# **Basic Teachings**

#### Repentance and Faith

For the writer of Hebrews, repentance is connected with faith, they are inseparable. If we repent, then we put our faith in God. If we don't, then we truly did not repent. We change our mind about the life we are living or the actions we have done and repent and put our faith in God. These two things have to happen for a believer and they are the firsts of important teachings for every believer.

#### **Baptism**

Baptism is full of symbolism and representation for a believer. Baptism symbolizes Christ's death and resurrection and the forgiveness of sins. Of course, the act of baptism does not save a soul. Jesus Christ saves all who come to him and we are saved by his grace through faith. However, all who believe in Jesus should be baptized because it represents the decision to follow Jesus and our recognition that we have been saved by the one and only Savior.

### Laying of Hands

The act of laying hands on someone is a symbol of divine power. In some cases, it is a representation of something spiritually happening or the act of commissioning. Other times, it can be divine power coming through the faithful act of laying hands. This is what the writer of Hebrews wanted us not to miss. Of course we can lay our hands on anyone and nothing happens. But there seems to be a power at work when believers lay hands in accordance with God's will, real results can happen. Not because hands were laid, but because of the faith of those who laid hands. The laying on of hands is a great symbol, but also an act of divine power.

#### Resurrection

For the apostles, the resurrection was a foundation for the understanding of the gospel. Jesus rose from the dead. Since he was risen, believers in him will also rise from the dead when he returns. This is a basic concept we all need to understand. This is a message of hope and an eternal future. Life doesn't end in death. Death is just the beginning.

## **Judgment**

An eternal judgment is coming. It is a judgment that will happen once to determine our fate. Though it is up to us, our actions and faith that we choose. Those who believe and are saved by God's grace will enjoy eternal life. Those who reject the Son, reject eternal life.