

Back to basics
21 Foundational
Principles for Victory

By

Dr. Wayne C. Gwilliams

Destined To Win Publications
Post Office Box 149
Winnsboro South Carolina 29180

Books by Dr. Wayne C. Gwilliam

The Potential of the Redeemed Mind
The Priest of a New Covenant
Facing Up to Failure
The Road to Victory
Don't Die as a Fool Dies
Breaking the Curse of Poverty
Water Baptism: Ritual or Weapon
and
Back to Basics: Twenty-One
Foundational Principles for Victory

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scriptural quotations are from the *King James Version* of the Bible.

All rights reserved under International Copyright Law. Contents and/or cover may not be reproduced in whole or in part in any form without express written consent of the publisher.

Printed in the United States of America

First Printing 1988

Second Printing 1992

Third Printing 1994

Back to Basics: 21 Foundational Principles for Victory

ISBN 0-9631477-4-9

Copyright © 1988, 1994 by

Dr. Wayne C. Gwilliam

Forward

Back to Basics: is a series of systematic teachings based upon the foundational teachings of Hebrews Chapter six *Heb 6:1, 2 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 NKJV.* These six doctrines are better known as the doctrine of Christ. It is essential for any true believer who wants to live a victorious Christian life to understand these six foundational doctrines. The disciple of Christ will find the knowledge of these teachings, vital to the interpretation of scripture to facilitate the true doctrine that leads to the life Christ meant for us to live. I have broken these six teachings up in to 21 studies that will be seeds of truth planted into fertile minds and when watered by the Holy Spirit will develop a strong foundation in the life of the student.

I want to share with you a poem based upon the lives of a builder and a wrecker in the hope it will develop a desire within you the true need for systematic study.

The Question



**I watched them tearing a building down
a gang of men in a busy town,
with a yo heave ho and a gusty yell
they swung the beam and the side wall fell.**

**I asked, the Forman were these men skilled
the type I would hire if I wanted to build?
Why no indeed common labor is all I need,
they can easy wreck in a day or two
what it has taken builders years to do.**

**I asked, myself as I went my way
witch of these rolls Have I played today.
Am I a builder that works with care
Measuring life with the rule and square?
Or, am I a wrecker that walks the town
content with the labor of tearing down?**

Dr Wayne C. Gwilliam

Contents

1. WHAT IS OUR FOUNDATION?.....	page 1
2. THE WISE AND FOOLISH BUILDERS.....	page 4
3. REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS (PART 1)	page 7
4. REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS (PART 2)	page 10
5. FAITH TOWARD GOD (PART 1)	page 13
6. FAITH TOWARD GOD (PART 2)	page 17
7. FAITH TOWARD GOD (PART 3)	page 20
8. BAPTISM IN WATER.....	page 23
9. BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.....	page 27
10. THE MINISTRY OF LAYING ON HANDS.....	page 30
11. RESURRECTION FRM THE DEAD.....	page 34
12. ETERNAL JUDGMETN.....	page 38
13. CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP.....	page 41
14. PRAYER & FASTING.....	page 44
15. SPIRITUAL WARFARE.....	page 48
16. PRAISE & WORSHIP.....	page 53
17. TITHING.....	page 56
18. THE LORD’S TABLE.....	page 59
19. BAPTISM OF MATURITY.....	page 62
20. FAMILY LIFE.....	page 65
21. THE LOCAL CHURH.....	page 69

Scripture Reading

Lesson 1: What is Our Foundation?

Why Do We Need A Foundation?

2 Timothy 2:19a

When we hear the word "foundation," we inevitably consider a structure. This would then lead us to ponder on the construction of a building. You may say, "Well, what do foundations and buildings have in common with Christian living?" Scripture compares our lives to the construction of a building. The Bible actually goes as far as to say, **we are the temple of God!**

Fill in the following blank spaces:

1 Corinthians 3:16

1. "Know ye not that ye are the _____ of God . . ."

1 Corinthians 3:17

2. ". . . for the temple of God is holy, which _____."

1 Corinthians 3:9

3. ". . . ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's _____."

Ephesians 2:22

4. ". . . ye also are _____ together for an
_____ through the spirit."

These scriptures clearly reveal to us that we are compared to a building. To ensure the strength and safety of a building it must not only have a good structure, but also a strong foundation. Otherwise, when the winds and storms come, it will not stand.

Let us consider the foundation and how we, by our own acknowledgment of Christ, may lay a firm foundation upon the "rock."

1 Corinthians 3:11

Isaiah 28:16

1 Corinthians 3:11 reveals Jesus Christ as the ultimate foundation. The Old Testament confirms this also, calling him a "sure foundation" in Isaiah 28:16. The Bible also reveals that knowing him as the Son of God is the secure rock upon which the Church is built.

Matthew 16:13-18

Turn to Matthew 16:13-18 and read these passages carefully. These verses have been misunderstood many times. For instance, in verse 18 Christ says to Peter,

" . . . upon this rock I will build my church . . ."

Many people have believed Peter to be the rock, but this is not so! You see, the Greek word for "Peter" is *petros* which means, "small stone or pebble," while the Greek word for "rock" is *petra*. Although there is a similarity in sound between the two words, the meanings are quite different. Peter himself, in Acts 4:12 said, *"there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."*

Scripture Reading

Lesson 1: What is Our Foundation?

Matthew 16:13 Let us consider a little more of what Christ meant by, "upon this rock I will build my church." In Matthew 16:13, Jesus asks this question,

Matthew 16:15 "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?"

Then we see in verse 15, he personalizes the question by asking,

"But whom say ye that I am?"

Peter's reply was, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." This actual revelation is the foundational basis of our Christian life. Some people may say, "I am standing on the rock and my name is on the roll," but this idea deceives us with an obscure understanding. *We must comprehend that the concept formed within our soul of "who Christ is," will be what sustains us throughout our entire Christian life.* It is more than simply answering a question of "Who is Christ?" – it is being confronted deep within about the reality of his power in our lives.

Has this question confronted your Christian experience? If so, who would you say Christ is? For an expounded view to this, let us look at two keys:

I AM
THOU ART

Exodus 3:13-14 By learning and applying these keys, you will have the right concept of your Christian faith. Read Exodus 3:13-14, where God asked Moses to go to the children of Israel. Moses questioned, "Who will I say sent me?" God's reply was,

"... say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you."

Matthew 16:15-16 If we refer back to Matthew 16:15-16, we note where Jesus said in the last two words of verse 15, "I AM," and in verse 16 Peter says, "THOU ART." These two corresponding statements, "I AM" and "THOU ART," are the two keys that signify the relationship and reaction to Christ's confrontation of our lives when he says,

I AM the one who died for you. I AM your healer.
I AM your protector. I AM your Lord.

Our reaction is,

THOU ART my Savior. THOU ART my healer.
THOU ART my protector. THOU ART my Lord.

By our reaction and confession, we have received Christ as our foundation and are now ready for the process of building.

Back to Basics: 21 Foundational Principles for Victory

SEED FOR THOUGHT

No matter what situation may come your way, greater is he that is within you, than he that is in the world.

Remember: God is all powerful.

MEMORY VERSE

"Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste."

Isaiah 28:16

STUDY QUESTIONS

Write an eighty-word composition titled: **What is Our Foundation?** Include in your composition what you learned from this study, and also include your revelation of these principles as set out below:

1. What God compares and sees your life as.

2. Who the foundation is.

3. What main concept in our relationship with Christ becomes the "rock" of revelation on which, we as Christians, base our lives.

4. Why Peter is not the foundation of the Church.

Scripture Reading

Lesson 2: The Wise and Foolish Builders

How Do We Build Wisely?

Matthew 7:24-29
Luke 6:46-49

We learned in our previous lesson that scripture compares our lives to the construction of a building, and to ensure the strength and safety of a building, it must have a strong foundation. In our study we also learned the rock that forms our foundation is the revelatory concept that **Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.**

From reading the above passages of scripture, answer and fill in the following blank spaces:

1. How many houses were built? _____
2. What came against the houses? _____
3. How many were left standing? _____
4. From Matthew 7:24 and Matthew 7:26, what is the key principle that separate the foolish and wise builders?

The wise one heard Christ's sayings and _____

The foolish one heard Christ's sayings and _____

James 1:22-25

We learn a very important principle from these parables. This principle is **hearing and doing the word of God.** This is an act of obedience to what Christ says, and we must adapt this attitude to be wise builders of our lives in Christ. The Bible says much about hearing and doing. James 1:22-25 says we deceive ourselves by hearing and not doing. To be deceived means to believe something that's not true, or think you have done something when you haven't, or think of yourself more highly than you ought. Read the listed scriptures.

Galatians 6:3
1 Corinthians 3:18

Failure to walk in obedience to Christ's sayings will bring devastation to our lives, especially when we deceive ourselves into thinking we have done what God expects of us and we actually haven't. This is a dangerous attitude in which any Christian can live.

Matthew 7:27
Luke 6

We perceive in the parables of the two houses in Matthew 7 and Luke 6, that the foolish builder lived with this attitude of deception and we clearly see what the storms, floods, and winds did to his house. The Bible says in Matthew 7:27, that great was the fall of his house.

Take Note: You will continue to fall in life's stormy situations unless a sure foundation is established in your life.

Notice how both houses faced storms! There are going to be storms which produce trials, persecutions, and oppression, but if you will be a doer of God's word, your outcome will be victorious. The decision is yours. **Put actions to what God teaches you.** Be a wise builder with a right concept of Christ and the desire to do the word.

Scripture Reading

Lesson 2: The Wise and Foolish Builders

Hebrews 6:1-3

We can now commence laying the foundational truths and teachings from Hebrews 6:1-3:

1. Repentance From Dead Works
2. Faith Toward God
3. The Doctrine of Baptisms
4. The Laying On of Hands
5. Resurrection of the Dead
6. Eternal Judgment

Back to Basics: 21 Foundational Principles for Victory

SEED FOR THOUGHT

Always be quick to obey!

MEMORY VERSE

"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock."

Matthew 7:24

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Was the man who built his house on the sand wise or foolish? _____
2. Was the fall of the foolish man's house great or small? _____
3. What is the main key that separated the wise and foolish builders? _____

4. Do all Christians face storms in life? _____
5. What is the first teaching of the foundational truths as declared in Hebrews 6:1-3?

6. Write a fifty-word composition titled: **The Wise and Foolish Builders.**

Repentance From Dead Works

Psalm 51
Acts 20:21
Romans 3:10
Romans 3:23

Repentance is one of the foundational truths of our Christian faith. We will look at repentance on its own in this lesson by separating it from dead works. Then we will examine **Repentance From Dead Works** in Lesson 4.

In scripture we see the word "**repent**" mentioned many times, for instance:

Matthew 4:17

'Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

Mark 1:15

"... repent ye, and believe the gospel."

Luke 13:3-5

"... except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

These three scriptures present three direct challenges:

1. **Why should we repent?**
Because the Kingdom of God is at hand.
2. **What should we repent from and to?**
Repentance from unbelief to faith in God.
3. **Alternatives to repentance are 0%.**
Without repentance you shall perish.

What is the Meaning of the Word *Repent*?

In the New Testament, the English verb "to repent," is generally used to translate the Greek verb *metanoein*. This verb has had one clear definite meaning all through the history of the Greek language. Its basic meaning is always the same, "**to change one's mind.**" Thus the basic significance of repentance in the New Testament is not an emotion, **but a decision.** It is essential to be clear about this fact. If you understand that repentance is a decision, you will eliminate many false impressions and ideas connected with repentance.

Some people associate repentance with the shedding of tears and so on. It is possible for a person to feel great emotion, shed many tears, and still not repent. The Old Testament word "**to repent**" means literally, "**to turn, to return, or to turn back.**" This harmonizes with the meaning of repentance in the New Testament.

2 Corinthians 7:8-10

Repentance is a decision, but let's also take into account that God sometimes has to soften a person with his Spirit. This is called **godly sorrow** and can work in two ways. For instance, some people make a decision, the godly sorrow follows. Others are brought to a decision by godly sorrow. Turn to 2 Corinthians 7:8-10. We notice two different types of sorrow mentioned in verse 10:

1. Godly Sorrow - produces repentance and salvation.
2. Sorrow of the World - produces death.

Scripture Reading	Lesson 3: Repentance From Dead Works (Part 1)
<i>Psalm 51</i>	<p>A good example of godly sorrow is shown in Psalm 51 where the King of Israel, David, prays unto God after falling into sin. Read Psalm 51 entirely. There are some beautiful keys and illustrations of repentance revealed in this Psalm.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="505 562 1299 646">1. Verses 1 and 2 of Psalm 51 show the psalmist's request for God's mercy and cleansing from sin. This portrays the understanding that only God has the power to cleanse sin.<li data-bbox="505 674 1299 814">2. Verse 3 of Psalm 51 reveals the King acknowledging his wrong and sin – this is important for effective repentance. Some people will not admit fault. To do this will hinder spiritual growth and stop you from being freed from guilt and even sickness. Read 1 John 1:8-9 and James 5:16.
<i>1 John 1:8-9</i> <i>James 5:16</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="505 842 1299 1045">3. Verse 4 of Psalm 51 is one of the major verses in this chapter. David realizes he has sinned against a lot of people. But now it suddenly dawns on him that, above all, he has sinned against God. This is something we must come to terms with. We have hurt God. In many ways we have mistreated him and abused his love. The desire not to hurt our loving Father, grieve his Spirit, or neglect his Son, Jesus Christ, must become our motivation.<li data-bbox="505 1073 1299 1150">4. Verse 6 of Psalm 51 reveals the above attitude will maintain a continual daily relationship with God that will soon bring David's desire to pass – to walk in truth with right motives.<li data-bbox="505 1178 1299 1297">5. Verse 12 of Psalm 51 speaks of David's request for his joy to be returned and for God to uphold him. When repentance has come into your life you will always rely on God to uphold you by his power and your confidence will rest in him, not yourself.<li data-bbox="505 1325 1299 1528">6. Verse 13 of Psalm 51 reveals that someone who has experienced genuine repentance is effective for God. David says, <i>'after I have been dealt with and my relationship secured with God, I will teach others. Through my life-changing experience, sinners shall be converted.'</i> History tells us that men and women who have encountered God in life-changing experiences of genuine repentance become effective for God. <p>An important truth to remember is that it is God's goodness that leads us to repentance. The more you witness and experience his goodness toward you, the more you will desire to serve and obey him. Never try to make a person repent by harsh actions. Instead, love them and show God's goodness to them; this will be the catalyst that softens their heart.</p>

Back to Basics: 21 Foundational Principles for Victory

MEMORY VERSE

"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"

Romans 2:4

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Why should we repent? _____
2. What happens if we don't repent? _____
3. The word "repent" derived from the Greek means to _____
4. Is repentance a decision? _____
5. What important principle in Psalm 51:3 must we adopt? _____
6. Write a fifty-word composition titled: **My Understanding of Repentance.**

Repentance From Dead Works

Hebrews 9:14

We will now examine repentance in a different light, majoring particularly on **dead works**. We will explain what they are and how we walk out of them and into serving a living God by Holy Spirit led actions.

There are many kinds of actions in our lives that can be considered dead works. We have placed them into two categories:

1. **Dead Works Before Our Christian Life**
2. **Dead Works After Our Born Again Experience**

Let us first define the term "**dead works**." Dead works are actions performed apart from the one true God.

Before we meet Christ as our Savior, we practice many dead works; for instance:

1. The contributing of our time and effort to charities.
2. The donating of our money to organizations.
3. The ceasing of smoking and drinking by our own effort.
4. The establishing of a family, without Christ being the center and the cornerstone.
5. The attending of church.

Our works and actions before our born again experience are dead because Jesus is not the center or cornerstone of them. On the other hand, after we are Christians, dead works are determined by our **motives and attitudes**. For instance:

It's not **what** you do, but **why** you do it!
It's not **how much** you do, but **how** you do it!

Romans 8:14

When a person has repented from dead works there is a radical change toward sin and God. Their actions are now motivated by the Holy Spirit's leading. Read Romans 8:14.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

Some people live religious lives and go to church and appear to have an outward form of godliness or holiness, but they deny the real power of God to save and lead them. Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

Luke 13:1-5

Genuine repentance is in the heart, not in the outward appearance or tradition. You could literally be in the midst of a religious act and perish. Read Luke 13:1-5. Our Lord here is speaking of a company of Galileans who, in the midst of a religious ritual, had their blood mingled with their sacrifices. While actually carrying out their sacrifices in the temple, these men had been executed by order of the Roman governor. Christ himself tells us that these men "**perished**," that is, they went to a lost eternity. Even their religious act of sacrifice in the temple could not save their souls because it was not based on true repentance.

Scripture Reading

Lesson 4: Repentance From Dead Works (Part 2)

The same is true of the religious rites, ordinances, and ceremonies of many professing Christians today. No religious activity can be substituted for true repentance. Being Charismatic, Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, or any denomination for that matter, does not make you a fruit-bearing Christian. Reading the Bible does not make you a Christian, even though it is used in Christianity. Church attendance does not make you a Christian. The only fruitful attempt you can make toward your benefit is accepting Christ as your Savior and Lord and turning from every **dead deed and action** to serving a living God.

Ephesians 2:8-10
Romans 2:4

There is absolutely nothing that you as an individual can do to earn your salvation. It is only through the grace and goodness of God that you exist. Read Ephesians 2:8-10 and Romans 2:4.

After your salvation experience, you may begin to make fresh attempts to win God's favor and love. This desire can become a driving force, taking you into a realm of constant striving and unrest. This inevitably will result in feelings of unworthiness and inadequacy, with doubts toward God's presence with you.

1 Corinthians 1:30
2 Corinthians 5:21
Galatians 2:16
Galatians 2:21
Philippians 3:8-9
Romans 5:1
Isaiah 32:17

An understanding of your righteousness before God will protect you and prevent this state of mind from overpowering your life. To be righteous before God is to be able to stand in his presence as if sin had never existed, without the sense of guilt, condemnation, or inferiority. Obtaining a balanced revelation of this subject will prevent unending endeavors to secure your relationship with God. Study the following scriptures. You will learn you can have a peaceful and confident attitude before God and man. Read 1 Corinthians 1:30, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Galatians 2:16 and 2:21, Philippians 3:8-9, Romans 5:1, and Isaiah 32:17.

Back to Basics: 21 Foundational Principles for Victory

SEED FOR THOUGHT

Examine your endeavors in the past weeks. What has been your motivation, and has there been any fruit produced?

MEMORY VERSE

"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

Hebrews 9:14

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Define dead works.

2. Have you ever carried out dead works? Please explain.

3. Dead works after we are Christians are determined by two things. What are they?

4. Write a fifty-word composition titled: **My Understanding of Repentance from Dead Works.**

Scripture Reading

Lesson 5: Faith Toward God (Part 1)

Faith Toward God

*Hebrews 6:1
Acts 20:21
Hebrews 11*

The next lesson of the foundational teachings, as revealed in Hebrews 6:1, is **faith toward God**. We will consider the importance of the relationship between our previous studies on repentance and our present study, **Faith Toward God**. You will understand what we are going to say more clearly if you first comprehend the meaning of "faith," which is "to trust someone or believe in something."

Faith - to trust someone or to believe in something.

Repentance, as we have mentioned in our previous lessons, reviews our relationship with God. Faith, on the other hand, is trusting God. You can't trust someone you haven't first built a relationship with. Therefore, we must first complete the stage of genuine repentance before entering into having faith toward God.

The Bible places a great emphasis on faith. Actually, the Bible says,

Hebrews 11:6

"Without faith it is impossible to please God."

Hebrews 11:1

The Bible also says in Hebrews 11:1,

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

2 Corinthians 5:7

We perceive from this verse that faith deals with things unseen to the naked eye. In other words, faith relates to the unseen world. It relates to another realm we are not normally familiar with. 2 Corinthians 5:7 clarifies the separation of the two realms and the two walks, "For we walk by faith and not by sight."

1. Walking in the **faith** realm of the Holy Spirit.
2. Walking in the **physical** realm of the senses.

Sight and the other physical senses (to hear, smell, touch, etc.), are related to the objects of the physical, material world.

Faith is related to the Spirit and the truths revealed in God's word. The Bible speaks of three different forms of faith.

*Romans 1:17
Galatians 5:22-23
1 Corinthians 12:7-11*

Faith to Live by Romans 1:17
Fruit of Faith Galatians 5:22-23
Gift of Faith 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

Remember: Sight is of the senses - Faith is of the Spirit.

Scripture Reading	Lesson 5: Faith Toward God (Part 1)
<i>Romans 1:17</i>	<p>In this study we will major on the faith which we live by. Romans 1:17b says, ". . . <i>the just shall live by faith.</i>" The word "live" in this context means more than having a normal physical existence; for even the wicked and the ungodly can have this kind of life.</p>
	<p>But scripture reveals there is another life - a life of righteousness, with its source in God alone. The only way that anyone can receive this life is by faith in Jesus Christ.</p>
<i>Romans 12:3</i>	<p>The faith that we live by is our own personal measure given to us by God. Romans 12:3 says,</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>' . . . as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.'</i></p>
	<p>So don't ever think you have no faith because the Bible says that you have the ability to believe God for your own life and personal needs.</p>
<i>Romans 12:1</i>	<p>There are many areas where we are challenged to believe God. For instance, eating food requires faith. This is a realm of faith and worship to God. Romans 12:1 says, ". . . <i>that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice.</i>" In this case we must be careful what goes into our bodies. In Romans 14:1,</p>
<i>Romans 14:1</i> <i>1 Timothy 4:4-5</i>	<p>Paul talks about levels of faith in eating different foods. In 1 Timothy 4:4-5, Paul explains more. He highlights the fact that our food is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. Some foods have poisons and chemicals within them, and as we pray in faith over our food, it is cleansed. This is only one example of the many ways we use faith to live by.</p>
<i>2 Corinthians 9:8</i> <i>Philippians 4:19</i>	<p>Another is finances. Read 2 Corinthians 9:8 and Philipians 4:19. We all have the ability to believe God for our supply of finances.</p> <p>If you tithe your money to God and you give generously, you can expect to get blessed from God. I would like to explain a powerful principle that may help you in receiving financial blessing.</p>
<i>Hebrews 1:14</i>	<p>A book written by Kenneth E. Hagin on finances, testifies of how God directed him to "command finances" to come forth for his use. He also teaches that we are to take authority over every frustrating spirit that would hold back our blessings. The Lord instructed him not to pray to him directly for finances, but to command the devil to <i>release his money</i>, and just as important, to <i>state the amount for his need</i>. He was also taught by God to release the ministering angels to cause that money to come in. Read Hebrews 1:14. Ministering angels are sent to serve you! To minister <i>for</i> (not minister <i>to</i>):</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>". . . them who shall be heirs of salvation."</i></p>
<i>Matthew 18:18</i> <i>Hebrews 1:13-14</i>	<p>I use this principle in my own life and have had much fruit. I have also witnessed this principle work in the lives of others. Read Matthew 18:18 and Hebrews 1:13-14.</p> <p>This is a valuable and worthy principle to appropriate on commencing your life in Christianity. Some Christians have a spirit of poverty from their past hindering them. This type of prayer deals directly with this spirit.</p>

Scripture Reading

Lesson 5: Faith Toward God (Part 1)

Matthew 6:33

Further on in your Christian walk you will develop a natural trust where Matthew 6:33 comes alive. As you seek what God wants for your life and are obedient to him, you can expect to be provided for.

1 Peter 2:24

3 John 1:12

We all have the ability to believe God for **healing**. Read 1 Peter 2:24, and 3 John 1:2. There are many personal areas where we can believe God. The faith that we live by is very important in our everyday Christian life.

Other examples of using the faith we live by include trusting God for your own personal protection and also for your spouse and children.

Romans 12:3

Romans 12:3 declares, we must think soberly about the realm of faith we are moving in. Sometimes we may have a tendency to "jump into" faith ventures without first weighing up our spiritual condition. This can produce failure and a bruising of our faith.

Trusting God is a **decision of the will**. The psalmist said many times, "*I will trust the Lord.*" Learn to make a calculated decision to trust God in your everyday living.

Romans 10:17

Joshua 1:8

The faith we live by comes by hearing the word of God and believing it. By continual meditation in the word, our faith is built up day by day. Read Romans 10:17 and Joshua 1:8.

Romans 14:1-10

Read Romans 14:1-10. Meditate on this portion of scripture. As Christians we are not to look down on a brother or sister who may not have the faith that we have. Also, those who are weak in faith should not judge the stronger one in faith. We must all walk in love together.

Faith in Forgiveness

1 John 1:9

There is a very important principle of faith found in 1 John 1:9,

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

On grasping the truth from this scripture, you will know freedom from guilt. Always remember that God can be relied upon to forgive! He is a good God and wants to see you succeed. If you fall, don't let your pride be hurt. Forgive yourself, confess it to God, and stand up and continue your walk.

Back to Basics: 21 Foundational Principles for Victory

SEED FOR THOUGHT

Examine the past acts of faith in your daily life.

MEMORY VERSE

"For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."

Romans 1:17

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What is faith?

2. Is there a close relationship between repentance and faith?

3. What are the two different realms mentioned in 2 Corinthians 5:7?

4. What are the three forms of faith? Give scripture references.

5. What are some personal areas of faith we can believe God for daily?

Scripture Reading

Lesson 6: Faith Toward God (Part 2)

Faith Toward God

Galatians 5:22-23

We have examined **faith to live by** in Part 1 of our study on faith. In this lesson we will examine the **fruit of faith**. In Galatians 5:22-23, we see nine forms of spiritual fruit:

Love	Joy	Peace
Longsuffering	Gentleness	Goodness
Faith	Meekness	Temperance

The seventh form of fruit shown here is **faith**.

As stated previously, there are three forms of faith:

1. Faith to live by
2. Fruit of faith
3. Gift of faith (this teaching is covered in our next study.)

John 15:5
Galatians 5:22-23

The **fruit of faith** can be compared to the growth of fruit on a tree. It commences small and gradually grows stronger and larger. **We are to produce fruit.** The Bible says in John 15:5, the fruit of faith is a part of the character of God. All of the fruit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23 are qualities of God's character. This fruit will remain with you for eternity.

As stated, this kind of faith gradually grows. You will notice in your own life how your faith has grown and developed since your conversion, and from now until the end of your time on earth, your faith will continue to grow. The fruit of faith is established and developed from experience to experience in God. **Every time you trust God a little more, and experience victories in your life, your fruit of faith enlarges.**

1 Samuel 17:37

King David had this "on-going" experience with God. We can perceive from 1 Samuel 17:37 that the fruit of faith was very evident in David's life. He was delivered various times in his life from danger and this produced a natural trust in God's ability to protect him. There may be "bears" and "lions" in your life. If this is so, challenge and overcome them in God. This will produce the fruit of faith in your life.

Summarized, the fruit of faith would be **having a natural trust in God's faithfulness** toward us to protect and provide!

Psalms 56:3

This fruit of faith grows up from our spirit into our soul, engrafting itself into our minds and emotions. We may consider once more the personal testimony of David. In Psalm 56:3, David says to the Lord, "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee." The more we mature in God, the more we develop the fruit of faith.

Scripture Reading

Lesson 6: Faith Toward God (Part 2)

This mature trust is like a deep strong river, meandering its way to the sea. At times, the winds of fear or doubt may blow contrary to the river's course and whip up foaming waves on its surface. These winds and waves cannot change or hinder the deep, continuing flow of the waters below the surface, as it follows the path marked out for it by the river's bed, and on to its ultimate destiny in the ocean.

2 Timothy 1:12

The fruit of faith in its full maturity is beautifully illustrated by the words of Paul in 2 Timothy 1:12,

"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

By all worldly standards, Paul at this time was a failure. Some of his most influential friends and supporters had turned against him, yet his words ring with serene, unshakable confidence, **'I am not ashamed, I know whom I have believed, I am convinced.'** These are the words of the fruit of faith.

Believe God from one faith-growing experience to another and see the development of the fruit of faith in your life.

Back to Basics: 21 Foundational Principles for Victory

SEED FOR THOUGHT

Has your faith grown in the past month?

MEMORY VERSE

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

Galatians 5:22-23

STUDY QUESTIONS

Write a one hundred-word composition titled, **How the Fruit of Faith is Developing in My Life**. Give some experiences you have had that produced faith in God.

Faith Toward God

1 Corinthians 12:1-12 We will now study the **gift of faith** as revealed in 1 Corinthians 12:9. The **gift of faith** is in contrast to the **fruit of faith** in many ways. Firstly, we know that the fruit of faith grows gradually, whereas, the **gift of faith** is given in an instant.

Secondly, the **gift of faith** is distinguished from other forms of faith by the fact that it is a sovereign, supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit working through the believer. **The two key words are:**

Sovereign and Supernatural.

Luke 8:22-25 Jesus did many wondrous works under the inspiration of the **gift of faith**. Luke 8:22-25 tells of Christ and his disciples crossing the Sea of Galilee when a violent storm arose. The Bible says he rebuked the wind and the waves and they ceased. On another occasion, Jesus was seen walking upon the sea toward his disciples. Read Mark 6:47-50. These examples of actions are sovereign and supernatural and can only be done under the **gift of faith**.

Mark 6:47-50

Mark 11:12-14

In Mark 11:12-14, Christ desired fruit from the fig tree, and because it had produced no fruit, he cursed it. The next day it withered up and his disciples were astonished at this. In Mark 11:22, Jesus said,

Mark 11:20-22

"Have faith in God."

In the more literal translation, this statement means **have God's faith**. This reveals to us that the kind of faith needed in this realm is the faith that God has, or a portion of God's faith. **All faith** comes from God because faith is a part of God. **Jesus encourages us to move in and exercise this kind of faith.**

God releases the **gift of faith** in portions to his servants for special tasks. It is not so much the amount of faith, but the quality and origin of the faith involved. We know of men like Daniel who survived the lion's den. Men like Elijah who stopped the rain for three years. Moses who parted the sea by the pointing of a staff. Peter who led 3,000 to God in one day, and many more who have moved into these realms under the **gift of faith**.

One of the best examples of the **gift of faith** can be found in a testimony of Smith Wigglesworth, who, while under the power of God, raised a person from the dead. As he began to penetrate the heavens with his prayers with what faith he had, he felt himself come to the end of the faith that he lived by. All the time he was praying, his wife was saying, "Stop praying the person is already dead. It's too late." But he continued praying. When he had exhausted his faith, he said he was suddenly conscious of a faith that rose up within him that could not be denied.

Scripture Reading

Lesson 7: Faith Toward God (Part 3)

While he was praying in his own faith it seemed as if God said, "No, no." But when this other faith came over him, he looked right up into the heavens and said, "**Yes, yes.**" Instantly, without intending to do it, without understanding what he was doing, he grabbed the woman and pulled her right out of the bed, stood her up against the wall and **commanded her to walk in the name of Jesus Christ** – and *she did!*

1 Kings 18

1 Kings 19

This is beyond any person's ordinary faith. Many men and women of God move under the **gift of faith** and accomplish great things, but when the gift is not in operation, the man is just a man. We note in 1 Kings 18, the prophet Elijah calls fire out of heaven and destroys the efforts made by the prophets of Baal. After this, in Chapter 19, we notice where Elijah is under a juniper tree requesting that he die.

At one time a person can be moving powerfully under the gift of faith, then at another time, when the gift is not operating, the person may even walk in a state of defeat. However, the **fruit of faith** is continually growing.

Back to Basics: 21 Foundational Principles for Victory

SEED FOR THOUGHT

Seek God for the manifestation of the gift of faith in your life.

MEMORY VERSE

"And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass, he shall have whatsoever he saith."

Mark 11:22-23

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Where do we get faith from?

2. Give three examples from scripture of the gift of faith demonstrated. Give examples not already quoted in this lesson.

3. Write an eighty-word composition titled: **The Gift of Faith Distinguished From the Other Forms of Faith.**