

Hebrews 6:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

Analysis

The call to 'go on to maturity' (Greek 'phero epi tēn teleiotēta') doesn't mean abandoning basics but building on them. The foundation includes 'repentance from dead works' (works that don't produce life) and 'faith toward God' - the two fundamental responses to the gospel. Reformed theology sees these as inseparable: true repentance flows from faith, and true faith produces repentance. These aren't earning merit but responding to grace.

Historical Context

These basics likely formed the core of early Christian catechesis. The author assumes readers have been taught these fundamentals and should now advance to deeper understanding of Christ's priesthood and the New Covenant.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do repentance and faith continue throughout the Christian life, not just at conversion?
2. What 'dead works' might you still rely on instead of resting in Christ's finished work?

Interlinear Text

Διὸ	ἀφέντες	τὸν	τῆς	ἀρχῆς	τοῦ	Χριστοῦ
Therefore	leaving			the principles		of Christ
G1352	G863	G3588	G3588	G746	G3588	G5547
λόγον	ἐπὶ	τὴν	τελειότητα	φέρωμεθα	μὴ	πάλιν
of the doctrine	toward		perfection	let us go on	not	again
G3056	G1909	G3588	G5047	G5342	G3361	G3825
θεμέλιον	καταβαλλόμενοι	μετανοίας	ἀπὸ	νεκρῶν	ἔργων	
the foundation	laying	of repentance	from	dead	works	
G2310	G2598	G3341	G575	G3498	G2041	
καὶ	πίστεως	ἐπὶ	θεόν			
and	of faith	toward	God			
G2532	G4102	G1909	G2316			

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 9:14 (References Christ): How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

2 Corinthians 7:1 (References God): Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Hebrews 12:13 (Parallel theme): And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

Acts 26:20 (Repentance): But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

Matthew 21:32 (Faith): For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.

Hebrews 7:11 (Parallel theme): If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?

Ephesians 4:12 (References Christ): For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Matthew 3:2 (Repentance): And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

John 12:44 (Faith): Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me.

John 5:24 (Faith): Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.