

RELATIONSHIP OF FIRST PRINCIPLES (FAITH) TO COMMANDMENTS (WORKS)

	FIRST PRINCIPLES (FAITH)	COMMANDMENTS (WORKS / FRUITS)
THE RELATIONSHIP OF BELIEF (FAITH) TO COMMANDMENTS (WORKS)	<p>KNOWLEDGE > UNDERSTANDING > COMPREHENSION</p> <p>WHO/WHAT YAHWEH IS > HIS GREATNESS > HIS PLAN > WHAT HE HAS DONE > HIS GIFT OF GRACE ("WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS")</p>	<p>AWARENESS > GRATITUDE > RESPONSE ("FRUITS")</p> <p>AWARENESS OF OUR POSITION ("God be merciful to me a sinner") > OUR RESPONSE to GOD'S Gift of GRACE (Gratitude) > FRUITS (merging God's commandments into our actions / characters)</p>
REFLECTS:	<p>YAHWEH'S INTELLECT as expressed in His creation — God's plan with His creation.</p> <p>"And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed." — Galatians 3:8</p>	<p>YAHWEH'S MORAL CHARACTER — God's purpose with His creation.</p> <p>"But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD." — Numbers 14:21</p>
MANIFESTED BY:	FAITH (reliance, dependance)	WORKS
MOTIVATED BY:	FAITH (Trust, Conviction, Confidence)	GRACE (GRATITUDE)
WHAT IT DOES:	Knowledge of Yahweh's principles ENLIGHTENS ONE TO ONE'S TRUE POSITION as being "without hope and without God in the world" and activates, convicts and convinces the conscience of sin and makes one aware of the need for repentance and baptism	<p>PROVIDES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE TO YAHWEH for His mercy, longsuffering & forgiveness; and especially in view of the fact that " ...God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners...God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh..." (- Rom 5:8; 8:3)</p>
EFFECTS:	The BASIS OF RESPONSIBILITY TO RESURRECTION & JUDGMENT . Coupled with baptism, it is the way to repentance and forgiveness, and places one into a "right relationship with Yahweh" - i.e., "righteousness". Without baptism, it is the basis of condemnation. No approach to God without knowledge and acceptance of these, therefore no forgiveness.	<p>After baptism, the commandments (Divine precepts) provide the BASIS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND SPIRITUAL MATURITY. Provides awareness of the kind of activity, behaviour and character that pleases God and gives glory and honour to his name.</p>
ACTION REQUIRED:	Truths to be accepted ; In some cases, falsehoods should also be rejected (Doctrines to be rejected)	MORE PRECEPTS TO BE APPLIED in daily life and obeyed - for the purpose of reflecting and manifesting God's character in our daily lives.
TIME REQUIRED TO LEARN:	A RELATIVELY SHORT TIME - whatever time is sufficient for the mind to grasp the great Divine Truths contained in scripture. The greatest obstacles are those that come from false human traditions inculcated in the mind.	A LIFETIME of development (reading, learning, observance, application, etc) with necessary failures to develop humility, obedience, mercy, patience, righteous judgment and all the fruits of the spirit.
JUDGMENT:	<p>VERY LITTLE - BEYOND THE JUDGMENT REQUIRED FOR ORDINARY COGNITION.</p> <p>First principles are fundamental doctrines that are absolute and essential to the Gospel or to upholding the Gospel.</p> <p>No room for variance, or individual latitude of conscience</p> <p>No excuse or provision here for the weakness of the flesh, or the frailty of human nature.</p> <p>We either understand & accept them, or we do not.</p> <p>Without them there is no approach for Divine forgiveness of sins.</p>	<p>Commandments REQUIRE NOT ONLY CORRECT UNDERSTANDING BUT ALSO CORRECT APPLICATION, AND JUDGING RIGHTEOUS JUDGEMENT, and to make our best effort to fully live them (though human nature prevents sinlessness in all except our Lord Jesus Christ). In the application of them, we must act according to our individual conscience governed by GRATITUDE</p> <p>"What you believe about these things should be kept between you and God. You are fortunate, if your actions don't make you have doubts. But if you do have doubts... you are going against your beliefs. And you know that is wrong, because anything you do against your beliefs is sin." - Rom 14:22-23 CEV</p> <p>Some commandments require many years of moral growth to get beyond a surface understanding of them:</p> <p>"Refrain utterly from adultery" (#44) — Obvious</p> <p>"Refrain utterly from... uncleanness" (#44) — More difficult and requires growth</p> <p>"Do all to the glory of God" (#45) — Lifetime struggle</p> <p>"Live not to yourselves, but to him who died for you" (#46) — Lifetime struggle</p>
FORGIVENESS:	FORGIVENESS PLAYS LITTLE, IF ANY, ROLE IN FIRST PRINCIPLES ; we either understand and accept, or we do not.	GRACE CONTINUES TO HAVE ITS EFFECTIVE WORK; FORGIVENESS PLAYS AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN COMMANDMENTS for all sin and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).