

# LESSON 1

## THE IMPORTANCE OF FOUNDATION

### ***What is your foundation?***

#### ***Luke 6:47-49***

*47 Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: 48 He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock.[a] 49 But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell.[b] And the ruin of that house was great."*

### ***Scripture speaks of two kinds of foundations***

- **ROCK** – Scripture tells us who is our Rock  
*"For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ" (1 Corinthians 10:4)*
- **SAND** – Sand represents many things in life that people build the rest of their lives on. Things such as wealth, education, ambition, philosophy, games, sports, humanism, etc.  
*"Will you keep to the old way which wicked men have trod, Who were cut down before their time, Whose foundations were swept away by a flood?" (Job 22:15-16)*

### ***God wants to build good foundations***

God's desire is to raise up good foundations in many generations.

*Those from among you shall build the old waste places; You shall raise up the foundations of many generations; and you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In. (Isaiah 58:12)*

### ***Foundations are needed to move on with the Lord***

Without a good foundation, the Lord does not always permit us to go on.

*Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3 And this we will[a] do if God permits. (Hebrews 6:1-3)*

### ***A good foundation is worth celebrating***

A good foundation is something the Lord is able to build upon. Cities are laid on good foundations and we can rejoice in them as the Israelites did.

*For he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God (Hebrews 11:10)*

*And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord:*

*"For He is good, for His mercy endures forever toward Israel."[a] Then all the people shouted*

*with a great shout, when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. (Ezra 3:11)*

***Our Chief Cornerstone is Christ***

Everything in our spiritual life comes from Christ, for of Him and through Him are all things.

*For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen*

*(Romans 11:36)*

*Yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live (1 Corinthians 8:6)*

## REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS

*“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 of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits.” (Hebrews 6:1-3)*

The first foundation truth in our Christian teaching is that of repentance from dead works. It is both the first and also a continuing part of the Christian walk. When we first come to Christ, we come in repentance of our sins and acknowledging that we need a Savior. Then as Christians we begin our Christian foundation with a continuing attitude of repentance from “dead works”.

### **Why do we need to repent?**

*Romans 5:12 – “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned –”*

*Romans 3:9-10 – “.... Both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin.” As it is written: there is none righteous, no not one.”*

*Romans 3:23 – “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”*

### **Repentance**

Repentance comes from God. It is a gift. God initiates repentance in us. On our own initiative, we would never repent. We should never take it lightly when God comes with conviction and the spirit of repentance in our lives. It is His goodness to us that leads to repentance. Repentance is a process whereby God changes the way we think about Him, ourselves, others and circumstances of life.

*Romans 2:4 “..... the goodness of God leads you to repentance.”*

### **True Versus False Repentance**

#### ***True Repentance***

The word “repent” means to think differently or to reverse a decision. Repentance is a process whereby God changes the way we think about Him, ourselves, others and circumstances of life. True transformation takes place by changing the way a person thinks.

*Isaiah 55:7-9 – “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are*

*My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”*

Repentance is a divine act whereby someone walking on a pathway of sin changes his mind, turns around 180 degrees, and walks in the opposite direction. It is total change in direction and attitude.

Repentance causes one to walk away from sin and then stay as far away from sin as possible.

**The following are some aspects that are seen in true repentance:**

- **Godly sorrow**

**2 Corinthians 7:10**

*10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.*

**Psalms 38:18**

*18 For I will declare my iniquity; I will be in anguish over my sin.*

- **Confession of sin**

**Psalms 32:5**

*5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,” And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah*

**1 John 1:9**

*9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

- **Forsaking of sin**

**Proverbs 28:13**

*13 He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.*

- **Restitution**

**Luke 19:8**

*8 Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.”*

**Leviticus 6:2-5**

*2 “If a person sins and commits a trespass against the Lord by lying to his neighbor about what was delivered to him for safekeeping, or about a pledge, or about a robbery, or if he has extorted from his neighbor, **3** or if he has found what was lost and lies concerning it, and swears falsely—in any*

*one of these things that a man may do in which he sins: 4 then it shall be, because he has sinned and is guilty, that he shall restore what he has stolen, or the thing which he has extorted, or what was delivered to him for safekeeping, or the lost thing which he found, 5 or all that about which he has sworn falsely. He shall restore its full value, add one-fifth more to it, and give it to whomever it belongs, on the day of his trespass offering.*

- **Hatred of sin**

**Ezekiel 20:43-44**

*43 And there you shall remember your ways and all your doings with which you were defiled; and you shall loathe yourselves in your own sight because of all the evils that you have committed. 44 Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I have dealt with you for My name's sake, not according to your wicked ways nor according to your corrupt doings, O house of Israel," says the Lord God."*

**Psalm 97:10**

*You who love the Lord, hate evil! He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked.*

### **False Repentance**

- There is a worldly repentance, which results from "being caught with your hand in the cookie jar". What does this sorrow accomplish?  
**2 Corinthians 7:10**  
*10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death*
- Worldly repentance is often an emotional, tearful experience. Did Esau's shedding of tears bring repentance?  
**Hebrews 12:16-17**  
*16 lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. 17 For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.*
- Worldly or false repentance is also being sorry for something, which we have done, which cannot be changed or undone. It is not enough to be sorry; we have to change our mind and life. We see an example of this with Judas in Matthew 27:3-4.  
**Matthew 27:3-4**  
*3 Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!"*

- Neither is true repentance to be associated with carrying out some special religious rite or ordinance, “Doing Penance”. Saul, the first king of Israel, is a good example of false repentance. God sent Saul to completely destroy the Amalekites. But, he did not obey God. When confronted by Samuel, he admitted his sin, but what did he ask of Samuel?

**1 Samuel 15:30**

*30 Then he said, “I have sinned; yet honor me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may worship the Lord your God.”*

In short, false / worldly repentance is

- Being sorry for being caught
- Regretting having done something because of the outcome
- Being emotionally distraught over the consequences of your actions
- Doing something to make up for your wrong
- Saying I was wrong but let’s carry on like nothing happened.

**Dead Works**

Hebrews 6:1 describes our repentance as being from “dead works”. Dead works are works not initiated by God. They are devoid of life. Anything that is produced from the fleshly / carnal mind is without the life that flows from Christ. When we are not walking in obedience and faith, then we are full of works that are dead.

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and it was through this that death entered into the world. They did what seemed right to them, but it brought death. For this reason, the doctrine of repentance is called “repentance from dead works”. Therefore, any works that spring from our thinking, produced by the fleshly mind, produces death.

**Galatians 5:19-21**

*19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery,[a] fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders,[b] drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

**Romans 14:23**

*23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.[a]*

**Cycle of Repentance**

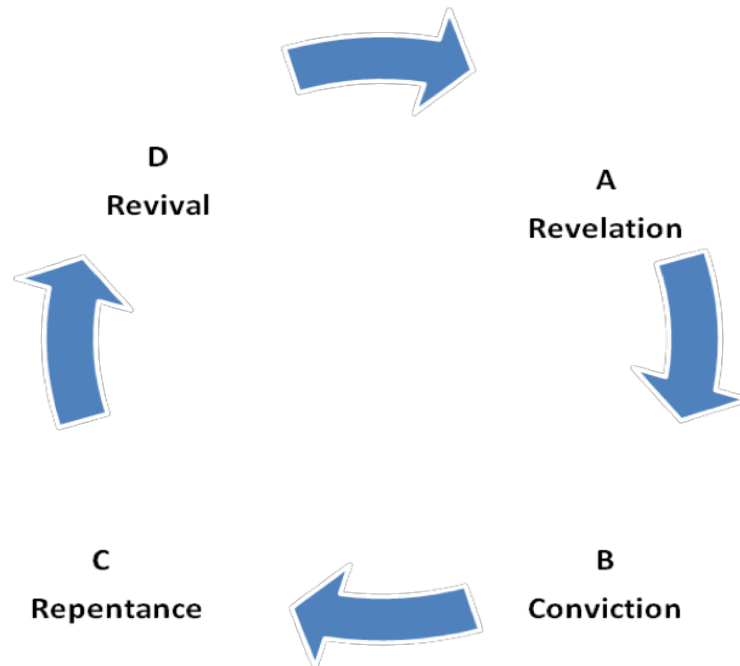
The gift of repentance begins at new birth, but repentance must continue all the days of our life. As we allow God to bring us to repentance, we are being transformed into the image of Christ.

**Romans 8:29**

29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

**2 Corinthians 3:18**

18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.



\* Diagram taken from “Changed from Glory to Glory” by Rev. Robert Tucker

**A. Revelation.** God takes the initiative to change us. He reveals Himself to us in some manner as He did to the prophet Isaiah – Isaiah 6:1-5

**B. Conviction.** God uses circumstances to work in us and show us how our ways are contrary to His. The conviction of the Holy Spirit comes and godly sorrow works in us. Emotionally, we may feel we are at the lowest point of our lives.

**C. Repentance.** The goodness of God leads us to repentance. We confess and forsake our sin. As God changes the way we think and act, our sin is blotted out. (Sin is anything which causes us to miss the mark, to come short and wander from the right path.)

**D. Revival.** God is able to refresh us in His presence. We are then able to walk in a greater level of harmony with Him.

After a time, we are ready to return to point A, where the whole process is repeated in our lives by God for the next revelation of the Lord that would lead us into a new process of repentance in another area of our lives. Thus, we “are changed from glory to glory.”

## Fruit of Repentance

The Apostle Paul lists 7 fruits of repentance. These are the characteristics of a believer who has truly repented and whose heart is on fire for the Lord. 2 Corinthians 7:10-11

### **2 Corinthians 7:10-11**

*10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. 11 For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.*

- **Diligence** – the first fruit of repentance. True repentance will produce a diligence that ensures that everything in our lives is well pleasing and well ordered before the Lord

#### **Hebrews 11:6**

*6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

#### **Romans 12:11**

*11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;*

- **Clearing of yourselves**

#### **Ephesians 4:28**

*28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.*

Example: Story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19

- **Indignation** – Repentance will produce a hatred for sin. Psalms 45:7. Many people love righteousness but they still do not hate sin and that is why their anointing is weak. To see an increase in anointing in your life, you must hate sin. Whatever you had a problem with, begin to have indignation against – that is a fruit of repentance.

#### **Psalms 45:7**

*7 You love righteousness and hate wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.*

- **Fear** – Holiness is perfected in the fear of God. The fear of God is to hate the things that God hates.

#### **2 Corinthians 7:1**

*7 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

#### **Proverbs 8:13**

*13 The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.*



One of the ways we know that we have truly repented is that we are very fearful of displeasing the Lord. We are also very aware of the fact that He is watching us at all times. You can just get an awareness that He is just standing there beholding you.

- **Vehement Desire** – Repentance will produce a strong desire in your life for holiness. It will produce a strong desire to pray. When we find our prayer life lifeless, the reason is that our desire is not strong.
- **Zeal** – The dictionary defines zeal as being eager or enthusiastic. The zeal that the Apostle Paul is referring to in 2 Corinthians 7:10-11 is the zeal to want to please God, to make up for all the hurt that we have caused Him. When you are truly repentant, you have such a zeal to please God and you just want to be careful in your words, thoughts and actions etc. Revelation 3:19 – “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.”
- **Vindication** – The dictionary defines vindication as avenge. When you truly repent, there is such a desire to vindicate yourself. However, we must not be mistaken, only God can truly vindicate us. There will be such a zealousness to live right with God that any trace of sin in our lives has to be removed or we are not going to be happy.