

LESSON 05

Foundations Curriculum

A Framework: Door, Path, and Goal

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Introduction

A Framework: Door, Path, and Goal

In this fifth lesson of the Foundations Curriculum, we will revisit the foundational content for teaching and grounding. This lesson is the last broad overview of the general teaching. In the lessons that follow, more specific topics will be addressed.

1) The Teaching Framework: Door, Path, and Goal

Historically, we have built our teaching framework around three pillars. Naturally, over the years the Lord has added biblical knowledge, understanding, and revelation to each of these points. Even so, we have chosen to maintain the same didactic structure, summarized below.

The Door: what we call “the door,” within this framework, is the body of teachings that mark the beginning of life with God — the starting teachings, so to speak. We believe that just as the church began with the elements of teaching found in Acts 2, a disciple’s life must also begin this way. Accordingly, the aspects addressed in Acts 2 — such as the life and work of Jesus and the essential elements necessary for entering the kingdom of God — will be covered here.

The Path: contained here are all the teachings we need to know and live in order to reach the goal — everything that pertains to the practical day-to-day life of a disciple. We address topics such as family, character, relationship with God, the church, gifts and service, and so on.

The Goal: here we address God’s purpose. What is God’s goal for each of us? Where do we want to arrive through all of these teachings? First and foremost, we need to know that we were created to be the family of God, the bride of the Son, and the temple of the Holy Spirit. We were created to be holy and blameless before Him in love.

It is necessary to clarify something important about “the goal.”

God created man complete and ready for His purpose — not as a rough draft to be developed. Man’s sin destroyed the likeness to God and rendered him useless for that purpose. Salvation is the totality of God’s actions to rescue lost man and restore to him the capacity to fulfill his eternal purpose. Salvation, therefore, is not God’s purpose, but is the wonderful work of God that made

a new creation possible — taking lives that were lost in the old creation, corrupted by sin. The power to rescue them from perdition and bring them into a new family is part of the purpose.

2) Teachings About Jesus to Be Addressed in Future Lessons

- 01 Deity (Jesus is God);
 - 02 Pre-existence (Jesus always existed);
 - 03 Incarnation (Jesus became man);
 - 04 Jesus is the promised Messiah;
 - 05 The perfect and blameless life of Jesus;
 - 06 The tremendous and glorious work of Jesus;
 - 07 Jesus is our model worker;
 - 08 What did Jesus teach?
 - 09 The Gospel that Jesus preached (the Gospel of the Kingdom);
 - 10 What a disciple is, according to Jesus;
 - 11 Jesus applied the Kingdom;
 - 12 Jesus died on the cross;
 - 13 Jesus descended into Hades;
 - 14 Jesus rose from the dead;
 - 15 Jesus was exalted;
 - 16 The life of Jesus after His exaltation;
 - 17 The return of Jesus.
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3) The Door

The elements of the door, consistent with the pattern of Acts 2, are:

- 01 Faith;
 - 02 Brokenheartedness and conviction of sin;
 - 03 Repentance;
 - 04 Baptism in Christ;
 - 05 The gift of the Holy Spirit.
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4) The Path (How to Reach the Goal?)

We will not subdivide these topics here, as they will be the subjects of the majority of the lessons.

5) The Goal

God's purpose encompasses the entire Trinity.

Once God's intervention through Jesus is established, we see that His purpose extends to the entire Trinity. God is one in three persons.

- 1) The Father desires a family of children who resemble Jesus.
- 2) The Son desires a bride whose heart says "come."
- 3) The Holy Spirit desires a building as His eternal dwelling.

Important:

- 1) To fulfill the purpose, each of us individually must become conformed to the likeness of Jesus: to be meek, humble, holy, to serve, to preach to the world, to forgive, and to love. This is part of the goal.
- 2) How do we achieve this as a church? In order for the purpose to be fulfilled, the church in its structure and strategy must mirror the will of the Father, and everything that is done must point toward the eternal purpose.

Summary: The Goal

THE GOAL <i>A family of many children who resemble Jesus</i>
01 Salvation is not God's purpose.
02 Being conformed to the likeness of Jesus: being meek and humble, holy, serving, preaching to the world, forgiving and loving.
03 How to achieve this as a church.

Why is it important to understand these truths well? Because a disciple learns by watching, listening, and asking. He is teachable and allows himself to be guided. This is what we are moving toward.

CONCLUSION

In this fifth lesson, we gave an explanation of the content (elementary principles) that will be addressed to help form each disciple, moving through the heart of Jesus' preaching: door, path, and goal. In addition to the topics already studied in earlier materials (which will be revisited and expanded), we also listed the next subjects to be introduced into the teaching — as well as others not previously addressed — in order to better ground the church in the truths taught, lived, and proclaimed by Jesus.

CONSIDER CAREFULLY

- 01 What do I live for? Is my heart captured by God's purpose?
- 02 Do I know the path for getting there? Am I walking in it?

May the Lord bless us and lead us. Amen!

*having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.*

Ephesians 2:20 (NKJV)

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