

# Jesus, the Only Foundation for Life

## Introduction

### **Build upon the rock**

*“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine, and acts upon them may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and yet it did not fall for it had been founded upon the rock.*

*And who hears these words of mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the wind blew, and burst against that house; and it fell, and great was its fall” (Matthew 7:24-27).*

### **Every house needs a strong foundation**

We might built a very good looking house, but it has no foundation under it. Or perhaps it we built it with a bad or weak foundation. And then when the storms come, the house fell apart.

Therefore holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession. He was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses was in all His house. For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God. Christ was faithful as a Son over His house, whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end. Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts. Hebrews 3:1-6:

What kind of foundation do you have under your spiritual house? Do you rely on your church to be your foundation? Your rituals and traditions? Your Bible?

Some people rely on a person – a priest or pastor, a nun or saint, or Mary the mother of Jesus. Others rely on their own goodness and the good works they do for others and the church. There is a place for these things in our spiritual walk, but they are not to be the cornerstone of our spiritual foundation.

### **Only one foundation: Jesus Christ**

The Scriptures are very clear. There is only one foundation that we can lay for our salvation and entry into the kingdom of God: it is a person, Jesus Christ.

- For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:11)
- Behold I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, and He who believes in Him shall not be disappointed (I Peter 2:7).
- So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, you are fellow citizens with the saints and are of God's household, having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone (Ephesians 2:20).

- Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; not one comes to the Father, but through Me” (John 14:6)

## **What do you believe?**

In our spiritual walk, our foundation or lack of foundation is referring to what we believe, what it is that we have faith in. If these problems and others always seem to be bothering you, look to your foundation, for this is where the problem lies.

- Does your faith waver every time it is put to the test?
- Do you sink into depression with every storm that comes?
- Do you fall with every temptation?
- Do you walk in the flesh more than in the spirit?
- Do you always need others praying for you and encouraging you?
- Can you stand firm against the spiritual attacks of the enemy?

## **Six foundational building blocks**

If we want a solid foundation, there are a number of steps the Bible identifies we must take.

Therefore leaving the elemental teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity...Not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of instruction about washings, and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment... (Hebrews 6:1-2).

First is calling on or receiving Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Next we must lay the necessary building blocks for us to build a strong spiritual foundation. Looking at Hebrews 6:1-2, we can see six building blocks we need: note Christ is involved in every one of them:

1. Repentance from dead works – Jesus brings a change of direction in our life.
2. Faith toward God – Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith.
3. Instructions about washings: baptism of water – we join Jesus in His death; baptism of the Holy Spirit – Jesus is the baptizer.
4. Laying on of hands – the life of Jesus flows through us for blessing, healing, gifts and ministry.
5. Resurrection of the dead – Jesus is the resurrection and the life; we join Him in His resurrection.
6. Eternal judgment – Jesus is the Lamb of God who died for our sins.

## ***Why do we start with Jesus?***

We have to start with Jesus Christ, because our heart has to be changed and our sins have to be washed away: only Jesus Christ can do this!

## **Heart has to be changed**

And I shall give you a new heart, and put a new spirit within you. I shall take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give you a heart of flesh (Ezekiel 26:36)

We can join a church and *not* receive a new heart. We can grow up in church and not receive a new heart. We can be a good Baptist, Catholic, or Pentecostal and not have a new heart. Only God can give us a new heart.

We receive a new heart when we go to God, have an authentic conversion experience and are born-again of the Spirit. There is no foundation that any man can lay other than Jesus Christ.

### **Sins have to be washed away**

- For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is *eternal* life to everyone who believes. (Note eternal refers to the nature of the life, not the extent of it) (Romans 6:23)
- He made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him (II Cor. 5:21)
- Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation., namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them...(II Cor. 5:18-19).
- All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, everyone, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all (Is. 53:6).

Some people do not think they need Jesus. Because they don't see themselves as a sinner. These people stumble over the cross. They feel insulted if we imply they need a Savior, a Christ.

... just as it is written, "behold, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, and he who believes in him will not be disappointed" (Romans 9:33).

### **Need to be made alive**

1. Ezekiel 37:14: And I will put my Spirit within you, and you will come to life ...
2. John 5:39-40: You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me; and you are willing to come to Me, that you may have life.
3. John 10:10: The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life and have might have it more abundantly.
4. John 6:50-51: This is the bread that came down out of heaven so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever.
5. John 7:37-39: Now on the last day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being (out of his belly) shall flow rivers of living water.'" But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive.
6. I Corinthians 15:22: For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive.
7. Ephesians 2:1-9: But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together (*in*) with Christ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved, through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

The mission of Jesus Christ, his reason for being, was: that we might have *life* and have it *more abundantly*. Note: "more abundantly" (Gr. *Perissos*) means to have something superabundant on quantity and superior in quality.

## The Elementary Principles about Jesus

There is a cohesive body of knowledge about Jesus that is called elementary or basic. In following scriptures, the writer of Hebrews is calling Christians to go beyond the elementary principles, yet they cannot because they are still babies and need to be taught all over again the basic foundational truths about the Christ.

- For by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God...you have come to need milk and not solid food (Heb 5:12).
- Therefore leaving the elemental teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity... not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of instruction about washings, and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment... (Heb 6:1-2).

### ***About Jesus Christ***

Jesus was supernaturally born of Virgin Mary and like Adam, was born both physically and spiritually alive. Jesus is the pre-existent Word of God who became flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus is co-equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit, and together they make up the One true God. While on earth, Jesus remained fully God, but He was also fully human. No person can become God, but God can and did manifest Himself in human form.

### **Names of Jesus**

Jesus has been called by many titles, the Son of God, the Lamb of God, Savior, and our High Priest. He was also referred to as the first born of the new creation. Another one of His titles is the new Adam: where the old Adam failed, the new one did not. He fulfilled the Law, but He did not do this for His own benefit, He did it for our benefit.

In Hebrews 1:1-3, Jesus is described in this way:

- God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.
- And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

### ***The work of Jesus Christ on the cross***

#### **Substitutionary work—He took our place**

Jesus removed every barrier between us and God.

Jesus took on the nature of flesh and blood. He was made sin, under condemnation, locked in prison house of death for three days and nights. He appeared to put away sin and our sin nature through the sacrifice of Himself.

Jesus restores to us our lost sense of righteousness; He forgives us, and cleanses us. Made it possible for us to stand in the presence of God without a consciousness of sins. Jesus cleanses us

from that sin consciousness or spiritual inferiority complex that would keep us from coming to God.

### **1. The Sacrificial Lamb of God**

- The Lamb was slain (Revelations 5:6)
- Our Passover Lamb (I Corinthians 5:7)
- The Lamb leads us to springs of water of life (Revelations 8:17)

### **2. Presented His blood as eternal offering/sacrifice for our sins**

- How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?
- Took Away Our Sins (I John 3:5)

### **3. Offered Us His Blood for Forgiveness**

- Where there is forgiveness, there is no longer any offering for sin (Heb. 10:18).

### **4. The grace of Christ on the cross delivers us**

- And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him (Col. 2:13-15).
- How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God (? 9:14).

## **Jesus destroyed the works of the devil**

Jesus took away the power of Satan. The enemy could not defeat Jesus.

- Now the salvation and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night (Rev. 12:10). Col. 1:13
- Through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death (Heb. 2:14-15);
- When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him (Col. 2:13-15).
- These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. (Eph. 1:19-23).

## ***What did Jesus free us from?***

### **1. Satan's Power**

- The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil (I John 3:8).
- Jesus healed every kind of disease and every kind of sickness (possessed with devils); lunatics (moonstruck); palsy (feeble, paralyzed); divers diseases (maladies) and torments; and healed those oppressed by the devil (Matt. 4:24).
- God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil (Acts 10:38).
- Now the salvation and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night (Rev. 12:10).

### **2. The fear of death**

- That through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives (Heb. 2:14, 15).
- For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, Abba Father (Romans 8:15)

### **3. The law and its curse**

Knowing that we can never keep all of the laws, Jesus Christ came to fulfill the law for us and enable us to receive the free gift of grace and the free gift of righteousness. In His work on the cross, His death and resurrection, He liberated us from the curse of the law and made it possible for us to walk in the Kingdom of God, His righteousness, peace, joy and power.

When we walk in the Kingdom of God, drawing close to Jesus, we are protected from the evil powers belonging to the kingdom of darkness.

- Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree (Gal. 3:13).
- Therefore my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, that we might bear fruit for God (Rom 7:4).
- ...remember that you were at that time separate from Christ...now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ..... by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances...having put to death the enmity (Eph. 2:12-16).
- But now, we have been released (freed) from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter (Rom. 7:5-7).
- For you are not under *law*, but under grace (Rom. 6:14).
- Now that faith has come we are no longer under a tutor, for you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ...(Gal. 3:23).

Many of God's people are still following the Old Covenant based on the Law of Moses and have not fully realized that Jesus fulfilled that Law for us and gave us a new law: the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. The law of Moses, even though it is righteous, has no power to transform us or to free us in any way. When we are being led by the law of Moses, we try so hard to perfect ourselves, to be righteous, and it never works.

#### **4. The law of sin and death inherent in our Adamic nature**

- But now, we have been released (freed) from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter (Rom. 7:5-7).
- We are of flesh, sold into bondage to sin (Rom 7:14).
- But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness (Rom 6:1-23).
- Now he who has died is freed from sin (Rom 6:7)
- ...the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit... (Rom. 8:2-4).
- Took away our sins (I John 3:5).

#### **5. The debt we owe for our failure to keep the righteous Law of Moses**

- And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him (Col. 2:13-15).
- But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derived your fruit – sanctification and eternal life (Rom 6:18, 22).
- Where there is forgiveness, there is no longer any offering for sin (Heb. 10:18).

#### **6. Our identity as a slave**

- But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that He might redeem (free) those who are under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God (Gal. 4:5-7)
- For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, Abba Father (Romans 8:15).

#### **7. Being downtrodden and oppressed**

- He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives...to set free those who are downtrodden . . . (Luke 4:18).

## **8. Being separated from God and His Love**

- For I convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:35-39).
- Remember that you were at that time separate from Christ...now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ...by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances...having put to death the enmity (Eph. 2:12-16).

## **9. A spirit of fear**

Christ hated fear; fear makes us slaves. He showed us that we were born to live by faith. He came to set us free from fear, and to show us a higher way of living.

- For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, Abba Father (Romans 8:15).
- For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline (II Tim. 1:7).
- There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear has punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love (I John 4:16, 18).

## **10. Gave us a new covenant**

Many people are still following the Old Covenant based on the Law of Moses and have not fully realized that Jesus fulfilled that Law for them a new law – the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. The law of Moses, even though it is righteous, has no power to transform us or to free us in any way. When we are being led by the law of Moses, we try so hard to perfect ourselves, to be righteous, and it never works.

Because of the nature of His work on the cross Jesus brought about a new covenant, a change in how we are to function. He gave us a new law, the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus, written on tablets of the human heart, not on stone. This higher law enables us to break free from the law of sin and death operating in our flesh. (II. Cor. 3:3).

A law is something that is laid and fixed. It is rules of conduct established and enforced by some authority. It is a limiting device.

- ...the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit... (Rom. 8:2-4).

## **11. Our identity as a slave, now a son and heir through God**

- God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that He might redeem (free) those who are under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God (Gal. 4:5-7)

## ***His work on the cross provides healing for all our wounds***

### **1. His names reveal this purpose:**

- YHWH--everything and anything we will ever need--the self-existent One
- Rapha – to mend, to cure.

### **2. Jesus suffered both mental, physical and emotional pain.**

Jesus suffered emotional pain from His people, the religious leaders & His friends. He was mocked by the crowds, falsely accused, suffered unjustly & spat upon.

- Despised & rejected – He was despised & rejected by men, a man of sorrows & acquainted with grief (Is. 53).
- Rejection – He came to His own, & His own did not receive Him (John 1:11).
- Religious Abuse – The Pharisees went out & took counsel against Him, how they might destroy Him. But when Jesus knew it, He withdrew from there; & great multitudes followed Him, & He healed them all (Matt. 12:14).
- Betrayal – Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'Whoever I kiss, He is the One, seize Him.' Then immediately he went up to Jesus & said, 'Greetings, \*Rabbi!' & kissed Him (Matt. 26:48-49).

Jesus suffered physical abuse which is almost beyond our comprehension. He drank the cup of sufferings & said, 'It is finished'.

- By whose stripes you were healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the shepherd & overseer of your souls (I Peter 2:24-25).

# Jesus is High Priest of the New Covenant

## A. *What is Jesus doing now?*

### 1. The Apostle & High Priest of a New Covenant

Jesus died a lamb but arose as the Lord High Priest of good things to come. He is seeking the presence and the hearing of God on the behalf of others. When we come through Christ, we have a guarantee to get the ear of God. Jesus is now the high priest of a new covenant, on the basis of the power of an *indestructible life*" (Hebrews 7:16). He is the only one who has the power of an indestructible life, this is why He is the only one who can give us eternal life. He is the only One who has risen from the dead. .

- Seeing then that we have a great high priest . . . we may come boldly into the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in the time of need (Hebrews 4:14).
- ...But according to the power of an indestructible life (Hebrews 7:16).
- For the law made nothing perfect, and now there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God (Hebrews 7:19).
- Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant (Hebrews 7:22).
- For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest...who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a minister in the sanctuary, and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man. He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as he is also the mediator of a *better covenant*, which *has been enacted on better promises* (Hebrews 7:26—8:6).
- This is the covenant I will make...I will put my laws into their minds, and I will write them upon their hearts, and I will be their God and they shall be my people (Hebrews 8:10).
- Who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit, for the letter kills, but the spirit gives life (II Cor. 3:6).

### 2. Jesus Christ, Our Advocate (one who pleads our cause)

One who speaks to the Father in our defense (I John 2:1)

If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father (I John

He abides forever...hence he is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them." (Hebrews 7:24-25)

For Christ entered into heaven to appear in the presence of God for us (24)

### 3. Jesus Christ, Shepherd Of Our Souls

1. Chief shepherd (I Pet. 5:4)
2. Great shepherd of the sheep (Heb. 13:20)
3. The good shepherd (John 10)
4. Shepherd and overseer of your souls (I Pet. 2:25)

#### **4. Jesus Is the chief cornerstone of a spiritual house**

- Behold I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, and He who believes in Him shall not be disappointed (I Peter 2:7).
- Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit (Ephesians 2:20).
- You are fellow citizens with the saints (holy ones), and are of God's household, having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit (Ephesians 2:20).

#### ***B. Invites us to enter into his rest from our labor***

The full legal demand of the law “of sin and death” was fulfilled in pain upon the body of Jesus in anguish in the heart and soul and spirit of our Lord upon the cross. Because of this we can find rest for our souls. We do not have to strive to fulfill the law of Moses, but we can be led by the Spirit, and keep our hearts full of faith.

- Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls (Matt. 11:28-29).
- Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience ...There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His (Heb. 4:9-11).
- ...I was angry with this generation, and said, They always go astray in their heart, and they did not know My ways...Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day...for we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end (Hebrews 3:10-14).

#### ***C. Jesus, the source of our eternal salvation***

Your salvation: Isa 30:15; Eph. 1:13    Author of salvation: Heb. 2:10

Source of eternal salvation:                    Savior of the world

Jesus Christ our lord, our savior            Horn of salvation

Salvation (*Soteria*) – safe, rescue or safety (physical or moral) i.e. deliver, health, salvation, save, saving. (To keep us safe; to deliver or protect us; to heal; to make us whole and help us do well. To rescue us, to give us health; to preserve us from destruction) Saved Means: Sozo: to save, i.e. deliver or protect--heal, preserve, be made whole. (save your souls: Jas 1:21).

## What Jesus do you know?

There are many people who believe in Jesus, but they do not believe that He is the Christ. They use the name “Jesus” to sway us to their kind of religion. In Egypt, the Arabs made a point of telling us they believed in Jesus: He had come to Egypt and spent some time there.

I’ve had people come to my door and say they believe in Jesus. The only problem is that they don’t believe He is the Christ – He is just another prophet.

There is another Jesus preached in some churches. He is powerless – He cannot help anyone. You can recognize this Jesus because no one is changed. They try to change themselves and fail. They practice religion and law. They are unchanged inside, where it counts. This other Jesus does not deal with the sin issue, so we remain separated from God.

Any Jesus who is not the Christ can do nothing for us, because it bypasses the crucifixion. There is no atonement for our sins which separate us from God. The cross and the crucifixion are a stumbling stone, an offence to some people.

For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully. (II Corinthians 11:4)

## How to assess counterfeit religions & worldviews

### The doctrine of Jesus Christ

If the person will not say that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the King of Kings, and the great I AM, they should be considered suspect.

Many people can say Jesus is Lord, but when asked to say Jesus is their Lord, they simply repeat, “Jesus is Lord.” The devil knows that Jesus is the Lord of the universe, but will not profess Jesus as his lord, nor will his followers.

### Offer something other than faith in Christ

An offer of salvation or enlightenment through something other than faith in the finished work of Christ.

New age teaches we are not separated from God by our sin and therefore have not need to repent. They say we are God and only need to be enlightened. What a lie!

### Offer special quality of life via secret/cosmic energy sources

Psychics, gurus, shamans, and false prophets offer a special quality of life, esoteric knowledge, or special power that is available by connecting with cosmic energy sources, secret rituals, ceremonies, or covenants. Occult means hidden, concealed or secret, which is in total contrast to the nature of God, who does everything in the light.

What is really hidden from view, is Satan, the puppet-master who wants to keep us in bondage by drawing us away from the truth that would set us free.

## Becoming Spiritually Alive

### ***Requires radical step: a new birth***

The reality of the spiritual realm cannot be experienced without the new birth or conversion experience. Because God is a spirit, we cannot know and experience God in our natural condition. We must be born again of the spirit.

Jesus can't be known through our intellect, our emotions, our will. He can't be known by my trying hard to be good, to change myself, but only through our spirit by His Spirit.

Saint Paul knew this; "For to us God revealed them through the spirit." He had a revelation of Jesus Christ; He knew him after the spirit and not the flesh:

Unless one is born (from above) again, he cannot see the kingdom of God....I say to you unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit (John 3:3-8).

Unless one is born (from above), he cannot see the kingdom of God (John 3:3,5).

No amount of effort on our part can save us and neither can any religious activity no matter how well intentioned. We are saved by faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ and by faith alone. All that remains is for us to do is put our trust in the finished work of Christ.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast (Eph. 2:8,9).

Jesus was a spiritual being, He could function as a spiritual being, but in order to become like us, he had to be born a second time, as a natural human being. We are born and function as natural beings, but to function as a spiritual being we must be born a second time—and this time from above, the spiritual realm, so we too can function as spiritual beings.

### **Go To Jesus If We Want To Live**

Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me...and you shall find rest for your souls (Matt. 11:28-30).

You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life (John 5:39-40).

Through His son, Jesus Christ, we can be born again and receive Him, who is the "uncorrupted seed", into our heart; we can become united with Him in baptism, then we are able to break free from the "law of sin and death" that holds us in captivity. If you want to come closer to Christ, to have a confidence that Christ is within you, to receive Him now.

...Unless one is born (from above) again, he cannot see the kingdom of God....I say to you unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit (John 3:3-8).

Unless one is born (from above), he cannot see the kingdom of God (John 3:3,5).

## **Confidence “In Christ”**

If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved (Rom. 10:9).

The witness of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:16).

You were sealed “in Christ” with the Holy Spirit of promise (Eph. 1:13).

## ***B. Understanding conversion or born-again experience***

### **1. A New Creation—United with Christ**

In the born-again experience, it is not just my spirit anymore, but God's Spirit becomes fused with my spirit, causing the new creation. Our spirit doesn't function very well, until it comes into union with God's Spirit; this is how we become sons of God. We have to see there's a clear definition between the Spirit of God and our spirit. We need to see that we are a spiritual Christian because we are in touch with the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of God, not another spirit.

But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit (with him) I Cor. 6:17

Might become partakers of the divine nature...(2 Peter 1:4).

...you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, that you might be joined to another .

And just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly (I Cor. 15:45-50).

You are *no longer a slave*, but a son (Gal. 4:7).

Once we have received Jesus (by faith), we have received a new seed, one that has no corruption in it, and this righteous seed joins with me and brings about a “new creation”. I now have become united with the Christ, and His life (that is indestructible and eternal in nature) wants to touch every part of my being and bring about a growing freedom and wholeness within me.

For you have been born again not of seed which is perishable (corrupted) but imperishable (uncorrupted), that is through the living and abiding word of God (I Peter 1:23).

### **2. God's spirit fused with our spirit (I Cor. 6:17; Prov. 20:27a)**

In the born-again experience, it is not just my spirit anymore, but God's Spirit becomes fused with my spirit, causing the new creation. Our spirit doesn't function very well, until it comes into union with God's Spirit; this is how we become sons of God. We have to see there's a clear definition between the Spirit of God and our spirit. We need to see that we are a spiritual Christian because we are in touch with the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of God, not another spirit.

But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit (with him) I Cor. 6:17

The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord (Prov. 20:27a).

Might become partakers of the divine nature...(2 Peter 1:4).

...you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, that you might be joined to another .

And just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly (I Cor. 15:45-50).

You are *no longer a slave*, but a son (Gal. 4:7).

### **3. Can Now Know God Intuitively**

The first sign of the new birth is that we know God intuitively; for our spirit has been quickened: inspiration originates with the Holy Spirit in man's spirit. We have had a spiritual birth: the Spirit within us comes alive, is quickened and all of a sudden we become spiritually alive and we know that we belong to God.

For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father! The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God" (Rom. 8:15,16).

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge (II Cor. 1:21)

*Intuition* has to do with the insights that come from within ourselves, giving us knowledge of information without conscious processing – hunches to act, impressions to pray, flashes of insight.

We come to a place where get a breakthrough and touch Christ or where God touches us in a very, very spiritual way. We call it a born-again or conversion experience, but it is a spiritual breakthrough. After that, everything feels different. Perhaps it feels like a window opens and we see and understood things that we never saw and understood before. Our spirit is quickened or awakened, it comes alive to us. Whenever that birth takes place, something new begins to happen in our lives: We have the potential to become both spiritual and natural (Ralph Nault).

### **4. Gives us potential to function as a spiritual person**

We now have the potential to function as a spiritual man, in touch with spiritual things and with God. We are able to see and hear God; see and hear spiritual things, experience and discern spiritual things.

#### **Years to develop as a spiritual person**

We now have access to a real and ultimately important spiritual realm, the Kingdom of Heaven and can begin to learn how it functions, its principles, and how to respond to it.

Before we did not have those abilities and were unable to see the Kingdom of God, were unable to enter into it because that Kingdom is spirit. Once we are new creations, we have the abilities for both, and then it hinges upon how responsive we are to this teacher that God gives us, the Holy Spirit who is there to help us. Takes years to mature and fully develop

### **5. A New Heart**

The spiritual man has come alive, begins to functions properly, restoring us and causing us to see differently. Restoration begins to happen in us and we become more whole and complete. When we learn to function from the inner part of our being, then we function with a new level

of life: Out of our innermost being will flow rivers of living water. To me that means life, rivers, and that's where it has to be.

God is looking to restore the heart of people so they will have a heart. When that happens all of a sudden our relationship with God, with the people around us, and with the world is different. It's no longer the same anymore. He promises to take the stony heart out of us and give us a heart of flesh... "I'll give them a new heart." This is part of the spiritual journey, perhaps the goal of it: to get a new heart. But so many Christian people don't have a heart.

Many people try to act like they are loving, but there is nothing coming out of the heart. This is one of the problems that gives Christianity a bad name, because Christian people have not yet experienced this heart development.

No long an island to ourselves... The parable of the man coming down from Jerusalem down to Jericho and getting and was waylaid by the side of the road. Why did this one man stop and the others go by? Because he had a heart. The others had no heart. One man had a heart, and that's the difference.

## Go To Jesus

We must come to place where we realize that nobody else is responsible but me. I must have a direct relationship, an individual relationship between me and God, this is the freeing agent. If you have not made a decision to invite Jesus Christ into your heart, you need to do this. It is key to the transformation and healing of your broken heart and life.

You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life (John 5:39-40).

Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls (Matthew 11:28).

Have you really experienced Jesus? If not, you need to repent and turn to Him. Jesus Christ is the only answer! Jesus Christ is the only way, He is the uncorrupted seed, He is righteous, He brings fullness of life. Acknowledge that it is solely on the basis of what Jesus has done on your behalf that you are receiving your righteousness now.

If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, 'Whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame' (Rom. 10:9-11).

As a result of a genuine conversion or born again experience, you have access to the Kingdom of Heaven which is right within you. You need to seek the truth and walk in it. Then you will gradually become free, feel free. Christianity is the only way to be totally free.

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your

descendants, by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days... (Deut. 30:19,20).

### **Spiritual Realm Does Not Work By Magic**

The spiritual realm of God *does not* work through “magic,” but through faith that resides in an honest heart. There are no magical words that will make God become real to you—but only an honest heart that recognizes its need and a tiny bit of faith *that God cannot lie, that what He said is true*.

God Himself said that He sent Jesus to die for our sins so we can have newness of life. Did God lie when He said this? Can you trust what He says? It is faith in God Himself and in the power of God, revealed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ that brings about changes within us.

### **Use The Key: Apply Your Faith In A God Who Cannot Lie!**

Now simply go to God, praying from an *honest* heart. Begin your journey to God by praying something that is honest to you, such as...

God, I don't know if you are real, and if you are really there for me, but if you are, I need You in my life. I don't understand everything, but I know that I need a power greater than myself. I need You. Please come into my life. Thank you.

Here is the prayer I prayed thirty-five years ago:

God, I ask for your help. I want to know You. I need Your son Jesus. I place my faith in His work on the cross, His burial and His resurrection. I accept the blood He shed as enough for my sins and the sins of others against me. Jesus, I ask You to come live inside of me. I invite You to come into my life. And I thank you. Amen.

### **Now, Where Is Jesus?**

If I ask you where is Jesus, can you say with confidence: “He is in my heart. I asked Him to come in, and I know He did, because God cannot lie.”

### **Make Jesus Christ Lord**

Make a decision to make Jesus Christ Lord of your life, to follow Him in faith and obedience. Decide to lay down your rebellion, surrender, and make Jesus Christ Lord of your life. Decide to do all that the Lord Your God asks of you. You may want to pray something like this:

Lord Jesus, I want to know You better, to come closer to You. Please cause me to see more clearly who You are and what You have done for me. Please reveal Christ in me. I thank you. Lord, I make a decision to follow You, in faith and obedience. I will do what You ask me to do. Lay down your rebellion and surrender to the Lord. I choose to make You Lord of my life. Amen

May the Lord bless you as you study these Scriptures,

Judith Doctor