

Hebrews Chapter 5: 11-14

Back to Basics!

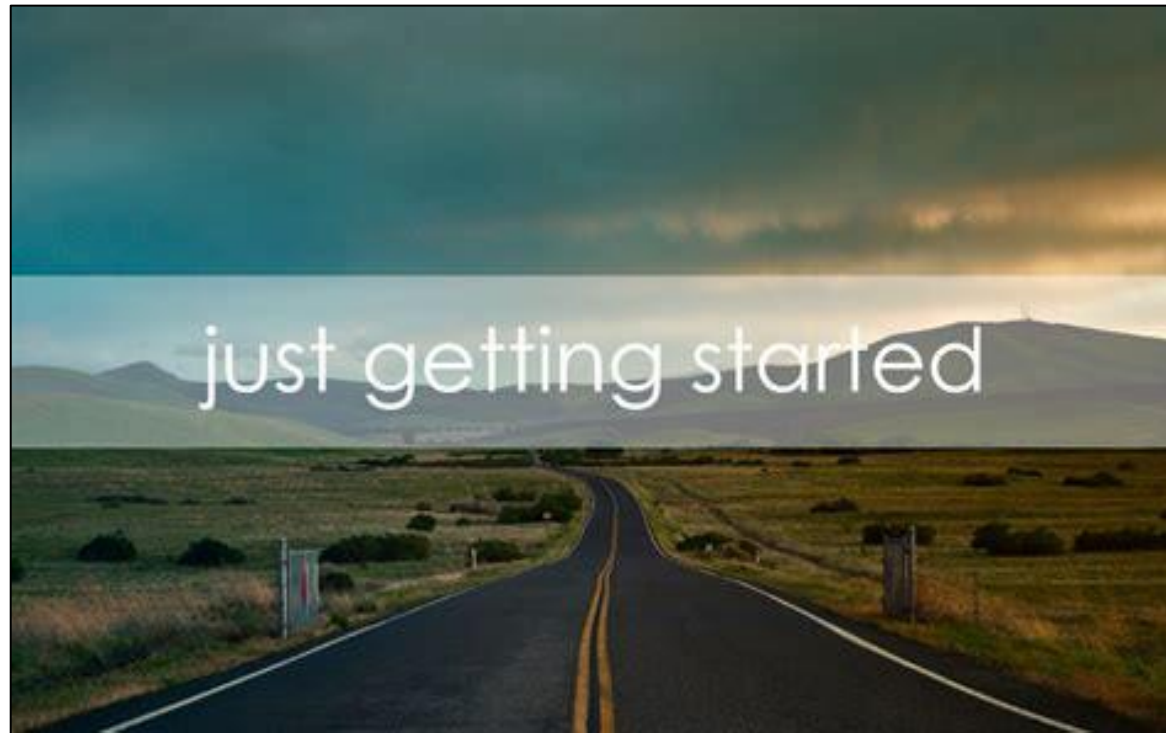
We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God`s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Hebrews Chapter 6 1-3

Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And God permitting, we will do so.

We have much to say about this,

“This” is about the priesthood and Melchizedek and
living for the Lord



We have much to say about this,
but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn.

You are making things difficult because you are 'slow to learn'



This is NOT about having special needs or being intelligent.
It's a spiritual thing.

you are slow to learn.

Why?

Not listening

Complacent

Not thinking it through

Not devoting time to it



In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers,

One of the objectives of learning is – to pass it on!



you need someone to teach you
the elementary truths of God`s word all over again.

Back to basics - Elementary truths ! (GOD`s WORD)

Cf. secondary schools - children problems – missing the 3Rs



The basics are BASIC for any further progress

You need milk, not solid food!

Baby growth example
A gentle rebuke?



Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant,
is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness.

Only babies should live on milk

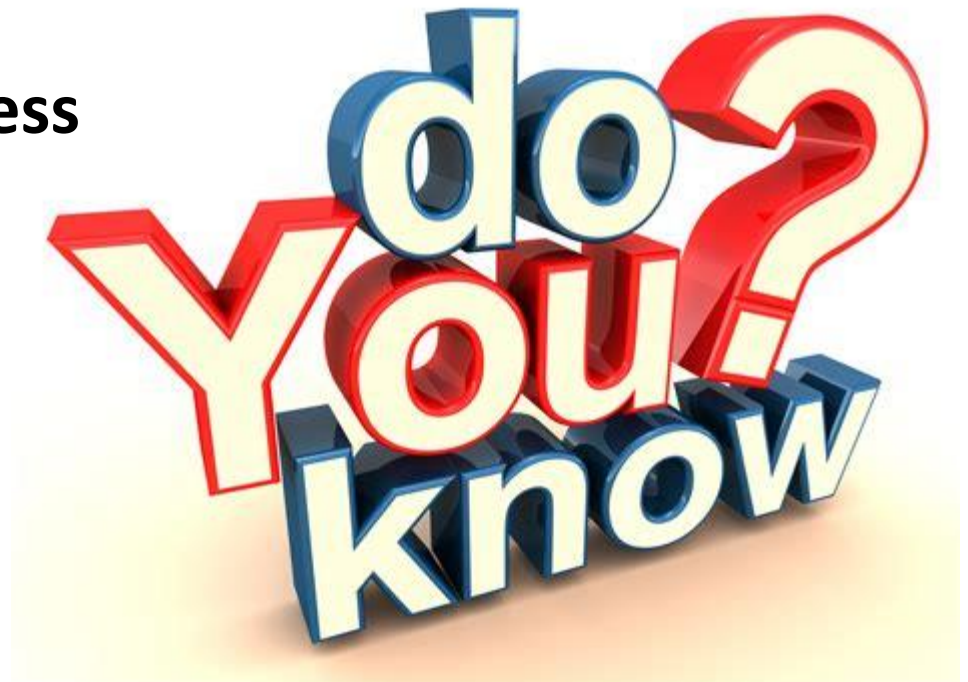
OK for babies but a time comes when you have to grow up

The Teaching about Righteousness

Right with God

Right understanding

Right behaviour



But solid food is for the mature,

Solid food - requires chewing – digesting = effort needed



But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Training in discernment - evil and good do exist

We need to distinguish them in order to choose the good

Isaiah 7:15 He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.



Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity,

Beyond the Basics!

They also had common links to basic Judaism

‘Leave’ does not mean ‘forget’ - i.e. move onto ‘deeper’ things



And that doesn't mean 'yoga' techniques

Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity,

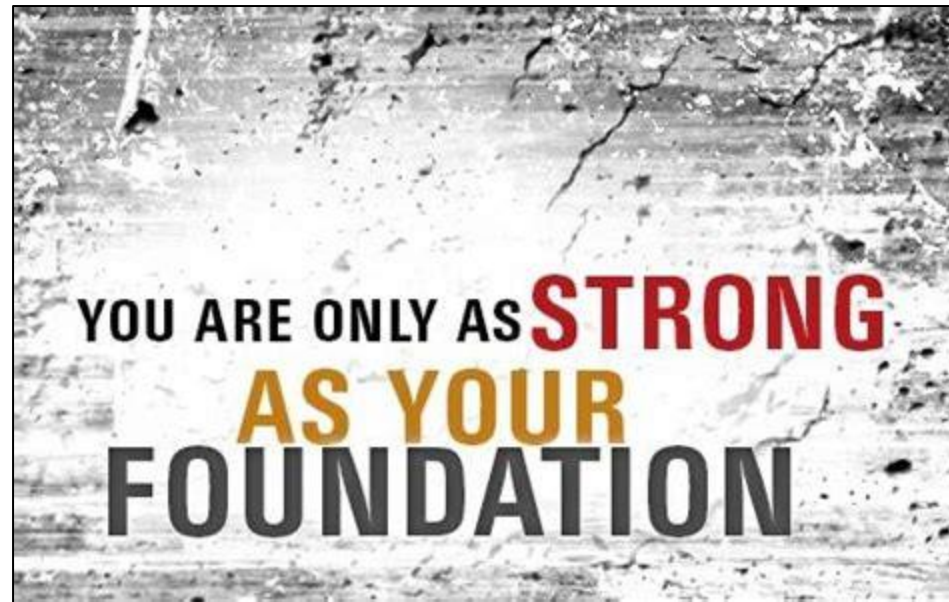
Eg. Elementary?

I guess a large number of professing Christians have no idea



not laying again the foundation

1 Corinthians 3:11 For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.



A Foundation is essential but there's more

The Elementary Teachings

repentance from acts that lead to death,

In Greek it means to “**Change your mind**”

See sin God’s way. Realise that :-

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death

In Hebrew it means to “**Turn back – return**”

The two ideas combine ‘thought’ and ‘action’

You are not just sorry – you don’t do it again!

The Elementary Teachings

and of **faith in God**

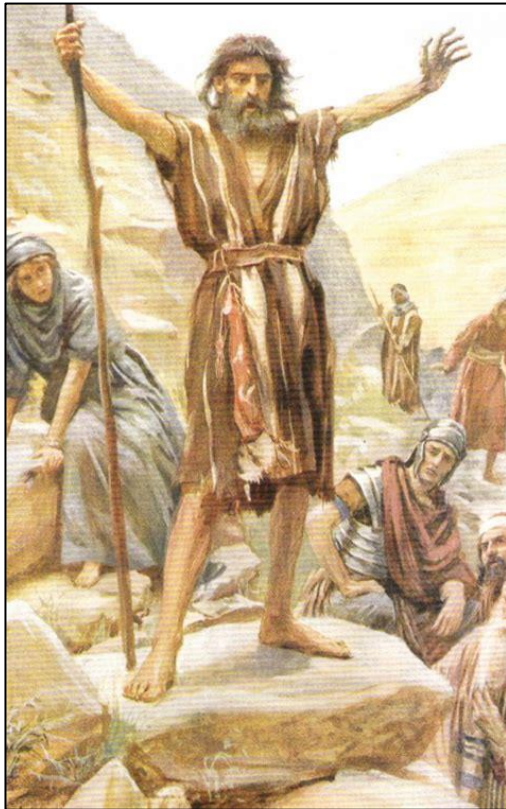
Faith isn't just believing the facts to be true
Biblical faith = that + trust

It's not just abstract (I believe) – It has a focus – on God
The one true living God
God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
I AM

The Elementary Teachings

instruction about **baptisms** (*washings*),

Notice the plural – 1, baptism of repentance



Matthew 3:1-2 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

The Elementary Teachings

2, Believers' baptism

Acts 19:1-5 And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

The Elementary Teachings

Believers' baptism

Acts 2:37-38 They said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins,

We are not saved by it –
cf. the thief on cross



Mark 16:16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved,
but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

The Elementary Teachings

Believers' baptism

It is symbolic of our Union with Christ –
his death, burial and resurrection

Romans 6:3-4 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

In the NAME - Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19)

The Elementary Teachings

3, Holy Spirit baptism

Acts 19:6 And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.

Cf. Acts 2:38 sequence and the contrast with Cornelius in Acts 10:47



The Elementary Teachings

Holy Spirit baptism

It is the introduction to the working of the Holy Spirit's gifts and power

Note:

The Holy Spirit dwells in all true believers



Romans 8:9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

The Elementary Teachings

Holy Spirit baptism

This is also an introduction to the filling (on-going work) of the Holy Spirit for challenging situations etc.

Act 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

Cf. Jesus' ministry – after his baptism, he ministered in the power of Holy Spirit (Spirit filled - led man) He is our example

The Elementary Teachings

the laying on of hands,

There are 2 aspects:-

Firstly – for the appointment of leaders

Both for the individual (anointing) and congregation recognition of their gift/call



Acts 13:2-3 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

The Elementary Teachings

the laying on of hands,

Secondly for ministry and healing

Acts 19:6 And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.

James 5:14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.



Note Jesus' personal ministry to the leper. Matthew 8:3 - he touched him

The Elementary Teachings

the resurrection of the dead,

First – Jesus

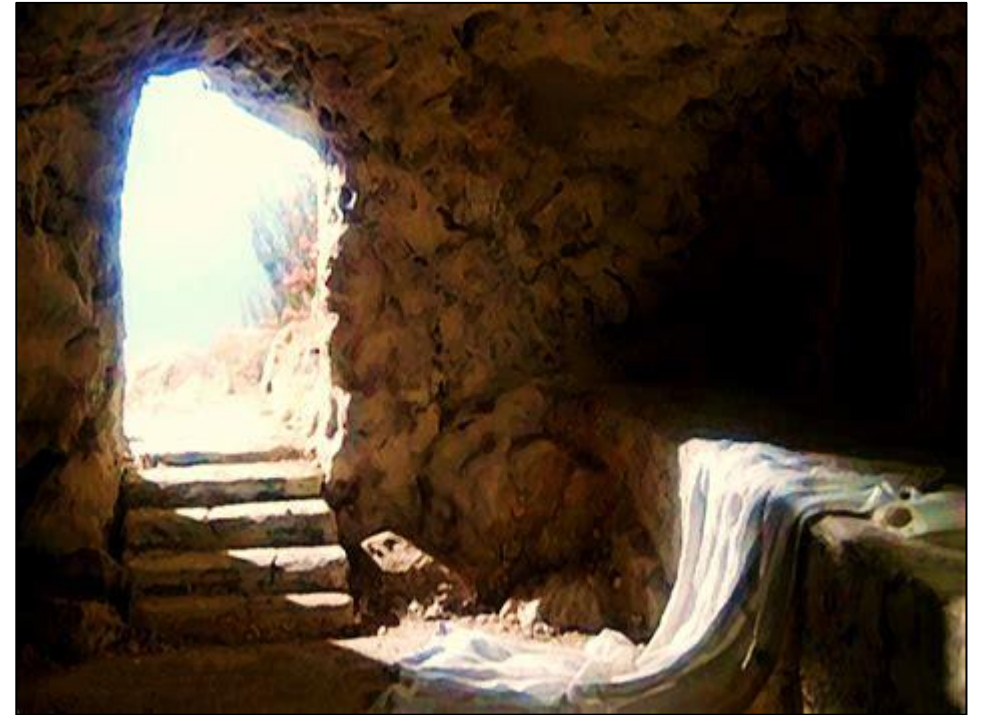
Fundamental to Christian salvation

1 Corinthians 15:17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

Real bodily resurrection from death

Resurrection body – same but different

Contrast Lazarus etc. in John 11



The Elementary Teachings

the resurrection of the dead,

The Lord's return – (the rapture)
For believers who sleep (bodies not spirits)

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.



The Elementary Teachings

the resurrection of the dead,

Daniel 12:2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.



Matthew 25

Revelation 20:11,13 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. ... And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done.

The Elementary Teachings

and eternal judgment.

Acts 17:30-31 The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Revelation 20:15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.



The Elementary Teachings

and eternal judgment.

Believers sins are covered –



2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

The Elementary Teachings

and eternal judgment.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.



The Verdict is Final forever

The Elementary Teachings

Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ



And God permitting, we will do so.

It is always subject to 'God willing'.

James 4:15 Instead you ought to say,
"If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."



We will move on to maturity