

## **12 Foundation Stones for Kingdom Living**

These 12 Foundation Stones are some of the elementary teachings about Christ and we are to constantly use them to train ourselves to grow in living the Christian life (Heb. 5:14-6:2). Others have been added as distinctive for this church and have come through prayer and fasting by intercessors of the Berlin Brethren Church. These are some of the foundational elements of our beliefs.

### **The Cornerstone—A Relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ**

John 17:3 *"Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."* Our identity in life is found in a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Each person must come to an understanding of who Christ is (Matt. 16:15-19) and desire to have a daily, growing relationship with Him. God desires that we draw near to Him so that He can come near to us and be with us (James 4:8). We enter into this relationship with Jesus Christ upon a personal confession of one's sin natured life (Rom. 3:22-24) and need for divine forgiveness declaring Jesus Christ as both Saviour and Lord (Rom. 10: 9, 10).

### **Repentance from acts that lead to death**

We must sincerely repent (turn back to God) from acts of sin only in a way that shows our complete obedience to and reliance upon God (2 Cor. 7:10, 11). True repentance is realized when we recognize our sin, we ask God's forgiveness, and an inner change of mind results in a change of our behavior. False repentance and worldly sorrow leads only to death. We cannot do anything to earn God's favor (Gal. 3:1-5). We are accepted through faith in Jesus Christ. We don't do things to be accepted by God, we do them because we know we are accepted by Him through faith in Jesus Christ.

### **Faith in God**

Faith is a gift from God (Eph. 2:8) and we need to grow and use the faith that we have been given by Him (Rom. 12:3). We shouldn't ask for more faith but, by exercising the faith that we do have God can see our faith in Him (Gal. 2: 20, 21). We trust that He will give us more faith as He knows we need. We live by righteousness consciousness, being constantly aware of our right standing with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Not a sin consciousness that is thinking of our tendency to fail or sin. (2 Cor. 13:5). We must be cautious how our emotions and mind work with our faith. We have no chance of obeying God in our own strength. We must have faith in God's strength in us, His Holy Spirit.

### **Instruction about baptisms**

Baptism in water—Believe and be baptized (Acts 2:36-41). Believers in Jesus Christ should be baptized in water as an act that shows their cleansing and forgiveness from sin and the beginning of a new life in Jesus Christ. This is an outward sign of an inward change in a believer's life. It is an event that a believer can look back upon in their faith journey as taking a stand with Jesus

Christ. This is an act of faith and obedience since Jesus Himself was baptized to fulfill all righteousness (John 3:13-15).

Baptism into the Body of Christ—1 Cor. 12:13 *“For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body...”* Our baptism shows we have moved from not only being a part of a family related by blood but, now we join a new family in the Spirit, Christ’s family, His Church.

Baptism of fire—The process in our life that Jesus guides us through to cleanse and purify one from the impurities of their living (Luke 3:16, 17). Jesus uses the trials in our life to have us roll away past hurtful habits and old ways of thinking that are contrary to God’s Word. Through this baptism we can grow in wisdom as we trust in God who sees us through our hardships (James 1:2-5). Understanding that trials in our life are used by the Lord to put His character in us can change our perspective in times of trial.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit—Those believing in Christ have received the Holy Spirit (John 20:21, 22, Rom. 8:9, 1 Cor. 3:16). But Jesus also promised His disciples the baptism of the Holy Spirit for filling of power in doing the work they are called to do (Acts 1:4, 5, 8, 12-14, 2:1-4). This baptism came to give them power to be effective witnesses to the world. We ask and receive by faith.

### **Laying on of hands**

The laying on of hands is for us to experience the Lord’s blessing and to be a blessing to others. Jesus imparted blessing. Mark 10:16 *“And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.”* The church exercises the laying on of hands to impart blessing, the Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts (Acts 8:14-17, 1 Cor. 12:7-10, Rom. 12:6-8), healing (Acts 9:17,18, Mark 6:56) and authority (Acts 6:5, 6, 13:2, 3).

### **Resurrection of the dead**

The hope of eternal life comes from faith and belief in Jesus Christ. All people who believe in Jesus Christ will rise after physical death to eternal life (John 5:21-30, 2 Cor. 5:8). All others will rise and be condemned, punished, and will be shut out from the presence of God (2 Thess. 1:8, 9).

### **Eternal Judgment**

2 Cor. 5:10 *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”* Each one of us will be judged by Christ based upon how we believed, lived, and what we have done (Rev. 20:11-15). Upon our physical death our eternal destiny is decided and cannot be changed (Luke 16:19-31).

### **Perseverance**

Disciples of Jesus Christ should be ready to persevere through the persecution of their faith. This painful pressure and difficulty may come from those close to us. It is through these times that one needs to persevere to be a witness of faith in Jesus Christ (Luke 21:12-19). We can gain hope and strength from knowing the scriptures (Rom. 15:4), know we are doing the will of God (Heb.

10:35-39), take courage knowing Jesus was persecuted for us (Heb. 12:1-3), and that perseverance will bring about maturing of our faith (James 1:3-5).

### **Forgiveness**

We confess our sins to God to receive His forgiveness and purification of our sin. (1John 1:9). We are to extend to others that very forgiveness that God has given us (Luke 6:37-40). We give this forgiveness based upon our desire to do so and not when we "feel like it" (Matt. 18:15-35). It is by the Holy Spirit, and not of ourselves, that we can truly bring forgiveness (John 20:21-23).

### **Non-offended mindset**

We are to have a mindset enabling us to be free of defending ourselves in a way that might cause us to offend or be offended (Eph. 4:26). Anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires in us. We must rid ourselves of that which gets in the way of our living out God's Word (James 1:19-27). Offense often comes before we realize that our thinking is wrong and needs to change. When we ask why we are offended, then we can see more clearly the truth. The church is to be a body of believers that works together in the Spirit not allowing things to divide us (Gal. 5:16-26).

### **Being a house of prayer**

God is holy and He calls us to be holy (1Peter 1:15, 16). Our lives must be changed and transformed from what they are to what they are to be in Him. In our life we must establish the fact that God is our creator and possessor. Therefore, we can pray with authority and intercede for others (Matt. 28:18-20). By our position in Jesus Christ we can pray authoritatively to change lives and the atmosphere around us for God's Kingdom (Eph. 1:18-2:7).

### **Healing**

God heals for His Kingdom purposes (Matt. 9:35) and it is His desire that all be healed (Matt. 8:16, 12:15). His healing is to make us whole and complete. This may come in a way as to bring restoration and strength to our body (physical), soul (mental and emotional), and spirit (spiritual) (John 7:23, Acts 3:16) to change and transform us. We need to keep and maintain our healing. Our sin can deny the healing power of God (1Peter 2:24) or demonic presence can cause sickness (Matt. 9:32, 33 17:14-21). God's healing gives us great encouragement to move deeper into God's Kingdom. Jesus' healing power is still available today (Heb. 13:8).