



## SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

### FOUNDATION LEVEL – Lesson 1: Christ Our Foundation

The construction of any building starts with the foundations. I grew up in Africa where I was used to seeing construction workers digging deep trenches into which they poured in concrete and iron steel to make the foundations secure.

The Lord references this principle during His Sermon on the Mount.

*<sup>24</sup>"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: <sup>25</sup>and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.*

*<sup>26</sup>"But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: <sup>27</sup>and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." Matthew 7:24-26*

In this lesson we will examine Scriptures that make it clear that not only are we Christians likened to a building, Jesus Christ is presented as our foundation.

*Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes'?" Matthew 21:42*

*Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?  
1Cor 6:19*

The scriptures are replete with these types of building language for the life of the believer.

*<sup>9</sup>For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. <sup>10</sup>According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. <sup>11</sup>For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 1 Cor 3:9-11*



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Paul by inspiration of the Holy Spirit describes his ministry function as that of a master builder who helps to lay the foundation. Note that Paul is NOT the foundation, he just helps to lay it. This is a very very important principle which we will visit time and time again.

CHRIST IS OUR FOUNDATION and no one else can be that foundation.

*Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation,  
A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Isaiah 28:16*

This was a revelation to the Old Testament Prophet and which is repeated by the Apostle Peter as referencing Christ.

*<sup>4</sup> Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, <sup>5</sup> you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

*<sup>6</sup> Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame." 1Pet 2:4-6*

These scriptures are self explanatory to show the double principle of us being described as a building and Christ as the Foundation.

Upon This Rock!

*<sup>13</sup> When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"*

*<sup>14</sup> So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."*

*<sup>15</sup> He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"*

*<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*



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*17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not [a]prevail against it.*

Jesus declares prophetically that His Church will prevail against its enemies by being built upon THE ROCK. In a deliberate play on words, Jesus distinguishes between Peter ( petros; a small stone or small rock) and Petra, a large rock.

David in the old Testament aligns with this revelation in the Psalms:

*I will love You, O LORD, my strength.  
2 The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;  
My God, my [a]strength, in whom I will trust;  
My shield and the [b]horn of my salvation, my stronghold. Ps 18:1-2*

He is making it clear that God is his strength, rock and salvation amongst other things.

Again he repeats this theme in another psalm:

*Truly my soul silently waits for God;  
From Him comes my salvation.  
2 He only is my rock and my salvation;  
He is my [a]defense;  
I shall not be greatly moved.[b]  
3 How long will you attack a man?  
You shall be slain, all of you,  
Like a leaning wall and a tottering fence.  
4 They only consult to cast him down from his high position;  
They delight in lies;  
They bless with their mouth,  
But they curse inwardly. Selah  
5 My soul, wait silently for God alone,  
For my [c]expectation is from Him.  
6 He only is my rock and my salvation;  
He is my defense;*



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*I shall not be [d]moved.  
7 In God is my salvation and my glory;  
The rock of my strength,  
And my refuge, is in God.  
Psalm 62:1-7*

In these passages, we see rock and salvation intimately linked together and illustrate the point that Christ, God is our Rock and Salvation.

The process of salvation is illustrated with the way Peter came into the revelation of Christ.

1. Christ is presented to Peter and this is the confrontation. This can take many forms like the preaching of the Word of Salvation where a person is confronted with the Person of Christ.
2. There is a direct and personal revelation of Christ granted through the Spirit of God and the Father who draws sinners to Himself.
3. A personal receiving and acknowledgement of Christ
4. A public declaration of the Truth

The way someone gets Born Again or become a real Christian is a subject of much debate which we can revisit in a later stage of this School. At this level we will focus on the clear biblical instances where people have become Christians and use these to rightly divide the scriptures to give you a clear understanding of Salvation in Christ.

First let us examine the subject of salvation from the mouth of the Lord Himself.

*3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born [a]gain, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

*4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"*

*5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows*



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*where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

*<sup>9</sup> Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?"*

*<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? <sup>11</sup> Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man <sup>[b]</sup>who is in heaven. <sup>14</sup> And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,*

*<sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in Him should <sup>[c]</sup>not perish but have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*

*<sup>18</sup> "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God." John 3:3-21*



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### In Summary

- To enter God's Kingdom, you must be reborn
- The matter of being saved is a spiritual thing. It is of the spirit.
- Whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life
- This is a Love mission Of the Father who wants everyone to be saved.

These statements of Jesus corroborate with what John and Paul say in the passages below:

***<sup>12</sup> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the [e]right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:12-13***

***<sup>8</sup> But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): <sup>9</sup> that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Romans 10:8-10***

Let us look at some instances of people becoming Saved:

#### 1. Peter preaching on Day of Pentecost - Acts 2:38-42

***<sup>36</sup> "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."***

***<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"***

***<sup>38</sup> Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the [a]remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is to you and to your***



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*children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."*

*<sup>40</sup> And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this <sup>[b]</sup>perverse generation." <sup>41</sup> Then those who <sup>[c]</sup>gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. <sup>42</sup> And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' <sup>[d]</sup>doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

### 2. Pauls Damascus Road Experience – Acts 9:3-19

*<sup>3</sup> As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. <sup>4</sup> Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"*

*<sup>5</sup> And he said, "Who are You, Lord?"*

*Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>[a]</sup>It is hard for you to kick against the goads."*

*<sup>6</sup> So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?"*

*Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."*

*<sup>7</sup> And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. <sup>8</sup> Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.*

*<sup>10</sup> Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias."*

*And he said, "Here I am, Lord."*



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***11** So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. **12** And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight."*

***13** Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much <sup>[b]</sup>harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. **14** And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name."*

***15** But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children<sup>[c]</sup> of Israel. **16** For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."*

***17** And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord <sup>[d]</sup>Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." **18** Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.*

***19** So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.*

### 3. Peter Preaching at Cornelius House –Acts 10:42-48

***42** And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. **43** To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission<sup>[a]</sup> of sins."*

***44** While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. **45** And <sup>[b]</sup>those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. **46** For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.*





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*Then Peter answered, <sup>47</sup> "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" <sup>48</sup> And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.*

From these testimonies and salvation experiences we can deduce the following:

- The Word (Gospel of Christ) is preached
- Jesus Christ is presented literally or by preaching
- There is a change of mind (repentance)
- There is a believing and acceptance of the word
- There is a receiving of the Spirit of God
- In some cases the arrival of the Spirit is accompanied to manifestations (tongues)
- There is Baptism performed as soon as people accept Christ