

# Building on a Foundation

## Hebrews 5:11-6:3

Over the last two weeks we have revisited the six foundations mentioned here in Hebrews 6. But the writer's concern is for these believers that they press on to maturity, understand teaching about righteousness, and who by constant practice have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. We should not have to keep laying the foundations over and over again, but having laid the foundations and been given our building permit from God, we should be building our Christian lives upon the foundation.

So this made me ask the question, what does such a building look like? I want to share more about this next week, but today I want us to look at how we can build on each of the six foundations, assuming we have laid them properly in the first place.

### 1. Repentance from Dead Works

Having turned away from trying to save myself in any way, I will build a life in which I shun all human effort, all dependence on myself or on other people, all worldly ways and attitudes and all ungodliness. Repentance leads to a humble heart, a passion to make sure I always live a holy life, a determination to deal with every ugly sin that raises its head over the parapet, every ungodly attitude and every demonic stronghold I discover is gripping me. I will not put up with it, so I will get prayer for healing and for deliverance, with urgency. This is how we build on the foundation of repentance.

### 2. Faith in God.

Faith is obviously more than a foundation. Having initially put my faith in Christ for salvation, forgiveness and cleansing, I continue to trust in the Lord for every aspect of life. It means total dependence on him, total trust in him, in his ways and in his purposes. A person who trusts in the Lord, prays about everything. Faith in God means knowing I am called according to his purposes. I understand that Jesus loves the Church and gathers his own into local churches under the leadership of those he has gifted as elders. Faith in God includes entrusting myself to my brothers and sisters in the local church trusting God to work out his purposes out through each one of us. God has a plan to use me, as part of his church, to bring about his will and usher in his Kingdom in this locality and beyond,

### 3. Teaching about Baptisms.

Having died to sin and buried our old man, I now have a passion to know God and walk in his ways, and to live just like he did. In baptism I identified with Jesus in his death and resurrection and his commitment to do his Father's will, so I now want to go on being like Jesus in every area of my life. I know that I exist for him. All that I am, all that I have belongs to him. So I will give myself to serving him and his purposes, as Jesus did. As I committed myself to follow Christ, I commit myself totally to

fulfilling his purposes for my life. Total commitment to Christ also means total commitment to the local church. I give my money and my time. The first call on my finances is to the local church. I give fifteen percent and then make other offerings as I am able.

#### **4. Laying on of Hands.**

We saw this is about receiving the Spirit, as the disciples did on the day of Pentecost. Life in the Spirit involves worship, serving, using the gifts God has given me, being a witness, using the manifestations of the Spirit as he distributes them at appropriate times, and praying with people. A person who has received the Spirit will follow the promptings of the Spirit, full of love, joy and peace, living an assured and holy life producing the fruit of the Spirit. As one who has received the Spirit I long for others to know the same experience and I seek to bless and empower others.

#### **5. Resurrection of the Dead.**

We saw that this is about knowing I have been raised from the dead to live a new life. I am a New Creation, the old has past away the new has come. So we build on this foundation by living a New Life. Knowing that I am a new creation I also recognise that I am God's own beloved child, I build on this with a growing awareness of what it means to be a child of the King, a member of God's royal family. It is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me. The life I live I live by faith in the Son of God. I am no ordinary person, a mere human being, I am different, I have a new nature. But I will never behave in a superior way or be 'holier than thou' or be exclusive, keeping myself apart from other people in the world as though I might catch something nasty from them. On the contrary I have something they need, a godly contagion that could infect them and change their lives for the better for eternity! The power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in my mortal body. I have been healed and I can bring healing and new life to others. Even if they hate me. mock me and persecute me, I will shine as a light in the darkness to draw others to Christ. I am what I am by the grace of God.

#### **6. Eternal Judgment.**

We saw that this is about the fact that there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. God declares us 'not-guilty'. Knowing that by God's grace I have been completely forgiven by God and declared not guilty, I will live a life free from all judgment, criticism, condemnation, or superiority. Too often Christians are seen as bigots critical of everyone who is not like them (anti-gay). This is not the way Jesus calls me to be but to be a friend of sinners. The only ones Jesus condemned were the hypocritical judgmental religious pharisees. So I will not judge, but instead I will love even my enemies and forgive all who sin against me. I will be patient and kind, and live the sort of life that seeks to help others escape from the wrath of God, as I have.

So to recap, we build on repentance a life of humilty, and on the foundation of faith, we build a life of trust. On our water baptism we build a life of commitment, serving and giving. On the foundation of receiving the Spirit, we build a life lived in the power of the Holy Spirit. On the foundation of resurrection from the dead we build a brand new life, living as a new creation, a child of the King.

And finally on the foundation of Eternal Judgment, we build a life of love, not criticising and judging anyone, because God has completely loved us and forgiven us and freed us from all condemnation. This is the life God has called us to live and in the coming weeks we will be looking more at what that life looks like and how we can live it. But of course first of all you have to have laid the six foundations and received your building permit from God.