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the foundation upon which the Christian religion is built. It is just this simple. If Christ was not raised from the dead, Christianity is a hoax! This is Paul's very point in 1 Corinthians 15:15, "*If Christ hath not been raised, then is our preaching in vain, your faith also is vain*".

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**The greatest  
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resurrection.**

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Jesus died on the cross, was buried, but on the third day He arose from the dead. The death of Jesus was undisputed by everyone who witnessed his crucifixion. The Roman soldiers who were experts in this field were satisfied; so was the Sanhedrin who called for his death and many of its members were present at the crucifixion. How do we know Jesus really was resurrected? Here are just a few proofs.

The tomb was empty. The empty tomb may be the strongest proof Jesus Christ rose from the dead. When the disciples began proclaiming that Jesus had risen what the opponent said was, "The disciples stole the body." They're conceding that the tomb was empty, they're just trying to explain how it got empty. So, everybody's conceding that the tomb was empty.

The testimony of the disciples. If Jesus was dead the disciples would have went back to life as before, Peter fishing, Matthew collecting taxes, etc. Instead, just 40 days later, you hear their voices throughout the whole land with shouts of excitement and joy: "We've seen a dead man walking! We've been with him and touched him." What changed them? Jesus came back from the dead just as He had told them He would.

The witness of 500 people. In 1 Corinthians 15:6 we read how 500 people said they saw Jesus alive after he died. It wasn't insanity, a joke or a conspiracy. It just couldn't be explained away. With such a large number of supposed witnesses, one would at least go down and check out the coffin. That is what happened.

## Fulfilled Prophecy

There hundreds of Messianic prophecies in the Old Testament written hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus yet He fulfilled them all. Here are just 10 of them;

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*Jesus fulfilled  
hundreds of  
Messianic  
prophecies.*

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### **1. The Messiah Will Be Born In Bethlehem**

*Micah 5:2 – “But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village in Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel will come from you, one whose origins are from the distant past.”*

### **2. The Messiah Will Be Born Of A Virgin**

*Isaiah 7:14 – “All right then, the Lord Himself will choose the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call Him Immanuel – ‘God is with us.’”*

### **3. The Messiah Will Be Tempted By Satan**

*Psalms 91:10-12 – “No evil will conquer you; no plague will come near your dwelling. For He orders His angels to protect you wherever you go. They will hold you with their hands to keep you from striking your foot on a stone.”*

### **4. The Messiah Will Enter Jerusalem Triumphantly**

*Zechariah 9:9 – “Rejoice greatly, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to*

*you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey – even on a donkey's colt."*

### **5. The Messiah Will Be Betrayed For 30 Pieces Of Silver**

*Zechariah 11:12-13 – "And I said unto them, 'If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was priced at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord.'" (KJV)*

### **6. The Messiah Will Be Mocked And Taunted**

*Psalms 22:7-8 – "Everyone who sees Me, mocks Me. They sneer and shake their heads, saying, 'Is this the One who relies on the Lord? Then let the Lord save Him! If the Lord loves Him so much, then let the Lord rescue Him!'"*

### **7. The Messiah To Die By Crucifixion, With Pierced Hands And Feet**

*Psalms 22:14-16 – "My life is poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint. My heart is like wax, melting within Me. My strength has dried up like sunbaked clay. My tongue sticks to the roof of My mouth. You have laid Me in the dust and left Me for dead. My enemies surround Me like a pack of dogs; an evil gang closes in on Me. They have pierced My hands and feet."*

### **8. The Messiah's Garments Will Be Divided By Casting Lots**

*Psalm 22:18 – “They divide My clothes among themselves and throw dice for My garments.”*

## **9. The Messiah Will Be Raised From The Dead**

*Psalm 16:10 – “For You will not leave my soul among the dead or allow Your Godly One to rot in the grave.”*

## **10. The Messiah Will Sit At God’s Right Hand**

*Psalm 110:1 – “The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit in honor at My right hand until I humble Your enemies, making them a footstool under Your feet.’”*

The deity of Jesus was necessary because –

- (1) only someone who has infinite could bear the full penalty of the sins of believers;
- (2) salvation is from the Lord;
- (3) only someone who was truly God could be the mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5) and reveal God to us.

If Jesus were merely a man, then he could not offer us any more than any other special person. And to follow him, hoping that he will be able to deliver what only God can deliver, would be a delusion. But if Jesus Christ is God, and all his claims are truth (John 14:6), then to follow him is to choose the wisest path – the one leading to life now and forever (John 8:12, 31,32). And not to follow him is to oppose our Creator, Preserver, and Judge (Col. 1:16,17; John 5:22; 2 Cor. 5:10) – a rather risky and foolish position to take. As you can see by this short study Jesus Christ is God.



# Closing

*Build Your Life on the Rock*

In Matthew 7:24-27 Jesus gives us the secret to living a life of faith that can't be shaken. He said, *"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: <sup>25</sup> 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."*

*<sup>26</sup> "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: <sup>27</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."*

The rock is the teachings of Jesus and living out those teachings. The foundational teachings of Christ are the foundations of the "Rock". When you build your life of faith on the rock the storms of life will not destroy you. The storm will come, but they will blow on by.

There are always all kinds of teachings that come blowing through the Church like tumbleweeds blown along a Midwest highway. They may sound good, be enticing and exciting at the moment, but it is the elementary principles of Christianity that will keep you through the storms and allow you to grow to where God wants you to grow. God has a plan for you, and He wants you to fulfill that plan and purpose.

If you have never accepted Jesus now is the time. Believe and boldly say this with me:

*Jesus, I put my trust in You. I repent. I am changing my thinking and putting my focus on You, are the author and finisher of my faith. I am in this race for all eternity. I am looking forward to the day of resurrection. Until then, I am going to live a life filled with power, a life that is fruitful, impactful, and fulfilling. Amen!*

Congratulations!

Now go to our website -

<http://www.breakthroughforyou.com> for additional messages and other resources. If you have a prayer request, you can send it to us from the website. Also, sign up for our free monthly "Breakthrough Newsletter". We have a passion to help people fulfill God's purpose and destiny for their life and to breakthrough the barriers and obstacles stopping them from experiencing victory in their life.

*“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

2 Timothy 2:15

In this book you will discover -

- what the 6 elementary teachings of Christ are
- how they are needed for you to be able to discern evil from good
- how they help you grow into full spiritual maturity
- how they are needed for you to experience the abundant life and much more

*"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*

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# The Elementary Principles of Christianity