



Course Syllabus

Foundations of Faith

Course Instructor: Desirie Gaaney

Course Description

Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits.

Hebrews 6:1-3

Before we can “go on to perfection” in Christ, which is speaking of spiritual maturity, we must first know the “elementary principles of Christ” or have the “foundation” laid. The author of Hebrews is speaking to believers who had already been taught these elementary principles. They should have been ready to move on to other teachings, but they needed to hear these lessons repeated.

Our spiritual growth is stunted when we do not understand these foundational truths. God builds our spiritual understanding precept upon precept, meaning principle upon principle. It is a lot like learning math. We can't understand how to multiply if we don't understand the basic principles of addition. God wants us to have a solid foundation! Any master builder understands that if the foundation is faulty so is everything that is built upon it.

The author of Hebrews lists six foundational truths in these verses: repentance from dead works, faith toward God, baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection from the dead, and eternal judgment. We will touch on all these topics in this course, some in greater depths than others, in addition to some other foundational subjects.

The recipients of the book of Hebrews had the privilege of being taught these elementary principles of Christ; their spiritual immaturity was their own doing. However, sadly in today's typical church environment, many of these foundational truths are simply not taught to new believers at all. The lack of these basic teachings has resulted in many struggling to grow in their faith. There are certain nonnegotiable truths of the Christian faith that every believer should know, clearly understand, and be able to defend!



I have grown up in church, and have witnessed firsthand, the need for believers to hear these foundational doctrines taught. It breaks my heart that too often believers sit in churches for years at a time and never hear these teachings explained plainly. God has given us His Holy Spirit, to lead and guide us into all truth. While, I am eternally grateful for the lessons God has taught me over the years, I do wish someone had taught me many of these truths early on in my walk with the Lord.

It is my heart's desire and burden to see that everyone who participates in these studies has a solid foundation to build on! I look forward to taking this journey through these lessons with you and pray that you will be greatly encouraged and edified, and that your faith will be strengthened as we study together!

Love and grace,

Desirie Gainey

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Explain how the Bible came to be.
- Give examples of the overwhelming evidence that the Bible is, in fact, the Word of God.
- Explain the difference between biblical manuscripts and translations.
- Understand the basic principles of proper biblical interpretation, so that you can study the Scriptures on your own with confidence and understanding.
- Use various bible study resources to take your personal studying of the word of God to new depths.
- Understand and be able to share the truth of the Gospel, properly defining sin, repentance, faith, grace, and atonement.
- Explain justification, sanctification, and glorification.
- Defend and explain the deity and nature of Christ.
- Understand the personhood and manifestations of the Holy Spirit.
- Understand and defend the truth about the triune nature of the Godhead, the attributes of God, and the names of God given in Scripture.
- Understand how to pursue and cultivate an intimate relationship with God, and what it means to love Him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.
- Understand what it means to truly love your neighbor as yourself.
- Understand the different types of prayer and pray in power!



Course Methods

This is an online course. Each lesson will consist of the following:

- **Video Teaching**
Each lesson will include a one-hour long video teaching which is accessible via your student portal from either a computer or mobile device.
- **Lesson Study Guide**
Each lesson will include a printable study guide.
- **Additional Resources**
When applicable, I will also share links to various resources I recommend for further study.
- **Lesson Quiz**
At the end of each lesson, you can test your understanding of the lesson content with a lesson quiz.
- **Unit Quiz**
At the end of each unit there will be a unit quiz covering the content of the entire unit.
- **Final Exam**
Upon completion of the course material, there will be a final exam, and after passing the exam you will receive a Certificate of Completion.

You will also have access to an online community where you can fellowship with other students, ask questions, and participate in live video studies. You can also opt to add one on one mentorship sessions to the course and meet with the instructor after you complete each unit before moving on to the next one.

Course Outline

Unit One: The Living Word

1. The Inspiration of Scripture
2. The Continuity of Scripture
3. The Biblical Manuscripts
4. The Historic Accuracy of Scripture
5. The Prophetic Accuracy of Scripture
6. The Scientific Accuracy of Scripture
7. The Canon of Scripture
8. The Translation of Scripture
9. The Interpretation of Scripture
10. The Final Authority of Scripture



Unit Two: The Gospel

1. The Problem of Sin
 1. Man's Rebellion
 2. Free Will
 3. Original Sin
 4. The Judgement of Sin
2. The Need for Repentance
3. The Life of Faith
4. The Work of Grace
5. The Extremes of Legalism and Antinomianism
6. The Atonement of Christ
7. The Salvation of Man
 1. Justification
 2. Sanctification
 3. Glorification
8. The Baptism of Believers into Christ
9. The Baptism of the Spirit
10. The Kingdom of God

Unit Three: The Godhead

1. The Character of God
2. The Natural Attributes of God
3. The Deity of Christ
4. The Nature of the Son of Man
5. The Personhood of the Holy Spirit
6. The Works and Manifestations of the Spirit
7. The Triune Nature of God
8. The Names of God

Unit Four: The Pursuit of God

1. The Heart of David: Chasing God
2. The First Commandment
 1. With All Our Heart
 2. With All Our Soul
 3. With All Our Mind
 4. With All Our Strength
3. The Second Commandment
 1. The Overflow of Love
4. The Need for Discipleship - Pursuing Truth
5. The Cost of Discipleship - Living Truth
6. The Dangers of a Shallow Faith



7. The Rewarder of Those Who Diligently Seek Him
8. The Lull of Apathy
9. The Power of Passion with Purity
10. The Call to Arms

Unit Five: The Power of Prayer

1. The Privilege of Prayer
2. The Prayer of Supplication: “Be Anxious for Nothing”
3. The Prayer of Intercession: “Repairing the Breach”
4. The Prayer of Intimacy: “My Soul Longs for You”
5. The Power of Praying in the Spirit
6. The Reality of Spiritual Warfare
7. The Power of Persistence in Prayer
8. The Prayer of Faith