

LAYING ON OF HANDS

The next area of the foundation is the laying on of hands. The laying on of hands not only focuses on the ceremonial laying on of hands, but more specifically the “realm” of personal ministry. Every believer is called to personal ministry. Personal ministry is an important part of personal growth and development.

Luke 4:40 says, *“When the sun was setting all that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him [Jesus] and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them.”* Jesus laid His hands on the sick to minister to them. It was a part of bringing healing to them. When I read these scriptures, particularly as a new believer, I would think, “What kind of magical power was at work that He could put His hands on somebody and heal them?” I still thought this after I got baptized in the Holy Spirit and learned about ministering to people. I was not taught much from a practical perspective. I was taught that you just lay hands on people, hoping that something will happen and they would somehow get healed or, believe hard enough to push this power out. The laying on of hands is a ceremonial action, just like water baptism and communion. It is not the ceremony that makes something happen or the fact that you have laid hands on somebody. But this does facilitate and create an opportunity for people to experience something as a result of what they believe in their heart.

Jesus never did miracles by His own power. It is very important that you understand this. The Bible teaches us that He was a man, full of the Holy Spirit, just like we are. When the Bible uses the word “full” (like full of the Holy Spirit), we tend to think of it as a quantitative measure. The terminology “full of the Holy Spirit” or “filled with the Holy Spirit” has more to do with *yielding* to the presence of the Holy Spirit than having more of the Holy Spirit. The Bible says, *“Be not drunk with wine wherein is excess but be filled with the Holy Spirit.”* When you get drunk with wine, you become intoxicated. You are yielding to the influence of alcohol. When you become full of the Holy Spirit, you are yielding to the influence of the Holy Spirit. It is not talking about having more of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was a man, full of the Holy Spirit. He was a man that yielded to the influence of the Holy Spirit and everything He did is completely

possible for us. We have the same power He had.

John 20:21 says that He breathed on them and said, *“Receive ye the Holy Spirit?”* He said, *“As the Father sent me, so I also send you.”* In other words, in the same way that the Father sent me, with the same commission, and with the same power, I am sending you. That power is the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said in John 14:12, *“He that believes on me the works that I do shall he do also and greater than these because I go to my Father.”* He was going to the Father to send the Holy Spirit.

Acts 10:38 tells us, *“God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power who went about doing good and went about healing all who were oppressed of the devil.”* Jesus had power because the Holy Spirit was upon Him. We have power because the Holy Spirit is upon us. The **same** power!

In Luke 10:8-9, Jesus sent His disciples out before they were born again. They did not have the Spirit in them, but even under the Old Covenant, the Spirit could come upon them. It says, *“When you enter into a town and are welcome, eat what is set before you, heal the sick who are there, and tell them the Kingdom of God is near you.”* When Jesus sent forth His disciples, He not only gave them power, but a commission to heal the sick. That was a part of their responsibility.

Mark 16:17-20 says, *“And these signs shall follow them that believe. In my name they shall cast out devils, they shall speak with new tongues, they shall take up the serpent, and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them, and they shall lay their hands on the sick and they shall recover. Then after the Lord had spoken unto them He was received up into heaven and sat on the right hand of God, and they went forth and preached everywhere and the Lord working with them and confirming the word with signs following.”* The Bible should be the interpreter of the Bible. The Bible says that no part of the scripture is given for private interpretation. In other words, I cannot interpret the Bible in light of my experience. I take this scripture and ask myself, “What else do I see in the Bible that makes me understand this scripture?” We saw in the book of Acts that people who believe in the name of Jesus could cast out devils. The first time I ever cast a devil out of anybody I had never seen it done, and did not have a clue how it was to be done. I just read it in the Bible. One night, a musician friend called me. A local musician in town had actually sold his soul to the

devil and they brought him to me for deliverance. All I knew was that the believers in the Bible could do it and Jesus said I could do it. That is how I learned to cast out devils. The Bible interpreted it, I saw it, and I knew that it was scriptural.

The Bible says, “They shall speak with new tongues.” We see this in the book of Acts. It also says, “They shall take up serpents.” We cannot make a private interpretation and decide that we are going to get everybody to handle snakes. The Bible example that we have of this is the Apostle Paul. He was on an island after he had been in prison. While gathering wood, a poisonous viper bit him. This was not some religious test of faith. It just bit him. But he believed God and it did not harm him.

A brown recluse spider once bit a good friend of mine. He came to church and told us that he had been bitten and was already starting to show signs of deterioration. The church laid hands on him and prayed for him. He got healed. I think this applies.

The Bible says, “*If they drink any deadly thing it shall not hurt them.*” Again, you do not see people doing this to test God. I think this falls under our provision of protection. When things happen to us we should believe God for protection. It is simple and is not something one should do to test God. It says, “*They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover.*” In the book of Acts we see the believers preaching the gospel and laying hands on the sick.

The Bible says signs follow believers. The punctuation in the King James was not in the original language. The writers of the King James Version of the Bible put the punctuation where they thought it should go. Sometimes it was good and sometimes it was not. I would have punctuated this differently. It says, “*These signs shall follow them that believe; in my name they shall cast out devils.*” Personally, I think the punctuation should have read like this: *These signs shall follow them that believe in my name; they shall cast out devils . . .* If you are a believer, then these signs can and should follow you. It did not say that you should follow the signs? It says that signs shall follow you. Mark 16 is a part of the Great Commission. This is what Jesus told the disciples to do when He left planet earth.

This does not work like magic. I do not have to have a special anointing to do this. There is no special anointing. Remember, everything God does is by grace through faith – **everything**. There is no other way. It is always going to be by grace

and faith.

Jesus told his disciples to do two things. He told them to preach the good news of the kingdom. Several years ago, when I would lead 100 people a year to the Lord one-on-one (I thought I was a hotshot.), the Lord spoke to me and said, “Son, if you would preach the gospel, you would really see results.” I argued with God and said, “What do you mean ‘preach the gospel?’ I am preaching the gospel. I do not know anyone who has led more people to Jesus than I.” The Lord just repeated it in my heart, “If you will just preach the gospel, you will really see results.” Finally, after I stopped arguing with God, I started praying and asking what He meant. I just prayed, meditated, and read the Word. The Lord spoke to my heart and said, “The gospel is good news.”

It is not good news to tell someone everything they did wrong to get into the trouble that they are in. It is not good news to tell someone who is already faltering that if they would just start doing right, pray hard enough and believe hard enough that they could get out of trouble.

I know a lady in New Orleans who went to her pastor about a problem. Her pastor, who was trying to be spiritual, said, “If you will fast and pray for three days, God will give you the victory over this.” She replied, “If I had enough self-control to fast and pray, I would not be in this trouble.”

Jesus said, “*I came to proclaim the year of jubilee.*” (Luke 4:18) (The King James Version says the acceptable year of the Lord). The Year of Jubilee was the year all debts were canceled. Every 50 years all debts were canceled and all of the land returned to the original landowners.

Let’s say there are two men in debtor’s prison. They are sitting side-by-side. One man was in debtor’s prison because there was sickness in his family. It took everything he had to buy medicine and to pay a doctor to try to keep his family alive. He lost everything he had. He went in debt, so he was sent to debtor’s prison. You can understand why that man is there and you can really look forward to and rejoice that his land is going to come back to him in the Year of Jubilee. The other man, in the same jail cell, is a drunkard, a thief, a gambler, a liar and a cheat. He squandered his inheritance and went deep in debt. They took everything away from him. Guess what? In the Year of Jubilee, both men are released from their debt. Whether they are there

deservedly or undeservedly, the debt is canceled.

The good news of the Kingdom of God is “the debt is canceled.” Jesus qualifies you to partake of the Kingdom of God. The good news is you are free from sin, God is for you and is not against you. Jesus purchased all of this for you. You do not have to make this work. Jesus is going to make this work for you. He also tells them to minister to the needs of the people. This is two-fold. Preach the good news of the Kingdom, then minister to the needs of the people. Remember Romans 10:17 says, *“Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.”* We know this is because they are hearing the good news – the Gospel of Peace.

There are only fourteen individual healings in Jesus’ entire ministry. When you read the four gospels, it sounds like a lot more than that because the same stories are told over and over. There are several cases where multitudes were healed, but only fourteen individual healings. If you study those fourteen cases, you will find that nine out of the fourteen times, the Bible specifically says it was “their faith” that brought the healing.

We have this idea that Jesus had magic hands because He was the Son of God, but **we** are sons of God. We have been adopted into the family of God. We are sons of God, just as much as Jesus. It was not that He had magic hands. He preached the gospel, the good news to them. They believed the truth and then He ministered healing to them. The Bible clearly states that the majority of miracles that happened under Jesus’ ministry were a result of their faith, not His faith. He shared the good news about the Kingdom of God. When they heard it and believed it, they were able to receive miracles.

The number one question in a person’s mind when they hear about a miracle is “Am I qualified?” People are struggling with whether or not they are qualified. That gets back to righteousness. You wonder, “Am I good enough? Do I qualify for this miracle?” The Bible says in the book of Colossians 1:12, *“Blessed be the Lord God, He has made us meet to be partakers and to share in the inheritance of light.”* That word “meet” means qualified. Colossians 1:12 says, *“Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the Kingdom of Light.”* You **are** qualified. You are qualified if you are in Jesus, if you believe on the Lord Jesus. We should always share the good news of faith righteousness and allow people to

believe. When they believe they are qualified in Jesus, they will be able to receive. Then you are not just having a ceremony of laying on of hands. You are laying hands on them because they believe.

The Bible tells us to lay hands on no man suddenly. Do not be quick to lay hands on anyone. When you go to the average church that preaches a message of healing, they beg people to come to the altar. When people believe it, you do not have to beg them to come, they come for ministry. When you have to beg them to come down, nothing much happens. Just the act of laying hands on someone will not make anything happen. Laying on of hands is just like praying for forgiveness, getting water baptized, and taking communion. In that moment, it is the believing in your heart that allows grace to come alive and empower you to walk in healing. You never lay hands on someone apart from first building faith in them. You build faith by preaching the good news about the Kingdom of God. The debt has been paid.

Philemon 6 (NIV), says, *“I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.”* Everyone benefits when you share your faith — the person who hears and you. However, if the other person does not benefit, you will benefit. If you are active in sharing your faith, you grow in the confidence of the good things you have in Jesus. You will benefit whether they do or not.

I have preached in places where the people’s hearts were so hard they rejected the word. Yet, I would leave encouraged and built up. I would sometimes have people traveling with me who would ask how I could take the rejection. I would say that I felt good. They may not have gotten anything, but I am reminded of who I am in Jesus. I am feeling better about God and me regardless of what they do. I want something good to happen, but I am going to get something out of it whether they do or not. We are not keeping score of how many points you can get because of the number of people who respond. Our job is to share. The response is between them and God.

When I share my faith it helps me to grasp the good things I have in Jesus. I do not believe I would have ever gotten healed from my kidney disease if I had not spent years praying for the sick and seeing it. I knew that the sick would get healed. When I was sick with my kidney disease, Brenda was giving me shots every four hours to keep me alive. Later, it decreased to every eight hours. If I did not take these shots, I would

die. I would preach this faith message, the good news that God is a healer. I would have people come and I would lay hands on the sick and they got healed. After the service was over I would excuse myself, go to the back room so Brenda could give me a shot to keep me alive. This does not make me a hypocrite. This just means that, at that moment, I am not able to receive what God has done for me.

I did not struggle with “Why?” or “What is wrong?” What is wrong does not matter. I just kept walking with God and I knew I was going to walk into healing. That was the approach I took and people sometimes got offended. They thought, “What kind of man are you? You are on medication.” Well, what kind of man would I be if I had stopped preaching the truth just because I was on medication? When I got the things established in my heart that needed to be established, I walked out of that sickness. I am convinced that one of the things that helped keep me from giving into that disease was the fact that I kept sharing my faith. I kept ministering.

The same thing applies to prosperity. When Brenda and I got married, if you look under poverty in the World Book Encyclopedia, they probably have our picture right beside the word. It was costing me \$125 a day just for medication. I did not have insurance. I missed six weeks of work the first year we were married sitting in a lawyer’s office with \$10,000 in legal fees. This was in addition to the \$125 a day for medication, and the hospital bills that continued mounting up. We were broke and it was getting worse every day. But we never stopped giving. The grace that made me able to give was a part of what made me able to receive and come out of that poverty.

If you quit, you alienate yourself from God’s resources. If you quit, you are the one who loses. You lose the knowledge of the good things you have in Jesus. Something stays alive in you when you give it away. Reciprocity is the law of the Kingdom of God. The way to the top is the bottom. The way to receive is to give. Share your faith!

Following are some ways you can share your faith. First, you can share Jesus with the lost. You may not be bold enough to do that yet, and that is all right. There are many other ways. Do not be like the man with one talent. Do not disqualify yourself because you are not a soul winner.

Another way to share your faith is to sponsor¹ a new believer. When you sponsor a new believer you have outlines like this that you take to that person’s house.

You sit down with them one-on-one and go through these outlines together. It is wonderful to have the opportunity to share with someone who is eager to hear. Another way that you can share your faith is to encourage a believer. When you see someone who is discouraged, they do not need you to pat them on the back and say, “You poor thing.” Agreeing with someone about how bad it is will not get him/her out of the situation. Encourage them and tell them what Jesus has done for you. Tell them where He has brought you from. Share your testimony.

Every believer should be able to share his/her testimony in three to five minutes. You should be able to share different aspects of your testimony. If God has brought you through something financially, you should be able to share how He brought you out of the financial trouble. If He has brought you out of depression, the fact that He saved you, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, you should be able to share it. You would be amazed how many people would receive help and encouragement if you share your testimony. Everyone should share his or her faith. One of the reasons we have so many spiritually dwarfed Christians is because they do not share their faith. You are a minister. We are all ministers under this New Covenant.

You are not required to lay hands on everyone to minister to them. The key thing about ministry is to follow-up with prayer. After we have shared with someone, we should either pray with them or ask them to pray. As people make decisions and call upon the Lord, they will experience the *sozo* of God. The Bible says that all who call upon the name of the Lord will be *sozo* (saved). Too often people hear the truth, but never act on it. Lay hands on people when it is appropriate, otherwise, allow them to pray or lead them in prayer. After sharing with someone, always give them an opportunity to receive ministry.

There will be times when you lay hands on people and times that you will not. You can lay hands on people when you are ministering to the sick, ordaining deacons, or leading them into the baptism in the Holy Spirit. You do not have to do it this way every time, but you can. In Acts 13:3 it talks about ordaining and sending forth ministry. Often, I hear people say, “Brother Jim, I am a minister. I am sent by God. I am not sent by a church.” Then you are not sent. Nobody is **just** sent by God. The local church sends people and launches people into the ministry. If you think that no

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one sent you but God, you need to read the Bible.

In I Timothy 4:4 it talks about stirring up spiritual gifts. I cannot give you a spiritual gift, but a spiritual gift can be stirred up in you or imparted by the Holy Ghost when someone lays hands on you. The ceremony only has value if there is faith.

The local church has a ceremony for the ordination of ministry. Like any ceremony, this becomes a time when we experience something from God because we believe and receive from Him. It is not the magic of the ceremony. No one can give you a gift, but we can facilitate and recognize what God is doing. I cannot put you in the ministry if God has not put you in the ministry. I can only acknowledge that I see this in you. I cannot give you a gift. A gift is an ability of, or grace of the Holy Spirit. I cannot give it, but I can acknowledge that I see it. I acknowledge the call of God on your life by laying on of hands. Through this, the Spirit of God may release a particular gift to empower you to fulfill your call.

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH

Class # 5

LAYING ON OF HANDS

Psalm 11:3, *"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"*

The next area of foundation is "laying on of hands." The laying on of hands not only focuses on the ceremonial laying on of hands, but more specifically the realm of personal ministry. Every believer is called to personal ministry. Personal ministry is an important part of personal growth and development.

Luke 4:40, *"Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them."*

Jesus _____ on the sick to minister to them and heal them.

Jesus never did _____ by His own power. He did all that He did as a _____ full of _____.

Acts 10:38, *"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."*

Jesus had power because the _____ was upon Him.

We have power because the Holy Spirit is _____.

Luke 10:8-9, *"When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. 9) Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.'" (NIV)*

When Jesus sent His disciples out, he gave them the power to _____.

Mark 16:17-20, *"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18) They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. 19) So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. 20) And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following."*

Signs follow _____.

Does that mean me? _____.

This was a part of the _____.

How could I possibly lay hands on the sick and expect them to recover?

Is this a special power that works like magic? _____

Is there a special anointing I must receive to do this? _____

Everything God does is by _____ through _____.

Jesus told His disciples to do two things:

Preach _____.

Minister _____.

Romans 10:17 _____ comes by _____ the Word.

In the majority of miracles that happened under Jesus ministry, the Bible clearly states that the miracle was the result of _____ faith, not _____ faith.

He shared the _____ news about the _____, when they heard it and believed it they were able to receive _____.

We should always share the good news, allow people to _____, then they will be able to _____.

Sharing Our faith

Philemon 6, "I pray that you may be active in _____, so that you will have a full understanding of _____ we have in Christ." (NIV)

Who benefits when I share my faith? _____

What does it help me grasp? _____

What are some ways I can share my faith?

Should everyone share his or her faith? _____

Are you a minister? _____

Do I lay hands on everyone I minister to? _____

The key thing about ministry is to follow up with prayer. After we have shared with a person we should either pray for them or ask them to pray. Too often, people hear the truth, but never act on that truth. When it is appropriate, we will lay hands on them, otherwise we will allow them to pray or lead them in prayer.

Romans 10:13, *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*

Special times for laying on of Hands

Mark 16:18 _____

Acts 6:6 _____

Acts 28:17 _____

Acts 13:3 _____

1 Timothy 4:4 _____

For the _____ of ministry this ceremony is done by the Local _____.

Like any ceremony, this becomes a time when we experience something from God because we believe and receive from Him. It is not the magic of the ceremony. No one can give a gift or a ministry to a person. We can only facilitate and recognize what God is doing.

RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD

The resurrection is the one and only thing that separates Christianity from all other religions of the world. Jesus rose again on the third day, just as He said He would. He did not go from Friday to Sunday. Jesus was crucified on Wednesday. You do not have to make a big deal out of that, but He was crucified on the day of Passover. He was in the grave Wednesday night, Thursday night, and Friday night. He arose on the Sabbath. He arose at six o'clock in the evening at the end of the Sabbath, the beginning of the first day of the week. In Jewish time, the beginning of the day would not have been Sunday morning, but at six o'clock on Saturday when the Sabbath ended. Their time clock goes from evening until evening, not from morning until morning. Again, that is not really important other than the fact that people, over the years, have said they did not understand that Jesus said He was going to be in the grave for three days and three nights. How could He have died on Friday and risen again on Sunday? He did not!

Matthew 17:23 says, “*They shall kill him and on the third day he shall be raised again, and they were exceeding sorry.*” The resurrection is the proof that Jesus is the Son of God. Romans 1:4 says, “*It is declared to be the Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by the resurrection from the dead.*” The fact that God raised Jesus from the dead is proof that we have eternal life. I Corinthians 6:14 says, “*And God has both raised up the Lord and will also raise up us by his own power.*” The fact that He raised Jesus is the proof and the hope we have that He will raise us also.

The Holy Spirit was given to us to guarantee eternal life and the resurrection from the dead. 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 says, “*Now it is God who makes both us and you to stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his spirit in our hearts as a deposit guaranteeing what is to come.*” When you buy a house, you pay a deposit or down payment. The deposit is your guarantee that you will pay the balance. God gave us His Spirit as a guarantee that we have eternal life and that we would be raised from the dead. This is why you grow in your confidence when you accept the baptism of the Holy Spirit. You recognize and experience the

deposit of the Holy Spirit. You recognize that your nature has changed. Allowing the gifts of the Holy Spirit to operate in your life continues to increase your awareness and confidence. Allowing God to manifest in more dramatic ways gives you an ever increasing assurance. This is your deposit, your guarantee. To the degree that you allow the Holy Spirit work in your life, that influences how sure you feel about God's guarantee. That assurance causes you to face eternity with complete peace and confidence.

People have always taught error about the resurrection. Even the Pharisees and Saducees were divided over the issue of resurrection. The Saducees did not believe in the resurrection. In 2 Timothy 2:17-18, Paul was writing to Timothy because of his error. It says, *"Their word will eat as doth a canker of whom Hymenaeus and Philetus who concerning the truth have erred saying that the resurrection is passed already and overthrow the faith of some."* This is an issue with which people have always struggled.

There are two basic deceptions about the resurrection from the dead. The first deception is that God will not raise *you* from the dead. In other words, you have missed the resurrection, you did not qualify, believing on Jesus was not enough. The second error is that the resurrection is passed, it has already taken place. Paul's logic is very simple . . . if God raised Jesus from the dead; He will raise me from the dead.

1 Corinthians 15:12-17 says, *"If it is preached that Christ has been risen from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead. If there is no resurrection of the dead then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is our faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God for we have testified about God that He raised Christ from the dead. But He did not raise Him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either, and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins."* This is where you start having value for the doctrine of the humanity of Jesus. He was God, but He emptied Himself. The Bible says in the book of Philippians that He emptied Himself and became like a man in every way. Jesus could not work a miracle apart from the Holy Spirit. He did not have the ability, because He became a man. Jesus could have sinned and gone to hell. He could have failed because He was a man, tempted like we

are. Jesus had no special power that we do not have. The only difference is He was not born a sinner.

We have been taught that having a sin nature is having an inherent desire to sin. I disagree. When I was a sinner, I had a deep desire to be godly, but could not do it. I did not have the ability to be godly.

The law of first reference is very important when interpreting scripture. This is when you go back to the first time something happened. When you consider when sin entered the human race, Adam did not want to commit adultery or get drunk. Adam still wanted God. The problem was he was afraid of God. Fear was the first thing that entered when sin entered.

I Personally believe that to have a sin nature is not having a nature that inherently craves sin, but to have a nature that is inherently fearful. Jesus was never afraid of God because He did not have a sin nature. When you were born again, you were not afraid of God. You were not afraid of God until you went to church and somebody taught you to be afraid. You learned to be afraid. When you were born again, you received a new spirit and a new heart. The problem is you did not renew your mind according to the New Covenant. You did not bring your thinking and belief in line with what God had done through Jesus. Therefore, you went back into fear. Fear makes you think you are not qualified. Only one thing overcomes fear, and that is love. To the degree you believe God loves you, will be the degree you overcome fear. Faith worketh by love.

Jesus was a man in all ways. He is the Captain of our salvation. That means that we will never do one thing that He did not do first. He not only did it, but He gave us His power to do the same thing. Jesus was a man who became a sinner on the cross. He died and went to hell. Jesus had to be born again in order to be raised from the dead. The Bible calls Him the “first born” of the dead. He had to be born into righteousness, and God raised Him up. It would be totally impossible for God to have raised Jesus up and not raised us also. Jesus was a man. You say, “Yeah, but He was the Son of God. We are also sons of God. We have been adopted. We have been born again. I understand that Jesus was the Son of God in an eternal sense that we are not. As far as standing before God, we stand before Him equal with Jesus. The Bible says in the book of 1 John, *“As He is, so are we now in this world.”* Paul is

saying, "Look, God raised Jesus from the dead and He is going to raise us from the dead." The resurrection cannot happen without us knowing.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 says, "*Behold I show a mystery. We shall not all sleep but we shall be changed. In a moment in the twinkling of an eye, at the last triumph, the trumpet will sound and we shall be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed.*" We will be resurrected one way or the other. We will be raised from the dead or transformed and transported from planet earth.

Every man will put on immortality. Every man will live forever. Some will live with God and some will live apart from God. But every man will live forever. There will not be a resurrection without everyone, wicked and righteous, participating in it.

Revelation 20:5-6, "*Yet the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished and this is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that has part in the first resurrection on such the second death has no power that shall be preached of God and of Christ and they shall reign with Him a thousand years.*" There will be two resurrections. One will be the resurrection of the righteous. We will rule and reign on planet earth with Jesus. Then, at the end of a thousand years, there will be a resurrection of the unrighteous. Everyone will be resurrected, and everyone will live forever. The difference is whether you live forever with God or apart from God.

The resurrection is not when God wakes us up from the sleep of death. The resurrection is when we receive our new, incorruptible bodies. Death is when the spirit leaves the body, but the spirit never sleeps. The spirit never dies. When you die, you do not go into a coffin and sleep until Jesus blows the trumpet to wake you. When you die, your spirit man, the real you (your spirit and soul), goes somewhere. The wicked goes to a place called Hades; the righteous to the presence of the Lord.

When you study the story of the rich man and Lazarus you find that, at that time, the abode of the dead was divided into two categories. Remember that it said there was a great gulf between them, and on one side was the bosom of Abraham and on the other was torment.

The Bible teaches that Jesus led captivities captive. All of the righteous who had died, up until that point in time, were led into the presence of God. When the wicked die, they go to Hades. They do not go to eternal Hell. When the righteous die, they go to the presence of God. In 2 Corinthians 5:8 Paul says, "*We are confident, I*

say, and willing rather, to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.”
when I am absent from this body, I am going to be present with the Lord. We do not have to fear that we are going to die and go into a sleep-like state. When a believer dies, he goes immediately into the presence of God. The resurrection is not when God wakes us up. The resurrection is when God rejoins our spirit and soul with a new, incorruptible body. The truth is everyone will live forever. They will live forever with God or apart from God, based on the choices and decisions that they have made.

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH
Class # 6
RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD

Psalm 11:3, *"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"*

The _____ is the one thing that separates Christianity from all other religions of the world.

Jesus rose from the dead on the _____ just as He said.

Matthew 17:23, *"And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again. And they were exceeding sorry."*

The resurrection is the proof that He is _____.

Romans 1:4, *"And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:"*

The fact that God raised Jesus from the dead is the _____ we have of eternal life.

1 Corinthians 6:14, *"And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power."*

The Holy Spirit was given to us as a deposit to _____ Eternal life.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22, *"Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come." (NIV)*

There have always been people who taught error about the resurrection.

2 Timothy 2:17-18 *"And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some."*

There are two basic deceptions about the resurrection:

1. God will not _____.
2. The resurrection is _____.

Paul's logic was simple. If God raised _____ from the dead; He will raise _____ from the dead.

1 Corinthians 15:12-17, *"But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead,*

how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.” (NIV)

Can the resurrection happen without me knowing it? _____.

1 Corinthians 15:51-51, “Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

Even if I don't _____ I will be _____.

Every mortal man will put on _____.

Every man will live _____.

Some will live _____ God; some will live _____ from God, but all will live forever.

Revelation 20:5-6 “But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.”

The resurrection is when we receive our _____ bodies.

What happens when someone dies? _____

Death is when the spirit _____.

James 2:26, “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

When the wicked dies he goes to a place called _____.

When the believer dies he _____.

2 Corinthians 5:8, “We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.”