“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 hand, of the resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.”

What we need to know from this passage is that no one will ever make it to maturity without first understanding the elementary doctrine of Christ. If we cannot recognise the letter “a” in the English alphabet, we would not be able to pronounce all the words that containing an “a”. So, we can say that “a” is elementary, and without knowledge of it, we would not be proficient in the English language either in writing or in spoken English.

Without knowing and understanding the elementary principles of Christ, we will never go on to perfection / completeness / maturity, in Christ Yeshua. In other words, people would only be babes, mere men, and unspiritual in Christ and nothing more but Christ wants us to go on to maturity in Him.

The elementary principles (or doctrines) of Christ are the foundation on which our walk with Christ is built. Without this foundation, no one is going to stand upright in the Lord Yeshua.

There are six topics to consider in the elementary doctrine of Christ and they are:

1. Repentance from dead works
2. Faith towards God
3. Baptisms
4. Laying on of hands
5. Resurrection of the dead
6. Eternal judgment

Let us consider each one in more detail:

1 REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS

The Greek word for repentance is metanoeo. This means to have another mind. Not so much as to change one’s mind, but to actually have another mind. This is to be willing to OBEY the command of God. It is exactly the same thing you will be expected to do when you join the army. You will need to repent. Why? Because life in the army is totally different from the ordinary life you may be used to. The word, repentance, is not necessarily used in the army, nonetheless it is implied. If your parents have to plead with you before you do what they ask you to do for them, in the army, no one will plead with you. Instead, you will be expected to obey every command or else face some serious consequences.

All the people that have difficulties in living by faith in Yeshua haMashiach the Son of God, who gave Himself for us, have not truly repented. Either they have not truly understood what repentance means or they have not been told that they have to repent. To preach the gospel accurately, one must preach repentance. This is the first thing that the Lord Yeshua preached in His gospel.

“All that time Yeshua began to preach and to say, „Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand. “

Matthew 4:17.
This is because when you enter the Kingdom of God, you automatically come under the total authority of God. The only right response to authority in the Kingdom of God is OBEDIENCE AND HUMILITY. Our God demands obedience and humility not rebellion and pride.

Repentance is where everything starts for you in Christ Yeshua. If you get it right at the point of repentance and continue in it, you will get it right all the time. However, if you get it wrong at this point, you will get it wrong all the time. Unless you truly repent you cannot truly believe or have faith toward God and in His Son Yeshua Christ. Without repentance, you will not be mindful of the things of God. The only type of works you will produce will be dead works. Dead works are the things which you do for your own glory only and not for the glory of God – it’s simply doing your own thing.

In Isaiah chapter 55 verses 8 and 9, God said, “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.” What was God’s desire? He wanted the people of Israel to have the mind of God and to think like Him and walk in His ways.

“He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.” Isaiah 55:7.

However, in the New Testament, God has found for Himself believers in His Son Yeshua Christ who have the mind of Christ, the mind of God and have chosen to walk in God’s ways. It is only when you repent and have another mind that you are able to have the mind of Christ, the mind God. “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Yeshua…” Philippians 2:5.

The Kingdom of God is opposite to the kingdom of this world. Therefore, your mind has to be different because you will need to think very differently from the way you used to think in order to live in the Kingdom of God. You are an individual and as such, you have got used to thinking as an individual. In the Kingdom of God, God comes first and others come before you. In Matthew 6:10, the Lord Yeshua taught His disciples to pray and part of the prayer is this: “Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

You are not allowed by God to do your own thing or go your own way or have your own way. You are commanded to do the will of God. You are commanded to be obedient to God. It is when you take this on board that you have truly repented, and are ready to have faith toward God.

2 FAITH TOWARDS GOD

Faith towards God is preceded by repentance. No repentance, no faith toward God. It is written, “The just shall live by faith.” Habakkuk 2:4.

Whatever you do that pertains to living must be governed by faith, that is, by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

The Greek word for faith is pistis. It is defined as steadfastness, steady, faithfulness, unchanging, fixed, firmly, loyal, unswerving, constant. Faith is defined again as the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1.) This simply means that you take God at His word and do what God says steadfastly, faith-fully, constantly and unswervingly.

Faith is a military operation word. In the narrative when the Centurion’s servant who was sick and ready to die, the Lord healed the man because of the great faith of the Centurion when he said “But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, ‘Go, and he goes; and to another, ‘Come, and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this, and he does it.’”

Teaching on Elementary Doctrine of Christ Page 2
“When Yeshua heard these things, He marvelled at him, and turned to the crowd that followed Him and said, “I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!”

The centurion knew without doubt that the Lord Yeshua was under the authority of God His Father. As a result of being under authority of His Father, He was therefore in authority and whatever He commanded had to be obeyed. The servants of the centurion and all those placed under him by the authority of Rome knew who the centurion represented—Caesar. Whatever the centurion said was as though Caesar had said it and that was why they obeyed him explicitly. Disobedience to superior officers often resulted in execution of the rebel. In the Kingdom of God, it is God that deals with the rebellious and the pastors or the elder carry out God’s instructions against such person(s).

To be under authority is to be in authority. As you are commanded by higher authority to do what is commanded, so also you can command those under you to do what you have been commanded to command. The Lord Yeshua said, “For I have not spoken of My authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.” John 12:49 and 50.

Anyone who draws near to God has to speak the same language as God. Faith is the language of God and He Himself is faithful. God has given faith the privilege to reach out and touch God and to receive from God whatever is requested from God regardless of the scale and quantity. God never holds anything back from faith. Faith is the thing that pleases God all the time. Infact, it is impossible to please God without faith. Hebrews 11:6. The only way that love is communicated is through faith. God is love and He communicates to us by His faithful word. Infact, “Whatever is not from faith is sin” Romans 14:23.

Faith comes by hearing the word of God but you do not have this faith until you do what God says. However, God does not send everyone who preaches. To have faith towards God, one has to hear the word of God from someone God has sent to preach His word. The word of God must be preached accurately. Any inaccuracy or error preached will cease to be the word of God. Faith will never come by hearing an inaccurate or erroneous word. There are no errors or inaccuracies in the word of God. The preacher of the word must preach exactly what God has given him to preach. In the letter of Paul to the Galatians chapter 1 verses 8 and 9, Paul said “But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.” Unless you are saying what God is saying, you are not preaching the word of God.

For your faith to be toward God, it has to come from God. In Christ Yeshua are faith and love. 1 Timothy 1:14 and 2 Timothy 1:13.

“Looking unto Yeshua, the originator and the perfecter of our faith.” It is from faith to faith.”

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Faith has two sides to it:

God’s side and
Your side.

From God’s side faith is the substance because God has seen it already but from your side faith is what you hope for the evidence of things not seen. So when God tells you of the future, He has already seen the future. If you believe it, you will never doubt God again—why? Because God said

Teaching on Elementary Doctrine of Christ Page 3
“I Am God and there is no other like Me declaring the end from the beginning, from the ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand and I will do all My pleasure.”  That is, God sees the end from the beginning. (Isaiah 46: 9 and 10).

The word of God will not return to Him void but must accomplish that which God has purposed. The word of God goes forth from the mouth of God and when it is heard, it produces faith in the hearer. Your earnest desire is to hear the word of God, the truth, and having heard it, to do what God says. Faith toward God is totally based on what God says and not what you think He said.

It is in your own interest to make sure that what you are hearing is the word of God. If it is written, you live by it. If it is not written, you do not even think of it. Just drop it. Why? Because when one is born again, one has entered the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is different from the kingdom of this world. To enter the kingdom of this world, one has to be born into it by a woman, that is, what is born of flesh is flesh. To enter the Kingdom God one has to be born into it by the Holy Spirit. This is what it means to be born again. That is, what is born of the Spirit is spirit. As you have a mind set when in the world, so also you have to have another mind to be able to dwell in the Kingdom of God.

Can faith increase? The answer is “Yes”. Faith can increase. How? In order to answer this question let us go to Luke 17: 5 and 6.

“And the apostles said to the Lord, „Increase our faith.“ So the Lord said, „If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, „Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea, and it will obey you”

In Matthew 13: 31, “Another parable He put forth to them, saying: „The Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches”.

Faith as a mustard seed is the type of faith that the Lord wants us to have. This is the faith that has life in it and it will grow. Mustard seed has life in it to grow and multiply.

How would your faith to grow? By sowing the seed, that is, putting your faith to work. “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without the works is dead also.” James 2: 26. To sow the seed of faith is to yield your faith to God. This is to allow the word of God to mix with faith in your heart. This is simply to obey the word of God, do it and live by it and your faith will grow.

Can one have Faith for someone? You cannot have faith for someone else and no one can have faith for you. God has given to everyone a measure of faith. (Romans 12: 3). The next thing to do is let faith grow and live by it. In order for your faith to grow, you will inevitably make mistakes. By making mistakes, you have just learned how not to do something. All you need to do is to plan a strategy whereby you will not make the same mistake again. As you live in obedience to God, as a person under authority, everything else will obey you because you also are obeying the Lord. It is what you sow that you will also reap. What you put in is what you will get out as far as faith is concerned.

To have faith toward God is to obey God totally by doing what God has commanded.
3 THE DOCTRINE OF BAPTISMS

There are three baptisms relevant to us in the New Testament:

**The baptism of John for repentance and revelation of the Lord Yeshua to Israel.** Acts 19: 4 and John 1: 31

**The baptism to receive the forgiveness of sin for salvation in Christ Yeshua.** Acts 2: 38

**The baptism with the Holy Spirit by the Lord Yeshua.** John 1: 33

The baptisms we are concerned about here are the baptism in water in name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit into the name of Yeshua for salvation of our souls and the baptism with the Holy Spirit done by the only Baptiser with the Holy Spirit, The Lord Yeshua HaMashiach.

The baptism of John was to reveal The Lord Yeshua Christ to Israel. John 1: 31

It was also the baptism of repentance because the Kingdom of God was at hand.

The Greek word for baptism is baptizo. This means to consecrate by

1. pouring out on
2. putting into

All the baptisms in the Bible fall under these two applications. In studying these applications, it became very obvious that only the baptism with the Holy Spirit is the „pouring out on” applicable. In Joel 2: 28, God said, 

“And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;”

Also in Acts 11: 15 and 16 it says

“And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, „John baptised with water, you shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit.” So the word „baptised” referred to „pouring out on” of the Holy Spirit.

**BAPTISM IN WATER**

The words „putting into” is only applicable to baptism in water. In Acts 8: 38, in the narrative where Philip encountered the Ethiopian eunuch who went to Jerusalem to worship and was then on his way back to Ethiopia; after Philip preached the gospel to him, he believed in the Lord Yeshua.

“So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the Eunuch went down into the water and he baptised him. Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the Eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.” He would not have needed to go right into the water if it was only a case of pouring water onto his head. Everyone that John baptised, was put into the water in order to get them covered in water totally.

The greatest clarification to differentiate between these two types of baptism was given by the Lord Yeshua when He said,

“Most assuredly I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.” John 3: 5.

As soon as birth was mentioned, everything became very obvious. When a woman is pregnant, the baby in her womb is completely covered in water. When the water breaks the child is born. The Lord Yeshua
said that you must be born again. In other words you must get back inside the water and be covered with it again as at first when you were born by your mother. This time in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and be born again.

There is no other way to think about the baptism in water other than to put people under water in order to be covered by it. In the aforementioned narrative of the Ethiopian eunuch, the Spirit caught Philip away so that the Ethiopian eunuch saw him no more. This is very significant because Philip was not caught away after he finished preaching the good news of Yeshua to the Ethiopian eunuch. This is because the mission to preach the gospel did not end when he preached the gospel. To those who are sent to preach the gospel, as Philip was, the mission to preach the gospel ends when you baptise the people who believe the gospel. There are no ifs and buts in this matter. Yeshua Christ said,

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” Mark 16: 15 and 16. Again in John 3: 5. Yeshua answered,

“Most assuredly I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he can not enter the Kingdom of God.” The Lord Yehshua has made it very clear that baptism must be done and without it no one will enter the Kingdom of God.

The very popular question people like to ask is, “What about the thief on the cross? Was he born again?” The thief on the cross was not born again. Why? Because no one could be born again before the death and the resurrection of the Lord Yeshua as after the death and the resurrection of the Lord Yeshua it became possible for people to enter the Kingdom of God – to be born again.

The apostle Paul likened baptism to circumcision. In Genesis 17: 10 to 15, anyone who was not circumcised had no part in Israel, he was cut off from his people he has broken the covenant of God. A male child became a Jew and a member of the nation of Israel, through circumcision. So also through baptism, one is added to the body of Christ and becomes a member of the body of Christ. In Acts 2: 41 it says,

“Those who gladly received his word were baptised and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.” They were added after their baptism and not before they were baptised. If you do not understand what baptism means, it is better to go and pray about it and study it thoroughly before you start to say that it does not matter. If baptism matters to God enough to command it, it should matter to you. All those who do not believe that baptism saves and when shown in the scripture (1 Peter 3: 21) refused to accept it, are not sent by God to preach His gospel. Infact, they are unbelievers even though they have been born again. You can be born again and still be an unbeliever if you refused to believe the word of the Lord your God. In John 12: 44 to 50. Verse 48 says,

“He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him – the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.” This means that there are many things that the Lord Yeshua has spoken and every one of them is important to judge whoever does not believe. Rejection of the Lord Yeshua is rejection of any of His word which He has spoken.

In the scripture, God gave us a time scale for salvation. It is now! I.e. the same day when people hear the gospel is when they should believe and be baptised. That was what happened on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came to indwell all those who obeyed Yeshua. As soon as they believed Peter’s message, they went and were baptised that same day. They did not even know that they would be baptised on that same day, but as soon as they were commanded they did it that same day and not the following day, but that same day! May God help us to understand the purpose of His will. In Corinthians 6: 2, it says,

“Behold now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

Baptism in water is the same as running out of a house on fire before one gets destroyed in it. As far as salvation is concerned, time is of the essence. The sooner you get saved the better. The later you leave it, the more dangerous it becomes. If you believe in the Lord Yeshua but have not been baptised, you have...
not been born again and neither have you been saved nor have you any part in the body of Christ. If you believe in the Lord Yeshua, you will do what He commanded you to do. Should you die without being baptised, you will have to go to hell and subsequently, everlasting fire. You may think this is not love. The fact is to obey God is to love God. You may say, “But the word of God says, ‘For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.’” So all one has to do is just believe and one will be saved without being baptised.” It may all sound very good you, but not to God. The Lord Yeshua has already commanded you to be baptised in order to be saved. No baptism, no salvation. To believe in God is not exactly what He says. In Greek, the word to believe is the same as to adhere, to stick fast together. When the Lord Yeshua said that he who believes and is baptised will be saved, that is exactly what He meant. You and I should adhere to the Lord Yeshua and to His words to obey Him totally without any loose ends. If you say that you believe but are not baptised, then you have not believed. To believe in God is do exactly what God says. He who believes in the Lord Yeshua will do what the Lord Yeshua does and say what the Lord Yehshua says and obey the commands of the Lord. This is the evidence that God has given on behalf of those who believe in the Lord Yeshua.

What really happens when you are being baptised in water?

In the letter of Paul to the Colossians 2: 9 to 11, it says, “For in Him (the Lord Yeshua) dwells all the fullness of God bodily; and you are complete in Him who is the Head of all principality and power. In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sin of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism in which also you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raise Him from the dead.”

Being created in the image of God, we have spirit and soul. The spirit and soul are joined together and no one can tell them apart except the double edge sword of the spirit (Hebrews 4: 12 and 13). When we were born by our mothers, we inherited sin from Adam. It was our soul that was contaminated from conception and we were, therefore, born in sin. In order to be born again, of necessity is that we have to go back inside the water again in the name of the Father and on the Son and of the Holy Spirit. The last breath you took was in the kingdom of darkness. The new breath you will take will be in the Kingdom of God. So through baptism you are transfer from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of Light. It is after the burial that you can raise with Christ into the newness of life. We then start to live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.

What is the grace by which we are saved and what is the faith through which we are saved?

In Ephesians 2: 5, 6, 8 and 9 “even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raise us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Yeshua.” “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourself; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” Apostle Paul who was given revelation by God on the doctrine of Christ said something that will make, probably, all theologians cringe with horror, if they really knew what he was saying.

When it was said, “...Made us alive together with Christ...” apostle Paul immediately added, “by grace you have been saved” Comparing what has been said with a quotation from Romans 6: 3ff
“Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptised into Christ Yeshua were baptised into His death? Therefore were buried with Him through baptism into death, and just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

We came alive to walk in newness of life only after we were dead and buried. This is the importance of baptism without which you are neither dead nor buried and therefore cannot be raised into newness of life. Without baptism you cannot have newness of life. It is only through baptism in water we appropriate all what the Lord Yeshua has done for us and this is when God made us alive together with Christ. This is when the Holy Spirit baptises us into Christ Yeshua. Yeshua HaMashiach (Jesus Christ) does not baptise us into Himself, the Holy Spirit does. Also, the Holy Spirit does not baptise us with Himself, the Lord Yeshua does. The Lord Yeshua is the only One who baptises us with the Holy Spirit.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith.” The grace of God for the salvation of our souls is the baptism, which now saves us also, through faith, which is the actual going under the water in baptism according to the command of the Lord Yeshua. That is why baptism is a command and not an option. You have to be born of water and of the Spirit to enter the Kingdom of God. John 3: 5.

Baptism – the answer of a good conscience.

In the first letter of Peter chapter 3 verse 21, he says, “There is also an antitype which now saves us – baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Yeshua Christ.”

In the Scripture, whenever God or anyone calls someone, the answer is always “Here I am.” You will never hear anyone answer, “I am coming!” Or “I won’t be a minute.” Or “Just a sec.” They don’t exit in the Scripture. When you are called, your answer will certainly be, “Here I am.”

When God calls you in the kingdom of darkness to come to Him in His Kingdom of light, you must immediately present yourself in His Kingdom of light. The only way to do so, is by baptism and that will be your answer of a good conscience toward God. To tarry, linger, procrastinate etc is gross misunderstanding of what God expected of you. When God calls you, you answer Him NOW, not tomorrow or at your convenience. It is not in your power to choose when you will get baptised, when God calls you. It is God’s prerogative, and He decides when you are to be baptised. His decision is NOW. Why, because He expects you to answer Him immediate when He calls you. God expects you to drop everything and present yourself before Him in His Kingdom. This is your “Here I am.” Your immediate answer is immediate baptism. No negotiation or debate. It makes no difference whether it is in winter, spring, summer or autumn, in the sea, river, swimming pool, bath or horse trough. As long as you are completely covered in water, that is your answer of a good conscience toward God through the resurrection of Yeshua haMashiach. Baptism is the means by which we enter into Yeshua and into all He has done for us.

Yeshua died and in baptism, are baptised into His death. He was buried and in baptism, we are buried with Him into death. On the third day, Yeshua was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Again, no baptism, no newness of life.

One baptism

In the letter of Paul to the Ephesians 4: 4ff, it says, “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling: one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

However, in Hebrews 6: 2 it says, “of doctrine of baptisms…”

Teaching on Elementary Doctrine of Christ Page 8
In Ephesians 4: 4 to 6, it says there is only one baptism and in Hebrews 6:2, it talks about doctrine of baptisms. This is not a contradiction. You have to look at these passages in their contexts. The first passage is simply saying that there is only one baptism that brings you into salvation / that saves you and that, of course, is the baptism in water by total immersion in water. The other passage talks about the two types of baptisms that are of interest to us in the New Testament.

The baptism with the Holy Spirit does not save you. The baptism in water into the name of Yeshua does. You can be baptised with the Holy Spirit before or after your baptism in water. The important thing is that these two baptisms are not the same, they have two different functions and they are not interchangeable. One is for salvation (Baptism in water) and the other is for power to witness to Yeshua in word and deed (baptism with the Holy Spirit).

THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit of God is the Spirit of the Father and of the Son of God, Yeshua haMashiach. The Lord Yeshua haMashiach received from God the Father, the Holy Spirit whom He has poured out on us. Acts 2: 32 and 33

The Lord God promised all flesh His Spirit. Joel 2: 28. A great promise with a great fulfilment. The promise of God was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost. The Lord God is more eager to baptise all people with Holy Spirit than people are eager to receive the Holy Spirit.

The reason for giving us the Holy Spirit is to:

- Glorify the Lord Yeshua. John 16: 14
- To guide into all truth. John 16: 13
- To lead us. Romans 8: 14
- To declare to us the things of the Lord Yeshua. John 16: 14 and 15
- To intercede for the saints. Romans 8: 26
- To give us His gifts for the profit of all. 1Corinthians 12: 11
- To receive power to witness. Acts 1: 8
- To obey the Lord Yeshua. Acts 5: 32
- To enable us to speak with new tongues. Mark 16: 17 and Acts 2:1 to 4.
- To see visions. Joel 2: 28
- To dwell in us, that is, our body. 1 Corinthians 6: 19 and 2 Timothy 1: 14
- To transform our body to be the temple of the Holy Spirit. 2 Corinthians 6: 16
- To have communion / fellowship with us.
- To give us revelation from God, the Father and His Son. Ephesians 3: 5
- To seal us for the day of redemption. Ephesians 4: 30
- To give us love, joy and peace from which we bear the rest of the fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5: 5, 1 Thessalonians 1:6,
- To be a witness in us. Hebrew 10: 15
- To enable us to pray in the Holy Spirit. Jude : 20
- To renew us. Titus 3: 5
- To preach the gospel. 1 Peter 1: 12
This is the promise of God to all flesh hundreds of years before the day of Pentecost. In Joel 2: 28 to 32, “And it shall come pass afterward that I will pour our My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants, I will pour our My Spirit in those days.”

“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them, And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2:1 to 4.

The Lord Yeshua talked repeatedly about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit whom those believing in Him would receive. He was looking forward to go to His Father so that He could receive the Holy Spirit from His Father and pour Him out on us who would believe in Him. Acts 2: 33. In Acts of the Apostles 1: 8, Yeshua said, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

In Greek, the word to witness has two meanings

Martus, from which the word martyr was derived and Martureo, which is the giving of testimony

When believers receive power, they shall be martus, meaning that they will witness to Yeshua in word and deed, even unto death. They become unstoppable, fearless and totally devoted to Yeshua. Power (In Greek, is dunamis) that is the ability of the Holy Spirit to glorify the Lord Yeshua is mighty in destroying the works of the evil one.

In the first day of the week the disciples were gathered together behind shut doors for fear of the Jews, the Lord appeared to them. John 20: 19. They were comforted to say the least. Then in Luke 24: 49 He said to them, “Behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power (Greek; Dunamis) from on high.” He knew how they felt, like sheep among the wolves. However, He also knew that there was going to be a great difference as soon as they receive the power (Greek; Dunamis) when they receive the Holy Spirit.

For forty days He presented Himself to them through many infallible proofs, being seen by them and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. After that, He left them to go to His Father. Then they waited for the promise of the Father.

On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came from heaven upon the followers of the Lord Yeshua and they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Immediately, they were out in the open and began to preach the gospel without the fear of the Jews.

The first evidence of the presence of the Holy Spirit was the boldness to preach the gospel and to stand for the Lord Yeshua. Then they spoke in tongues and many people from fifteen nations heard praising God in their different languages which the apostles had never learned. Acts 2:5 to 13. The other immediate evidence of the presence of the Holy Spirit is the speaking in new tongue. In Mark 16: 17 the Lord Yeshua said, “And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;” In 1 Corinthians 14: 2 apostle Paul said, “For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.”

Teaching on Elementary Doctrine of Christ Page 10
On the day of Pentecost, no one laid hands on the apostles to receive the Holy Spirit. Nonetheless, they were baptised with the Holy Spirit by the Lord Yeshua who poured the Holy Spirit upon them according to the promise of God the Father. Also in the narrative of Peter’s invitation to Cornelius house, the Holy Spirit fell upon the people as upon the apostles on the day of Pentecost without the laying on of hands. It is clear from these two occasions that people can receive the Holy Spirit either by the Lord Yeshua pouring the Holy Spirit upon people or by the laying on of hands of those who have been baptised with the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament the Spirit of the Lord came upon some people for special works they had to do for the Lord God of Israel. In Exodus 35: 30 to 35, the Lord filled Bezalel with His Spirit for the work of the Tabernacle, to do all manner of intricate things. As for the prophets, the Lord God of Israel put His Spirit on them so that they can prophesy, dream dreams, see visions and work miracles. There was no mentioning of hands being laid to receive the Spirit.

4 LAYING ON OF HANDS

The principle of laying on of hands was first practiced in the Old Testament. When Jacob wanted to bless the children of Joseph, their father Joseph brought Manasseh and Ephraim forward. According to the narrative Joseph facing his father placed his first son Manasseh on his left hand side, which was on the right hand side of Jacob and Ephraim on his right hand side, which was on Jacob’s left hand side. All Jacob had to do was to stretch his right hand on the head of Manasseh for the blessing he had for him as the first son of Joseph. The right hand of Jacob for the blessing would have been for the first son Manasseh and the left hand for the blessing would have been for the younger son Ephraim. Jacob did something strange. He crossed his hands and guided them knowingly, placing his right hand on Ephraim’s head and his left hand on Manasseh’s head. Joseph was displeased because, his father had placed the younger child above his elder brother.

In this first occasion of laying on of hands, Jacob’s hands were instruments in transferring blessing to the lads from God as he has requested. This is a principle of God. Genesis 48: 13 to 16.

When an individual or the nation of Israel sinned, a male burnt offering from the herd was offered. In the case of the whole nation, a bull was offered. The important thing was that the man would put his hand on the head of the burnt offering while for the nation of Israel, the hands of the elders had to be laid on the bull. In both cases, the burnt offering was accepted on their behalf to make atonement for them. Leviticus 1: 3 and 4 and Leviticus 4: 13 to 15

In this second occasion of laying on of hands, sins were transferred from the sinner to the animal, the bull or the male animal from the herd. The animal was killed and the shedding of the blood of the animal atoned for the sin committed. “According to the law almost all things are purified with blood and without shedding of blood there is no remission.” Hebrews 9: 22

In the New Testament, the Lord Yeshua laid His hands on the little children and blessed them. Matthew 19: 13 to 15. The blessing of the Lord Yeshua was transferred to these children. The mothers of these children wanted them to receive blessing from the Lord and they did.

When hands are laid on people for blessing or for any other purpose which necessitates it, the physical touch becomes the channel through which whatever is to be transferred to the recipient is achieved. People can still be blessed without the laying on of hands. God blesses people directly without any hand laid on the recipient. However, when the Lord instructs us to lay hands on people, it is best to do just that.

Healings can be received by the laying on of hands. In Mark 16:18, the Lord said about those who believe in Him,
“...they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” As the Lord Yeshua has gone about healing the sick, people expected Him to lay hands on them for healing. The ruler who came to the Lord Yeshua in the narrative in Matthew 9: 18, said to Him, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live.”

The Lord Yeshua was the One who started healing by laying on of hands. It has since become a doctrine because He has taught His disciples to call on His name and lay hands on the sick and they will recover. Mark 16: 17. After calling the name of the Lord, we then proceed to lay hand on people. We have been given the power of attorney to call on the name of the Lord for whatever to be done according to the will of God.

Demon possession

It must be understood that the Lord Yeshua did not give us authority to lay hands on demon-possessed people. All we have to do is to cast out the demons and that must be by agreement of the demon-possessed person. We must not even attempt to cast out demons from people unless they are in agreement to do so. However, when the demons attacks us or move against us or are opposing us for one reason or the other or greatly annoy us, we don t need any agreement of the demon-possessed to cast the demons out of them, we just cast them out. This what apostle Paul did in Philippi to the woman possessed with the spirit of divination. Acts 16: 16 to 19.

In the Old Testament hands are laid on people also to set them apart for service, as it was the case Levites when the people of Israel had to lay hands on them. Numbers 8: 9, 10 and 11.

In the inauguration of Joshua as a successor to Moses I Numbers 27: 18 to 23, hands of Moses were laid on Joshua the son of Nun just as the Lord God of Israel had commanded Moses.

Ordaining of deacons

In the New Testament, deacons were ordained by the laying on of the hands of the apostles. Acts 6:6. In this case of laying on of hands, transfer of authority to perform a task(s) takes place. As a result, the people present will be well aware to recognise that deacons were people under the authority of the apostles. They must, therefore, be obeyed as the people obeyed the apostles.

Sending out the Missionaries (Apostles)

“Now in the church that was in Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers; Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up Herod the tetrarch and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, „Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them. Then, having fasted and prayed and laid hands on them, they sent them away. “ Acts 13: 1 to 3.

To receive the Holy Spirit and His gifts.

When the apostle Peter laid his hands of those who had believed on the Lord Yeshua in Samaria and have been baptised in water, they received the Holy Spirit. Acts 8: 14 to 17. The giving of the gifts can be by prophecy with the laying on of hands of the eldership  1 Timothy 4: 14.

Warning!

Because laying on of hands can work in two ways, i.e. transferring and receiving, you have to be careful about the person that lays hands on you and you have to be careful who you lay your hands on. Just as you can transfer blessing on people so also you could share in people’s wickedness simply by laying your hands on them. 1 Timothy 5: 22

Teaching on Elementary Doctrine of Christ  Page 12
4 RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

The Lord Yeshua said,
“\textit{I Am the resurrection and the life.  He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.  And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die….”}

Is there life after death?

The Lord Yeshua said to the Sadducees who did not believe in the resurrection of the dead,
“You are deceived, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.  For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.  But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, „I Am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God Jacob?  God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.  You are greatly mistaken.” Matthew 22: 29 – 32 and Mark12: 27.

There are those who believe that there is life after death.  There are those who do not believe there is life after death.  The former is right to believe what they believe but the former is wrong not to believe in life after death.  The only reason you need to have to believe in life after death is simply because God said so.  This is what faith is all about; to take God at His word and to do what He says without wavering or doubting but steadfast, immovable and faithful.

“So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Romans 10:17.

Without death, there will be no resurrection from the dead.  The Lord Yeshua came to die so the He could rise from the dead to become the first born from the dead and the Lord and the Judge of the living and the dead.  Until this took place, it would have been impossible to be born again or to rise from the dead.

When the Lord Yeshua made it known that there will be resurrection of the dead, everyone has the right to choose to believe it and hope for it or to choose not to believe it and therefore, not to hope for it.  However, according to the principle of the word of God, once the Lord has spoken, He will perform it so that those who believe may be rewarded and those who did not believe will be condemned.  This is why, “…He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.” 1 Peter 3: 19 and 20.  It was not the preaching to get them converted to Him, but a shocking reality of their error for not believing in Him and the inevitable consequence of the subsequent everlasting fire.

\textbf{There are two main types of death and there are two types of resurrection of the dead.}

The first type of death is the spiritual death.  This happened when Adam sinned against God and sin entered into the world through Adam.  Romans 5: 12.  We in turn inherited this sin at birth.  Sin and death work together  Infact, God said, \textit{“The soul who sins shall die.”} Ezekiel 18: 4 and 20.  Satan set up the whole humanity for destruction.  All those who partake of the first death that is all human kind were planned by Satan to experience the second death.  Jesus Christ who made possible for us to be delivered from this evil plan of the enemy of our souls by providing salvation for the human race prevented it.

\textit{Although all human beings partake of the first death (called simply death) “…for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God…”} however all those who are born again and living for God, will not experience the second death.

The other type of death is called the second death.  The sinister plan of Sin and Satan was to get the whole human race into hell and subsequently, everlasting fire.  The devil had the power of
death. Hebrews 2: 14 and 15. God knew that the devil will be defeated therefore; everlasting fire was prepared for him and his angels. Matthew 25: 41. The reason that Yeshua the Son of God came was to save us from going to hell and everlasting fire. It is Yeshua Hamashiach that now has the keys of hell and of death because He defeated Sin and Satan on the cross of Calvary and took away the sins of the world. Yeshua has now made it possible for us to be born again and to have our names written in the Book of Life. “And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.” Revelation 20: 11 to 15. This is the second death.

Between the first death (spiritual death) and the second death (everlasting fire) is the separation of the spirit and soul from the body, which the Lord Yeshua referred to as “sleep.” This is also referred to as death in the Bible. This is where the body is buried and dust return to dust while the spirit returns to God who gave it. The soul may either be in hell separated from the spirit if the person did not claim forgiveness of sin. Otherwise, the soul returns with the spirit to God because the person has claimed forgiveness of sin by being born again.

There are two types of resurrection of the dead:

The First Resurrection Of The Dead and
The Second Resurrection Of The Dead.

The First Resurrection Of The Dead.
In the book of Daniel it is found written, “And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life (first resurrection), and some to shame and everlasting contempt (second resurrection). Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.” Daniel 12: 2,3. The term “Second Resurrection” is not used in the Scriptures. If there is first then there must be the second. In Revelation 20:5 and 6 it says, “But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priest of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”

The first resurrection is for the righteous. These are those who will receive the crown of life from the Lord. As Paul said in 2 Tim 4 v 8

“Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

Paul also said, “Behold, I tell you a mystery, we shall not all sleep, but we shall be all changed – in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be saved. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, „Death is swallowed in victory. „Death, where is where in your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? 1 Corinthians 15: 50 to 55.

“Job said, “ For I know that my Redeemer lives, He shall stand at last on the earth; And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God, Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, How my heart yearns within me! And not another. ” Job 19: 25 to 27.
The first resurrection is for those who live for God totally, who have borne the fruit and much fruit of the Spirit. These are fellow workers with Christ who have been obedient, humble and willing in doing the will of God. This is what the Lord Yeshua said about such people;

“Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with a thousand years.” Revelation 20: 6

The First Resurrection

While the first resurrection will be for the believers in the Lord Yeshua, the second resurrection will be for the unbelievers who obviously disobeyed the Lord Yeshua. They will be raised to be condemned.

What will be the purpose of being raised up from the dead just to be condemned? This is because God will want those who did not believe in Him to actually experience what they never believed was possible. Having experienced it and know for certain that there is the resurrection of the dead they will know their sin for not having faith in God. God, being a righteous Judge will not condemn anyone until that one has been totally convicted of one’s sin.

Those who will partake of the first resurrection will miss the second death because they are born again. All those who will partake of the second resurrection will also experience the second death. The second resurrection is the resurrection of condemnation of those who made themselves enemies of God by their own will and choice.

5 ETERNAL JUDGMENT

Eternal judgment is the judgment of all judgments. This is the final judgment for all the living and the dead. This is the judgment that will either result in eternal life with Christ or eternal death (eternal separation from God) in the everlasting fire that was prepared for the devil and the angels. Matthew 25:41.

The suffering of the Lord Jesus Christ, His crucifixion, His death, His burial and subsequent resurrection from the dead, have full spiritual meaning. The Lord Yeshua has become the Lord of the living and the dead and the judge of the living and the dead.

“For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honour the Son just as they honour the Father. He who does not honour the Son does not honour Father who sent Him.” John 5:22, 23.

The resurrection of the Lord Yeshua is given by God as an assurance of the day of judgment. It makes no difference now whether you believe that there will be the day of judgment or not, the truth is that there is certainly going to be the day of judgment.

“Truly, these times of ignorance God has overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.” Acts 17: 30 and 31.

In the gospel according to John the Lord Yeshua said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.” John 5:24.
The desire of the Lord God is that none should perish but that all should pass from death to life. Everyone has the right to choose to pass from death to life or to pass from death to death. The gospel of Yeshua haMashiach (Jesus Christ) is the gospel of forgiveness of sins without which all will be under the condemnation of the wrath of God. However for those who have claimed forgiveness of sin and have lived by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord, they will not come under judgment but have passed from death to life.

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