

Five Minute Foundation Series



2. REPENTANCE and FAITH

In our first study we learnt that the foundation of our Christian life is built on God – He is our Rock.

If you were building a high-rise apartment, you would need to dig down deep to lay the foundations, removing the rubble and soil, until you reach bedrock. This is a picture of how foundations are laid in our lives. Everything that stands between us and God needs to be removed. This is called repentance.

Repentance is acknowledging we have sinned and asking God to forgive us. It means we are willing to turn away from sin and follow his way. God's grace enables us to repent. When we do this his Spirit moves in our lives, and he changes our heart. It's not enough to have a mental understanding. This is something we choose to do, and this experience changes us.

Hebrews 6:1 "Let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance and faith in God." The foundation is laid when we repent and put our faith in Christ to save us.

We saw in this verse that we don't need to keep laying the foundation of repentance again and again – we don't need to keep bringing up past sin, rather we are to believe God's promises. "If we confess our sin he is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." If you are struggling to believe you are forgiven, then read the promises of God. He is always true to his promises.

What if you do sin after becoming a Christian? This is what John wrote in his letter:-

1 John 2:1 "My dear children, I write this so you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ."

Jesus died to cover all our sin – for all time. Hallelujah! The provision has been made. So do we need to ask forgiveness again? Absolutely. You are still a child of God and loved by him, but sin can hinder your intimacy with him. Paul writes to believers in the church in Corinth and rebukes them as there was sin in their lives – divisions and immorality. Then he writes again and says, "I am glad that what I said led you to repent." Later this is what he said:-

2 Corinthians 7:10 "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death."

Many people feel sorry when they have done something wrong, but their lives don't change. When there is true repentance there is change. We are freed from the guilt and shame that sin brings, by the power of Christ working in us.

Repentance is a foundation in our Christian lives. Once we have repented and put our trust in Christ, we don't need to do that again and again. However repentance is also a key. It enables us to walk in freedom, so we can truly experience the peace and joy the Holy Spirit gives.

This is the message Jesus gave to the churches in the Book of Revelation, 'Repent ... so you will inherit all the promises ... and be overcomers.' Repentance, coupled with faith, is essential for our foundation, but it is also an important key. Let's use that key!