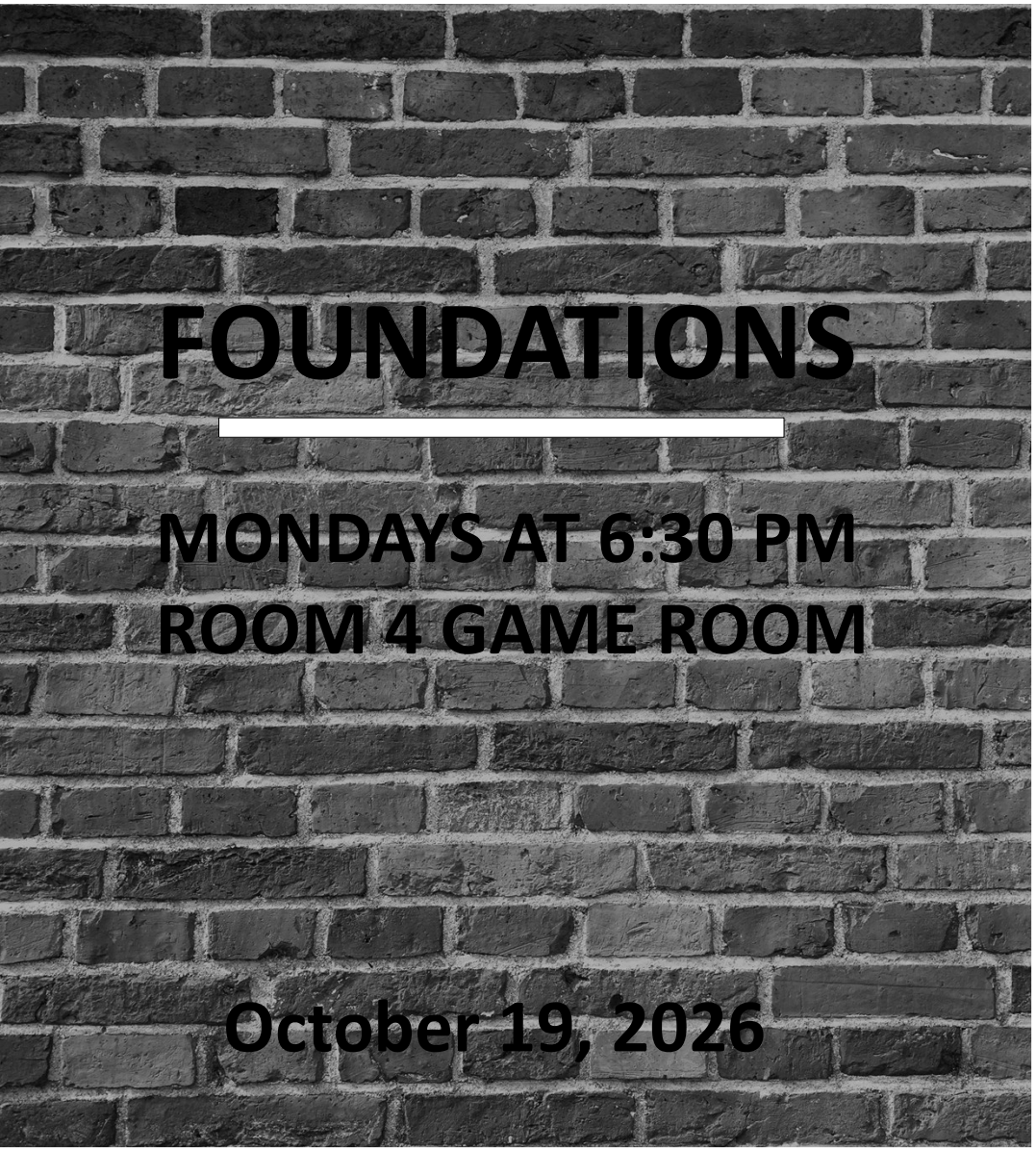

Session 6: What is the Bible?

The “upon” or “epi” ministry of the Holy Spirit

Indwelling and empowering

The Holy Spirit indwells every believer at conversion. Believers should continually seek to be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).

This empowering experience is distinct and separate from the indwelling that takes place at conversion.

This third ministry is also called the baptism of the Holy Spirit or the filling of the Holy Spirit.

What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

The outward working of the Holy Spirit’s dynamic power in a believer’s life as it overflows to other people.

This ministry of the Holy Spirit equips the believer to be an effective witness of Jesus Christ.

In Acts, evidence of this baptism appeared in different ways.

The Holy Spirit empowers bold witness

Power that overflows

Manifestations may differ, but baptism in the Holy Spirit empowers believers to witness boldly for Christ.

Jesus described the Spirit flowing from believers as “rivers of living water” (John 7:37–39).

Already believers, they experienced the Spirit’s fullness at these moments.

Examples in Acts

Peter (Acts 4:8): Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter addressed the rulers and elders of Israel.

The gathered believers (Acts 4:31): After prayer, all were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke God’s word with boldness.

Stephen (Acts 7:55–56): Full of the Holy Spirit, Stephen declared that he saw Jesus at God’s right hand.

Receiving the baptism: A believer need only ask. The Father gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him (Luke 11:13).

Session Questions

Session 6 Questions:

- What is the Bible?
- Why is the Bible important?
- Is the Bible reliable?

Question Review

- Review answers from Participant Guide Session 6: What is the Bible?

Section 1: What is the Bible?

The Bible is a collection of books that are uniquely inspired by God.

66 books

40+ authors

3 languages:

- Hebrew – mainly Old Testament
- Greek - mainly New Testament
- Aramaic – some Old Testament verses & New Testament phrases

1 consistent message

Section 1: What is the Bible?

Old Testament

5 Books of the Law – Genesis to Deuteronomy

12 Books of Israel's History – Joshua to Esther

5 Books of Wisdom and Poetry – Job to Song of Solomon

5 Major Prophets

12 Minor Prophets

New Testament

5 Books of History – Matthew to Acts

21 Epistles – Romans to Jude

1 Prophesy – Revelation

Section 1: What is the Bible?

Why are there so many different types of Bibles?

- **Formal equivalence** – word-for-word translation – King James Version (KJV), New King James Version (NKJV), English Standard Version (ESV)
- **Dynamic equivalence** – thought-for-thought translation – New Living Translation (NLT), New English Bible (NEB), Contemporary English Version (CEV)
- **Paraphrase** - “in your own words” – The Message, Living Bible

Section 2: Why is the Bible important?

- **Divinely inspired –** 2 Timothy 3:16
- **Absolutely trustworthy –** Matthew 5:18
- **Powerful influencer –** Hebrews 4:12
- **Food for the soul -** Psalm 119:103
- **Light of life** – Psalm 119:105
- **Provides moral guidance** – Exodus 20:1-17

Section 2: Why is the Bible important?

What is personal quiet time?

- **Daily time alone with God and the Bible**
  - Mark 1:35 – Jesus had time alone with God
- **God wants to meet with you**
  - James 4:8
- **Guidelines for Quiet Time**
  - Choose a consistent time
  - Choose a consistent place
  - Choose a method

Section 2: Why is the Bible important?

Questions to consider during quiet time:

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to claim?
- Is there a sin to avoid?
- Is there an example to follow?
- Is there a new truth or lesson to learn?

Section 2: Why is the Bible important?

How can I study the Bible?

- **By book**
- **By character or person**
- **By topic or theme**
- **By inductive study method**
  - **Observation** - What are the basic facts of this passage?
  - **Interpretation** - What did the author mean in his own historical context?
  - **Evaluation** - What does this passage mean in today's culture?
  - **Application -** How can I apply what I have learned to how I live my life?
- **Listen to "How To Study The Bible" series under Media -> Sermon Archive**

Section 2: Why is the Bible important?

How can I study the Bible?

- **Listen to "How To Study The Bible" series under Media -> Sermon Archive**
- **https://www.calvarychapelorlando.com/how-to-study-the-bible.html**

Section 3: Is the Bible reliable?

Eyewitness Evidence:

- **The Gospels could be validated by the reader**
  - **Written 40-70 years after Jesus' death**
  - **Eyewitnesses were named to verify authenticity**

Section 3: Is the Bible reliable?

Archeological Evidence:

- Archaeological discoveries provide strong evidence of the historical reliability of the New Testament.
- **Examples:**
  - 1961 – inscription on a stone stab referencing Pontius Pilate as perfect of Judea (name and title)
  - 2004 – Pool of Siloam (John 9) unearthed during construction
  - 2012 – a clay seal dating back to the 8th century proved proof that Bethlehem existed during Old Testament times.

For more information, review the sermon by Charlie Campbel: Seven Reasons To Trust The Bible.

Section 3: Is the Bible reliable?

Documentation evidence

The quantity of New Testament manuscripts is much greater than other ancient writings.

Ancient Writing	Number of Manuscripts
New Testament	>24,000
Homer's Iliad	~650

The gap of time between the original writings and known copies is shorter with the New Testament.

Ancient Writing	Original Writing	Earliest Manuscript
New Testament	40-100 A.D.	125 A.D.
Homer's Iliad	900 B.C.	400 B.C.

*Information from "Case for Christ" and "Evidence That Demands A Verdict."

Manuscript Accuracy Supported by Church Fathers

Writer	Lived	Gospels	Totals
Justin Martyr	A.D. 100-165	268	330
Irenaeus	A.D. 130-202	1,038	1,819
Clement (Alex.)	A.D. 150-212	1.107	2,406
Origen	A.D. 185-253	9,231	17,992
Tertullian	A.D. 160-220	3,822	7,258
Hippolytus	A.D. 165-235	734	1,378
Eusebius	A.D. 265-340	3,258	5,176
Grand Totals	--	19,368	36,289

If no manuscripts of the New Testament were in existence, the New Testament could be reproduced from the writings of the early Fathers.

Section 3: Is the Bible reliable?

Non-Christian Historical Sources

- **Flavius Josephus (37 AD – 100 AD)**
  - **Possibly greatest Jewish historian of his time.**
  - **His writings indicate that Jesus was a real person, referred to by some as the Christ, and had a brother named James.**
- **Lucian of Somosata – 2nd century Greek writer**
  - **His writings indicate that Jesus was worshipped by Christians and was crucified because of His teachings.**
- Dr. Norman Geisler noted that there are ten non-Christian historians who reference Jesus within 150 years of His life.

Additional Resources

Additional Reading:

- **Food for Faith – Dr. Richard Bennett**
- **The Case For Christ by Lee Strobel**
- **Evidence That Demands A Verdict (Vol. I & II) by Josh McDowell**

Devotionals:

- **Oswald Chambers, My Utmost for His Highest**
- **Our Daily Bread**
- **Blue Letter Bible - Bible Apps with Devotionals**

***Some of these resources may be online for free**

Session Wrap Up Question

Based on the discussion, notes and your personal study, what have you learned from this session?

Resources

How To Study The Bible

https://www.calvarychapelorlando.com/how-to-study-the-bible.html

Seven Reasons To Trust The Bible – Charlie Campbell

https://www.calvarychapelorlando.com/sermon-archive/seven-reasons-to-trust-the-bible-1-thessalonians-213-charlie-cambell

Reflections & Wrap Up

- The Bible is a collection of books that are uniquely inspired by God.
- The Bible is divinely inspired, absolutely trustworthy.
- The Bible is reliable because eyewitness and documentation evidence.

Next session is **Monday, October 26 at 6:30 PM** in Room 4.

Questions for next session:

- **Sessions 7: What is the Church?**

Thank you!