



LEVEL 4

FOUNDATIONAL DOCTRINES

CLASS ONE: REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS

REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS

This is the first fundamental doctrine. Repentance is a complete change of mind for the better. It involves having a godly sorrow over sins committed and the eagerness to obtain God's pardon. Repentance means to stop what you are currently doing (the wrong) and turn to the opposite direction (the good). Repentance means to change one's mind or one's way of thinking.

Dead Works

Any religious act calculated to gain merit with God by human efforts is dead works. Worship can be dead work. Prayer can be dead work. Hymn singing can be dead work. Tithing can be dead work. Deeds of kindness can be dead work. Fasting can be dead work.

It is possible to turn any act of worship, devotion or service into a dead work. Any act which is not initiated by God is dead work. Dead works are acts of a man living in sin or acts of the person who has not surrendered his life to Christ yet.

There are two main categories of dead works:

1. The Life and Works of an Unbeliever

"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the Spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. 4 But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved" [**Ephesians 2:1–5**].

Sin is simply disobedience to the command of God. Because of the inherited nature from Adam, every man born into the world was an automatic enemy of God because he was born in sin and his acts were sinful and considered dead before the Lord. Even this man's good acts are filthy rags before the Lord. The fate of man was hellfire unless he finds a way of escape. This way of escape is first of all repentance through Christ.

Our works cannot save us, or make us worthy of God. Man cannot be saved by his good deeds, but salvation comes through Jesus and His precious blood that was shed for us. "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast" [**Ephesians 2:8–9**]. Repentance from dead works means we stop trying to be saved by looking for favour from God through our works, but we realize that these things are obtained by faith. We must understand that we are made right with God only through faith and this is solely God's doing.



2. The Life and Works of a Believer Done Without Faith

"But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin" [**Romans 14:23**]. We must be careful as believers not to do any works thinking those works would save us or give us right standing with God. We are saved solely by our faith. We must not begin to trust in our works after we are saved, thinking that those things can now save us. We must do all things having faith in God and not in ourselves or the things we do. A Christian must continually repent from dead works.