

BIBLE STUDY : The basics of the Christian life

This bible study has been developed from the teaching of Rev. Derek Prince and is used with the permission of Derek Prince Ministries India.

A simple statement of what it is to be a Christian is found in John 10:27 – to hear Jesus' voice and to follow Him. Jesus taught His disciples many things and they went on to put them into practice and to teach others to do the same. This is the Christian life. Unless Believers in Jesus understand the basics of the Christian life and put them into practice, they cannot become mature Christians. The basics of the Christian life are summarised in Hebrews 6:1-2.

Read **Hebrews 6:1-3**

The 7 basic elements of the Christian faith are listed in Hebrews 6:1&2. In this Bible Study, we will look at each of these basics in detail, and ask you some questions to consider for yourself.

You will find the answers to the questions in the Scripture references given for each question. You will find our suggested answers at the back.

1 Placing our faith in God

a) What did Jesus tell people to do? *Mark 1:14-15*

1) 2)

b) What are the 4 main facts about Jesus?

1..... *Matthew 3:16-17, Luke 9:35*

2..... *1 Corinthians 15:3*

3..... *1 Corinthians 15:4*

4..... *1 Corinthians 15:4*

c) What happens when we believe these 4 main facts about Jesus? *Romans 1:17; Romans 4:20-25*

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d) Can good deeds make us right with God? *Ephesians 2:8-9* Yes/No

Reflection:

Do you sincerely believe the 4 facts about Jesus?

Have you confessed any of your **specific** sins and asked Jesus to remove the unrighteousness from you?

Do people know you are a disciple of Jesus by the way you behave towards other people?

Pray and ask Jesus to show you what He wants you to repent of and how He wants to change you.

2 Repentance from dead works (or evil deeds)

a) What is repentance? (*Matthew 3:11; Luke 3:8; 2 Corinthians 7:9-10*)

b) What are dead works? *Hebrews 6:1; Isaiah 64v6; Luke 6:46-49*

c) How do we repent from dead works? *Luke 15:11-21; 1 John 1:8-9*

d) What actions will result from our repentance and placing our faith in Jesus? *Acts 2:38 & 42-47; John 13:34-35; John 14:12;*
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Reflection:

Have you ever been convicted enough to ask God to forgive you for a wrong deed that you have done or a bad thought you have had?

Has God told you to do something? Did you obey Him?

Have you ever asked God to forgive you for doing something He did not ask you to do?

3 Believer's baptism in Water

a) How is 'Believer's Water Baptism' actually done? *Matthew 28:19; Acts 8:37-38; Acts 10:48*
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b) What does baptism in water actually symbolise? *Romans 6:4-5; Colossians 2:12*
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c) According to Jesus, who must be baptised? *Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16.*

Reflection:

Have you been baptised in water after you truly believed in Jesus?

4 Baptism in Holy Spirit

- a) What is 'baptism in the Holy Spirit'?
..... *Acts 1:8; Acts 4:31; Acts 10:44-46*
- b) What is the purpose of the Holy Spirit baptism?
..... *Acts 1:8; Acts 4:31-33; Romans 8:26-27*
- c) What are the 9 gifts given by the Holy Spirit?
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..... *1 Corinthians 12:7-11*
- d) What is the fruit of the Holy Spirit?
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..... *Galatians 5:22-23*
- e) What is the difference between a gift and fruit?.....
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Reflection:

Have you been baptised in the Holy Spirit?
If not, there is a sample prayer in the back with the suggested answers.

Which gift(s) of the Holy Spirit do you want (or want more of)?

Is the fruit of the Holy Spirit developing in your life? It should be more visible year by year as you allow the Holy Spirit to make you more and more like Jesus.

5 Laying on of hands

- a) What are the four different purposes of 'Laying on of Hands'?

Purpose 1 (*Mark 10:16*)
Who can do this?

Purpose 2 (*Mark 16:18*)
Who can do this?

Purpose 3 (*Acts 19:6*)
Who can do this?

Purpose 4 (*Acts 13:2-3*)
Who can do this?

Reflection:

For what purpose have you observed/experienced 'laying on of hands'?

6 Resurrection of the dead

a) What is the resurrection of the dead? *John 5:28-29; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

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b) What will our resurrected bodies be like? *1 Corinthians 15:51-55; Philippians 3:20-21*

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c) What is the special importance of the Resurrection? *Romans 1:4, Romans 10:9,*

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Reflection:

Do you believe that Jesus was resurrected?

Do you believe that you will be resurrected at the time of Jesus' glorious return?

Does meeting Jesus face-to-face excite you?

7 Eternal Judgement

a) Who has God appointed to judge us all? *Acts 10:42-43; Revelation 1:12-16*

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b) What will believers in Jesus be judged for?

1. *Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 5:10-11*

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2. *Proverbs 19:17; Matthew 25:31-40(41-46); Luke 12:32-34*

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3. *Matthew 12:33-37; Galatians 5:19-23; Galatians 6:7-10*

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c) What will the nations be judged for? *Joel 3:1-2; Obadiah 15; Matthew 25:31-46*

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d) What will unbelievers be judged for? *Matthew 16:27; Revelation 20:11-15*

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e) When will eternal judgement take place? *Matthew 24:14, 42-44; Matthew 25:13*

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Reflection:

Are you ready to stand before Jesus on the day of judgement?

What things have you done that Jesus asked you to do?

What do you hope to get from serving Jesus? If you are serving Jesus for your own satisfaction or glory? Or are you seeking to glorify Jesus and to do His will out of genuine love for Him?

Are you trying to serve God in your own strength or are you empowered by the Holy Spirit?

In this study we have looked at the 7 basic elements of the Christian Faith. There is SO MUCH to this elementary teaching! And God promises that He has much more for us to discover! *Philippians 3:12-14*

"Dear Brothers and Sisters, Be joyful! Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you."

2 Corinthians 13:11

SUGGESTED ANSWERS:-

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1: Faith in God

- a) Jesus' first instructions are : 1) repent, and 2) believe the Gospel.*
- b) The facts about 'the Gospel' are: 1) Jesus is the Son of God; 2) Jesus died on account of our sins; 3) Jesus was buried; 4) God raised Jesus on the 3rd day.*
- c) We are considered righteous by God when we believe these 4 facts about the Gospel. Putting our faith in Jesus is more than only believing Jesus exists – we have to put this into practice. We must repent of our sinful ways and dead works and truly submit ourselves in faith to Jesus as God's appointed ruler.*
- d) No. We are made righteous by faith in Jesus – we cannot make ourselves righteous.*

ANSWER TO QUESTION 2: Repentance from dead works

- a) Repentance is the word that describes 'a change of heart leading to a change of direction'. Repentance is when a person recognises that his/her ways are wrong and decides to stop following their own ways and turn instead to Jesus (hearing His voice and following Him).*
- b) Dead works are actions that do not lead to life and do not count for eternity. Dead works are the things we do that are not what God is telling us to do. Along with the evil thoughts and deeds that we do, 'dead works' are all those 'good' things that we do that God has not told us to do. Even our very best efforts are like filthy rags to God. God speaks in many different ways. He wants us to listen Him and to do what He is telling us to do.*
- c) God promises that He will forgive us when we confess our specific sins to Him. Like the Lost son, we need to (a) realise we have sinned (b) change our mind and want to stop living for ourselves, and (c) turn around and come back to God.*
- d) As we submit to Jesus, He will transform our hearts and make us like Himself. This will result in our loving one another. People will know we are disciples of Jesus because of the way we love one another. We will also study God's word, worship God together, share fellowship meals with each other often, share the Lord's supper with one another, help the poor and needy by sharing what we have and the power of God will be displayed among us. Our lives together will encourage others to believe in Jesus.*

ANSWER TO QUESTION 3: Believer's baptism

- a) A believer is baptised in water by immersion. Their whole body is immersed in water and then they are lifted up out of the water.*
- b) Believer's baptism is a depiction of Jesus Christ dying and being buried for our sins, and His resurrection to new life. As the person goes under the water during baptism (ie burial), they identify with Jesus' death and burial for their sins. As they are raised out of the water it illustrates them being raised to new life in Jesus.*
- c) Disciples from all nations should be baptised in water by immersion. Disciples are those who believe and trust in Jesus and who are being disciplined and trained by Him.*

Note: A Believer is baptised in "the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit". It is a seal placed on a Christian. Believers are baptised 'into Christ' and into the body of Christ; in baptism we join the world-wide Church, the assembly of God's children.

Warning : if you were not born-again when you were baptised, you need to be re-baptised after you have come to faith in Jesus.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 4: The baptism of the Holy Spirit

- a)** Baptism of the Holy Spirit is when the Holy Spirit comes on a believer in power. The first sign of this is the gift of a new prayer language (also called 'praying in the Spirit' and 'speaking in tongues')
- b)** The Baptism of the Holy Spirit enables us to receive the power of the Holy Spirit to witness about Jesus.
- c)** The gifts of the Holy Spirit are: wisdom, revelation (words of knowledge), faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment of spirits, speaking in unknown languages, interpretation of what is spoken.
- d)** The fruit of the Holy Spirit is: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. This is Jesus' character.
- e)** The difference between gifts and fruit is that gifts are given by the Holy Spirit and fruit develops slowly as we yield to the Holy Spirit. People with many gifts might not have much fruit! The fruit, especially love, is the most important because we keep it for eternity (1 Corinthians 13:8-10 and 13).

Here is a sample prayer to help you ask and receive the Holy Spirit Baptism:

"Dear Lord Jesus, I believe and trust in You. Please baptise me with the Holy Spirit so that I can receive power to be a witness for You. By faith, I now receive the Holy Spirit and all the gifts of the Holy Spirit, including a new prayer language. Thank You Jesus. I pray this in Your name, Jesus. Amen"

Having prayed this prayer, open your mouth and speak out whatever comes forth. It will be your voice, your vocal organs, but as you yield to Him, His speech will come forth. As you take courage to speak, more of the Holy Spirit words will come.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 5: Laying on of hands

Purpose 1 is for blessing; every disciple can do this – for example, born-again Christian parents bless their children this way.

Purpose 2 is for healing; every disciple it commanded by Jesus do this.

Purpose 3 is for Baptism of the Holy Spirit where a Holy Spirit filled believer lays hands on another believer and they receive baptism in the Holy Spirit. However, some believers receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit directly from God, without anyone laying hands on them. All Holy Spirit baptised believers can be used to impart the Holy Spirit this way.

Purpose 4 of Laying on of Hands is for elders and those in authority to commission a Holy Spirit filled believer to do a job that God has called them to. Make sure the call is from God before they are commissioned. 1 Timothy 5:22 warns against being in a hurry to commission someone through the laying on of hands. Only people in the church with authority to commission others can do this.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 6: Resurrection of the dead

a) *Our dead bodies will be transformed into new resurrected bodies and we will be caught up in the air to meet Jesus as He comes back to earth from Heaven. Those believers who have died will be resurrected first and together with those who are still alive, all believers will meet Jesus in the air and be with Jesus forever. Those who do not believe and obey Jesus will be resurrected for eternal judgement.*

b) *Our new resurrected bodies will not be like our old bodies – they will be glorious, healthy ... totally different and yet somehow we will recognise each other! Immortal, imperishable and glorious.*

c) *If Jesus was not resurrected, then we will not be resurrected either. The marvellous news of the Gospel is that through Jesus, God has made a way for us to live with Him for eternity!*

ANSWER TO QUESTION 7: Eternal Judgement

a) *God has appointed Jesus to be the judge of each and every person.*

b) *Jesus will judge His believers. Those people who truly and sincerely accept Jesus as their Lord and saviour have their names written in the Lamb's (Jesus') Book of Life. Those whose names are in the Lamb's Book of Life will be with Jesus for eternity. Believers in Jesus will be judged but not condemned. They will be judged according to the good WORK they did that was prepared for them to do from the beginning of time. Any other work that they do will not be counted for eternity.*

- *Also whatever a believer does for the Gospel will count for eternity.*
- *Helping the poor will also count for a believer in eternity.*
- *A believer's character will last for eternity (fruit of the Holy Spirit).*

c) *Jesus will judge the gentile (non-Jewish) nations/peoples for the way in which they treated Israel and the Jewish people.*

d) *People who REFUSED TO ACCEPT JESUS as their Lord and saviour in this life will be judged and condemned because of their decision to reject Jesus. They will spend eternity away from Jesus in the lake of fire. This includes people who do not follow Jesus as well as hypocrites and false Christians.*

e) *Nobody knows when Jesus will return and when eternal judgement will take place. Even Jesus does not know this. It is God the Father alone who knows. We need to be ready. But before Jesus returns, the Good News about Jesus will be preached throughout the world so that all the nations and people groups will hear it.*

Developed from the teaching of Rev. Derek Prince, 'Laying the Foundations' and is used with permission from Derek Prince Ministries India.

For more in-depth teaching on the subject, listen to the CD set 'Laying the Foundations' or the book "Foundations for Christian Living" by Derek Prince (available in various languages). Also available through the Derek Prince App (can be downloaded onto a smart phone).