

# Foundations for Faith - Building Blocks

(All Bible verses are from the New International Version.)

## 1. What do we believe about the Bible?

We believe that the Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testaments, are the word of God and the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine, and conduct.

- *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.* 2 Timothy 3:16-17

## 2. Who is God?

God is personal, eternal Spirit, Creator of the universe, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father.

- *Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.* Psalm 90: 1-2

## 3. What is God's relationship to the world?

God created the world by his Word, sustains it by his power, and entrusts it to the care of human beings.

- *The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.* Psalm 24:1
- *By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.* Hebrews 11:3

## 4. What is meant by a covenant between God and his people?

A covenant between God and his people is an agreement in which God promises his care and faithfulness as his people respond in faithful obedience.

- *Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.* Deuteronomy 7:9

## 5. What is meant by God's faithfulness?

God's faithfulness means God loves and cares for us throughout all our lives, both in good times and bad times.

- *Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.* Lamentations 3:22-23

## 6. What is God's providence?

God's providence is the care by which He upholds all that He has created and guides all according to His wisdom.

- *Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?* Matthew 6:26

## 7. Who is Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ is the Son of God, fully human and fully divine, the promised Messiah who came into the world to redeem people from sin and establish his kingdom on earth.

- *"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."* Matthew 16:15-16

## 8. What is the kingdom of God?

The kingdom of God is the rule of God breaking into history through Jesus Christ, working in the world and expressed in the hearts and lives of his people.

- *"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"* Mark 1:15

**9. What did Jesus teach us concerning life in the kingdom of God?**

Jesus taught us that life in the kingdom of God means we are to live in a loving relationship with God, self, and others.

- *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.* Mark 12:30-31

**10. Who is the Holy Spirit?**

The Holy Spirit is God, everywhere present and powerful, working in us, in the church, and in the world.

- *When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.* John 15:26

**11. What does it mean to believe in the Trinity?**

To believe in the Trinity is to confess that God is one, and that he continually and personally makes himself known to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- *May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.* 2 Corinthians 13:14

**12. What is sin?**

Sin is all in thought, word, and deed that is contrary to the will of God.

- *If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.* James 4:17

**13. What are the results of sin?**

The results of sin are broken relationships, a weakening of ability to obey God, and finally, eternal separation from him.

- *But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.* Isaiah 59:2
- *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Romans 6:23

**14. What was accomplished by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ?**

By the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God conquered sin, death, and the devil, offering forgiveness for sin and assuring eternal life for those who follow Christ.

- *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.* John 3:16

**15. What is salvation?**

Salvation is the work of God through Christ by which God forgives us our sin, frees us from guilt, and restores us to a right relationship with him.

- *Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me, has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.* John 5:24

**16. What is meant by atonement?**

Atonement means the work of God in Jesus Christ by which we, being guilty, are justified; being enslaved to sin, are redeemed; being alienated from God, are reconciled; and being unholy, are sanctified.

- *But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.* Colossians 1:22

**17. What does the Bible teach about the final judgment?**

The Bible teaches, concerning the final judgment, that Christ the king and judge shall separate the righteous from the unrighteous. The righteous will live forever with God and his people, and the unrighteous will be separated forever from the presence of God.

- *Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out – those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.* John 5:28-29

**18. What does it mean to be a human being?**

To be a human being means to be created by God in his likeness, free and responsible in relation to God, the world, neighbor, and self.

- *Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.* Genesis 1:26-27

**19. What is the chief end of man?**

The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.

- *So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.* 1 Corinthians 10:31

**20. How does one become a Christian?**

A person becomes a Christian by trusting in what God has done through Christ's death on the cross and resurrection from the dead. This is God's gift received through repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

- *Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.* John 1:12-13

**21. How do we grow as Christians?**

We grow as Christians as we devote ourselves to the spiritual disciplines of corporate worship, participation in the sacraments, prayer, Bible study, service, stewardship, and Christian fellowship.

- *So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.* Colossians 2:6-7

**22. What is the Christian Church?**

The Christian Church is all who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and who are united in one body with Christ as head.

- *Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.* Ephesians 4:15-16

**23. What is the source of the Church's life?**

The life of the Church has its source in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is created and renewed by the Spirit and Word, the holy sacraments and prayer.

- *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.* Ephesians 3:20-21

**24. What is the purpose of the Church?**

The purpose of the Church is to glorify God, celebrate new life in Christ, build up one another in faith and love, proclaim and teach the gospel everywhere, and care for the needs of the world.

- *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.* 1 Peter 2:9

**25. What is the Christian hope?**

The Christian hope is the confident expectation of Christ's triumphant return when he will reign forever with his Church.

- *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.* 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

**26. Who are the prophets?**

The prophets are chosen by God to show nations and individuals their sin, to call them to obedience, and to present the hope of the Messiah.

- *The LORD said to me: "What they say is good. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name."*  
Deuteronomy 18:17-19

**27. What is a sacrament?**

A sacrament is a visible and outward sign of an invisible and spiritual grace. The sacraments commanded by Jesus Christ are baptism and the Lord's Supper.

- *Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.* Acts 2:41-42,

**28. What is the sacrament of the Lord's Supper?**

The Lord's Supper is the sacred use of the bread and the cup as commanded by Jesus Christ. At the Lord's Table, believers recognize his presence, remember his suffering, proclaim his death until he comes, and partake of him in faith.

- *For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.* 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

**29. What is the sacrament of baptism?**

Baptism is the sacred use of water, commanded by Jesus Christ, to signify God's cleansing of our sins and our welcome into the family of God.

- *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.* Matthew 28:19-20

**30. What is prayer?**

Prayer is an offering up of our desires to God, for things agreeable with His will, in the name of Jesus, along with the confession of our sins and thankful acknowledgement for His mercies.

- *In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.* Romans 8:26
- *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.* Philippians 4:6

**31. What standard has God given for our direction in prayer?**

The whole Word of God is of use to direct us in prayer; but the special rule of direction is that form of prayer that Christ taught His disciples, commonly called The Lord's Prayer.

- *This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one, for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."* Matthew 6: 9-13