



# Celebration CHURCH

Celebration Church Adult Discipleship

## **Lesson 1 – Beyond the Elementary Teaching**

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## **Reasons for discipleship:**

### **Believers without knowledge will not survive the onslaught of evil in the last days.**

- MATTHEW 7:13, 14 (NLT) “You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.”
- Matthew 24:10-12 (NKJV) And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

### **Believers without knowledge may have enthusiasm but will remain fruitless.**

- Proverbs 19:2 (NLT) Enthusiasm without knowledge is no good; haste makes mistakes.

### **Believers without knowledge may have passion but do not look anything like Jesus.**

- 1 John 2:6 (ESV) Whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

### **Believers with knowledge are able to step into their royal priesthood.**

- 1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV) But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
- The priesthood of all believers is a call to ministry and service.
  - The most significant blessing is that there is no hierarchy of beings standing between the believer and God.
  - All believers have the Spirit of God and do the work of ministry.

*D. L. Moody was once approached by a stumbling drunk on the street who slurred, “Mr. Moody, I’m one of your converts.” To which Moody replied, “You must be, because you’re certainly not one of the Lord’s!”*

## **Earmarks of a mature believer:**

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

### **Mature believers love all other believers.**

- 1 John 4:20 (NLT) If someone says, “I love God,” but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?
- Luke 6:28 (NLT) Bless those who curse you; pray for those who hurt you.

### **Mature believers flesh out what they believe.**

- James 1:22 - 25 (NLT) But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

### **Mature believers will follow all of the Lord’s commandments.**

- John 15:10 (NLT) When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love.

### **Mature believers are humble.**

- Philippians 2:3 (NLT) Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.

### **Mature believers do not slander.**

- Proverbs 20:19 (ESV) Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets; therefore, do not associate with a simple babblers.

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## **Unpacking Hebrews 6:1 & 2 (NKJV)**

### **Repentance from Dead Works**

- Repentance is a change of attitude, mind and actions.

- In the Old Testament there is no such thing as dead works. You either have good works or bad works; there is only good and evil. But in the New Testament we have good works, evil works, and dead works.

### **Good Works**

- Godly works are deeds or actions that please God.
- Godly works do not earn our salvation. It's the proof of our salvation.
- Ephesians 2:8 (NIV) For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.
  - James 2:14 – 20 (NKJV) But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! 20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?
  - Galatians 5:22 – 23 (NKJV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control.

### **Evil Works (or Works of the Flesh)**

- Evil Works are actions that God does not accept. They are deeds that break His law.
  - Galatians 5:19 – 21 (NLT) “When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.”

### **Dead Works**

Dead works are deceitful; they appear good but are not.

### **Biblical Examples:**

- 2 Timothy 3:5 (NLT) They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!
- Matthew 7:22 – 23 (NLT) On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’
- 1 John 3:10 (NIV) This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God’s child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

### **Additional Examples:**

- **Offering tithes and offerings begrudgingly.**  
2 Corinthians 9:17 (NASB '95) just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
- **Works done without love towards God.**  
Revelations 2:2,4,5 (NIV) I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance...4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. 5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

In Heaven, or in the unseen realm, the lamp stand is symbolic of that church of Ephesus which met on the earth. Jesus said He walked in the midst of the lamp stands. This means that His presence was in the church. The church at Ephesus had lost their zeal for God and were only going through the motions of serving God. When a church loses its zeal for God, Jesus will remove His presence from that church. This can happen to any church and would be a terrible tragedy.

- **Works done without love towards people.**  
1 John 3:10 (NLT) So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil. Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God.
- **Works done to gain admiration.**  
Galatians 1:10 (NLT) Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant.  
Matthew 23:12 (NLT) And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and who humbles himself will be exalted.  
Phil. 2:7 (KJV) But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

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## Faith Towards God

- Hebrews 11:1 GNT To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see.
- There is a difference between saving faith (Eph. 2:8,9) and a gift of faith (1 Cor. 12:9).
- **Faith toward God** - Faith directed toward God the Father is not saving faith unless accompanied by faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. As a side note how often we hear people say when asked about their faith, "Sure, I believe in God" without mentioning God the Son specifically, the One Who is the sinner's

Substitute and provision for satisfactory standing in the sight of the Father Who demands perfection.

John 14:6 (NIV) Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

- **Faith that Jesus saves**

Ephesians 2:8 & 9 (NIV) For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not of works so that no one can boast.

- **Faith in the work of the Trinity.**

1 Peter 1:2 (NLT) God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus.

- **Faith that God is and that he is a rewarder.**

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV) And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

- **Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith.**

Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- **Everyone has a measure of faith.**

Romans 12:3 (NKJV) God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

## **Three ways to build your faith:**

### **Hearing the Word of God.**

Romans 10:17 (NKJV) "...faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God."

### **Believing the Word of God.**

Romans 10:9-10 (KJV) "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved"

### **Fleshing out the Word of God.**

James 2:17 - 18 (NKJV) "Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.... Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

## **Are there any scriptural principles you do not embrace?**

- His forgiveness?
  - Psalm 103:10 (NLT) He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve.
- His Faithfulness?
- His Love?
- Your relationships?
- Your vengeance?
- Your finances?
- Your fears?
- Your dreams?

Saving faith draws you close to the Lord.

Shallow faith opens up the risks of doubt, discouragement, and disobedience.

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# **Doctrine of Baptisms**

## **1st Baptism**

- The Holy Spirit baptizes believers into the Body of Christ.
- 1 Corinthians 12:13 (NLT) We have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.

## **2nd Baptism**

- Disciples baptized believers in water as a public testimony.
- Matthew 28:19 & 20 (NIV) Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

## **3rd Baptism**

- Jesus baptizes believers with Holy Spirit and fire.
- Luke 3:16 (NLT) John answered their questions by saying, “I baptize you with water; but someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
- Acts 8:14 - 17 (NLT) When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that the people of Samaria had accepted God’s message, they sent Peter and John there. 15 As soon as they arrived, they prayed for these new believers to receive the Holy Spirit. 16 The Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them, for they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then Peter and John laid their hands upon these believers, and they received the Holy Spirit.

### **Proof of Holy Spirit Baptism**

- Acts 1:8 (NLT) But you will receive POWER when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere— in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
- The only proof will be the fruit in your life.
- You will receive power to do something you could not do before.

**Take-a-way:** Each of the three baptisms change the trajectory of your life.