

ATTACHMENT ONE

THE FIRST TWO FOUNDATIONS OF OUR FAITH

“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”
(1 Corinthians 3:11)

“Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.”
(Hebrews 6:1-2)

In this passage of Scripture six doctrines of our faith are identified:

- 1) **Repentance from dead works,** 2) **Faith toward God,** 3) **The doctrine of baptisms,**
- 4) **Laying on of hands,** 5) **Resurrection of the dead,** and 6) **Eternal Judgment.**

The first two of these six doctrines will now be discussed in turn.

i) REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS

True repentance must always precede true faith. Without such repentance, faith alone is an empty profession. Christ and His apostles preached “Repent and believe.” Any preacher who leaves out the call to repentance is misleading sinners and misrepresenting God. Jesus Himself made it clear to those who told Him about the Galileans who had been killed by Pilate, “...unless you repent you will all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3)

WHAT REPENTANCE IS NOT

- **Repentance is not the conviction of sin.** Conviction brings people to repentance. However many people go to the alter feeling guilty of their sin, but are not willing to let go of their sin.
- **Repentance is not remorse.** A person may have remorse over what they have done, but not wish to repent of what they have done. A person can stand before a judge with tears in his eyes, feeling sorry for himself, not wanting to go to jail, yet not sorry for breaking the law.
- **Repentance is not just a determination to do better (Reformation).** Many people make New Year’s resolutions, however they do not last long. Whilst repentance does involve reformation, if God is not involved in the reformation, if it is not based on the work of the cross, then it is not repentance and it will ultimately fail. Unrepentant Christians are most likely to be caught up in religious works.
- **Repentance is not just being religious.** People can even serve in a church and raise their hand and even shout “Hallelujah” but still not repent.
- **Repentance is not “just believism.”** Repentance is not just an emotional feeling.

WHY WE NEED TO REPENT

Repentance is necessary because we have all sinned. “For all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God.” (**Romans 3:23**) There are around 103 sins defined in the Bible in every category imaginable, however the root of all these sins is the same. This root is the rejection of the rule and ways of God, due to unbelief. This root of unbelief must be dealt with through repentance.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (**John 3:16**) The need for repentance must be focused on the condition of a person’s heart before a Holy God. The Prophet Jeremiah said, “The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (**Jeremiah 17:9**)

A person who has not repented is simply committed to going his own way and doing his own thing apart from God.

WHAT IS TRUE REPENTANCE

TRUE repentance has two compulsory components:

- 1) **TRUE REPENTANCE** is based on a recognition that we have sinned. It is the supernatural power of God that has been placed in the gospel, which enables a person to repent. (**God’s saving Grace**)
- 2) **TRUE REPENTANCE** also involves a recognition that we are responsible to turn from our sins to God. Repentance is an inner change of mind resulting in an outward turning back, or turning around, to face and to move in a completely new direction. *This turning around has three elements. A turning from sin and dead works, a turning to God, and an intent to serve Him and to obey His commands.*

ii) FAITH TOWARD GOD

After a person repents, he must then make a *personal response to the gospel*.

THE BASIC FACTS OF THE GOSPEL ARE:

- 1) *Christ was delivered by God the Father to the punishment of death on account of our sins*
- 2) *Christ was buried*
- 3) *God raised Him from the dead on the third day, and*
- 4) *Righteousness is received from God through **believing** these facts*

To receive salvation and the gift of eternal life, each individual soul must make a **direct personal response to Christ.**

THIS PERSONAL RESPONSE TO CHRIST CAN BE DESCRIBED IN MANY WAYS:

i) Calling upon the Name of Christ as Lord

“For whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (*Romans 10:13*)

ii) Coming to Christ

Jesus said, “Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (*Matthew 11:28*) “...and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.” (*John 6:37b*)

iii) Personally receiving Christ

“He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (*John 1:11-13*)

iv) Drinking of the water of life, which Christ alone can give

Jesus said, “But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life” (*John 4:14*)

Each individual soul must make a direct personal response to Christ from the heart.

Jesus said, “Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.” (*Revelations 3:20*)