

# DIAMOND INSTITUTE

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Year 1 – Winter Semester

Course – Growing up spiritually

Session 6

Pastor Robert Fisk

## SESSION 6 – FOUNDATIONS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

FOUNDATION 1 – Jesus

FOUNDATION 2 – Loving God AND your neighbor and yourself

FOUNDATION 3 – Knowing Father AND Son AND Holy Spirit

### FOUNDATION 4 – The number of the Gospels

The 4 Gospels are like the 4 faces of the angels in Ezekiel:

Matthew is like the face of the Lion – you always “so that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet .. “

Matthew represents Jesus being fulfilled as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

Mark is the shortest Gospel – it plows strait ahead to the crucifixion like an Ox.

Mark represents the face of the Ox.

Luke – Doctor Luke – Luke always gives us the perspective of how Jesus lived as a man – a God – man.

Luke represents the face of the Man.

John’s Gospel soars like the eagle. That’s why the Gideons and others recommend to the young Christian that they read the Gospel of John first 😊

John represents the face of the Eagle.

Pastor John Osteen (Joel’s Dad) recommended reading the Gospels 3 times in 30 days ... Pastor Osteen said, “When you read Matthew, Mark, Luke and John 3 times in 30 days, you will feel like you were THERE with the disciples .. THERE when Jesus fed the 5,000 .. THERE when He raised Lazarus from the dead.” I recommend getting the New Testament on cassette or CD so you can hear the New Testament OVER and OVER until there is nothing UNFAMILIAR to you in ALL of the New Testament.

### FOUNDATION 5 The number of “Ministry Gifts to Men’ – given so that you would grow and mature.

Eph 4:11-17 (NIV) It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in

the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. 14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 16 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.

Hearing JUST ME (Pastor) is NOT ENOUGH .. get into our library and borrow videos, cassettes, books, etc .. listen to the good ministries on TV, radio, internet .. get the 5 FOLD MINISTRIES working in your life .. THIS WAS THE SINGLE GREATEST METHOD OF GROWTH FOR ME and I believe this is a BIG reason why I stood when others fell!!!

**FOUNDATION 6 is the “Basic Doctrines Of Christ” – do YOU know them all? Can you quote them? Do you know the scripture that points them out?:**

Heb 6:1-2 (KJV) Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of 1) repentance from dead works, and of 2) faith toward God, of 3) the doctrine of baptisms, and of 4) laying on of hands, and of 5) resurrection of the dead, and of 6) eternal judgment.

1) REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS:

Here are some REALLY DEAD works that we as Christians should repent from:

Gal 5:19-21 (NIV) The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

John Wesley preached a great deal about “repenting” or “turning away” from sin.

Many churches and denominations preach this from their pulpits EVERY WEEK. Are they preaching truth? YES .. ONE sixth of the Basic Doctrines of Christ. Should WE preach “repentance from dead works”? YES .. we should ALSO preach the OTHER doctrines .. one more EXCELLENT verse to highlight REPENTENCE FROM DEAD WORKS:

2 Tim 2:19 NIV Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

There are churches and denominations that reject the teaching of “repentance from dead works”. They contend that there is MORE to our spiritual lives than repenting. True. However, repentance IS one of the “streams” of God and mature Christians need

to embrace this truth and learn how live MORAL LIVES. It will make the Church of Jesus Christ live MORALLY STRAIGHT.

## 2) FAITH TOWARD GOD:

This wonderful scripture REALLY defines faith towards God.

Heb 11:6 (KJV) But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe 1) that he IS, and 2) that he is a REWARDER of them that diligently seek him.

And THIS verse:

Matt 9:20-30 KJV 20 . . . behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment: 21 For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole. 22 But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour. 23 And when Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the minstrels and the people making a noise, 24 He said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn. 25 But when the people were put forth, he went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid arose. 26 And the fame hereof went abroad into all that land. 27 And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou Son of David, have mercy on us. 28 And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. 29 Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. 30 And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, See that no man know it.

There are churches and denominations that reject the teaching of “faith”. They contend that people have messed up concerning faith in God. True. However, faith IS one of the “streams” of God and mature Christians need to embrace this truth and learn how to PROPERLY use their faith in God. It will make the Church of Jesus Christ POWERFUL.

## 3) THE DOCTRINE OF BAPTISMS:

Notice Baptisms is plural :)

### a) The “baptism” into the Body of Christ -

1 Cor 12:13 (KJV) For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

### b) Baptism in water -

Acts 2:38 (NIV) Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

c) The Baptism of the Holy Spirit and Fire -

Matt 3:11-12 (KJV) I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: 12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

4) LAYING ON OF HANDS:

This basic doctrine is found RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE, yet many churches do NOT practice it.

a) Laying on of hands for ordination-

Acts 13:1-3 (KJV) Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. 3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

b) Laying on of hands to bestow gifts -

1 Tim 4:14 (NAS) Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed upon you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery.

c) Laying on of hands to receive the Holy Spirit -

Acts 8:18-19 (KJV) And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, 19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

d) Laying on of hands for healing –

What did Jesus say on the subject? The last 11 words of Jesus recorded in Mark 16:

Mark 16:18 – 20 KJV

. . . 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 everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

## 5) RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD:

Although Jesus' resurrection was the most VITAL, there have been MANY resurrections.

### a) ELISHA

II Ki 4:32-37 (NIV) When Elisha reached the house, there was the boy lying dead on his couch. 33 He went in, shut the door on the two of them and prayed to the LORD. 34 Then he got on the bed and lay upon the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched himself out upon him, the boy's body grew warm. 35 Elisha turned away and walked back and forth in the room and then got on the bed and stretched out upon him once more. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. 36 Elisha summoned Gehazi and said, "Call the Shunammite." And he did. When she came, he said, "Take your son." 37 She came in, fell at his feet and bowed to the ground. Then she took her son and went out.

### b) DEAD MAN THROWN ON ELISHA'S BONES

II Ki 13:20-21 (NIV) Elisha died and was buried. Now Moabite raiders used to enter the country every spring. 21 Once while some Israelites were burying a man, suddenly they saw a band of raiders; so they threw the man's body into Elisha's tomb. When the body touched Elisha's bones, the man came to life and stood up on his feet.

### c) JESUS RAISES JAIRUS' DAUGHTER

Mark 5:35-43 (NIV) While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher any more?" 36 Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, "Don't be afraid; just believe." 37 He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. 38 When they came to the home of the synagogue ruler, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. 39 He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." 40 But they laughed at him. After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. 41 He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). 42 Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. 43 He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

### d) JESUS RAISES LAZARUS

John 11:39-45 (NIV) 39 "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." 40 Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" 41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I

said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." 43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." 45 Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him.

#### e) PETER RAISES DORCAS

Acts 9:36-43 (NIV) 36 In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor. 37 About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. 38 Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!" 39 Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them. 40 Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. 41 He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called the believers and the widows and presented her to them alive. 42 This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. 43 Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.

#### f) PAUL RAISES EUTYICHUS

Acts 20:7-12 (NIV) On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight. 8 There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were meeting. 9 Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead. 10 Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "He's alive!" 11 Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left. 12 The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted.

#### g) RESURRECTION OF JESUS

Luke 24:1-9 (NIV) On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. 5 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 7 The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful

men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again." 8 Then they remembered his words. 9 When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others.

#### 6) ETERNAL JUDGMENT:

We need to preach "Hell Hot" - and judgment LONG.

There are churches and denominations that reject the teaching of "eternal judgment". They contend that God is TOO NICE to send anyone to hell. However, eternal judgment IS one of the "streams" of God and mature Christians need to embrace this truth and PREACH it from the pulpits of America. It will make the Church of Jesus Christ STRONG and there will be TRUE CONVERSIONS and there will be SALVATIONS will occur REGULARLY.

Rev 20:11-15 (NIV) Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.