

Jessica: Hi, welcome, so glad you could join us. I'm Jessica and this is Brian. And we are going to introduce Cell Life Church's newest discussion series on 'Building a Firm Foundation'. And really when constructing any building you want to make sure that your foundation is firm and sound. You take a lot of measurements and you use the right material so that your building will stand against any storm, or really moving of the earth. And much like a building is, our lives must be built on a firm foundation; principles that can withstand the test of time and the storms of society.

Brian: Yeah and that's storms of society. You know, Jesus concludes the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 7:24-25 with this very concept. And it's a great passage and we are kind of basing this whole series, 'Building a Firm Foundation' on this passage of scripture, and so we want to take a couple of minutes and actually really point out this passage of scripture, and the rest of the videos for this series will just refer to this. But we are going to talk about this for a moment.

Looking at Matthew 7:24-25, Jesus says this, 'Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose and the winds blew and beat against that house, yet it did not fall because it had its foundation on the rock.' You know, and I can imagine – I worked at construction for a couple of years when I got out of the Navy, and I cannot imagine building on sand or building on soft soil or building on things like – you've always got to have a good solid foundation to build on. In our lives, like we said, are very much like that, you know, we need to have that firm foundation to build our lives on so that like we said, when those storms come against us, when society comes against us, all these things, we've got that firm foundation, we can weather that wind, we can weather the – we can weather the shoves, the pushes and, you know, the jerks and all these different things. Well, not jerks as in people, but the jerks and the yanking.

But today, what we've going to be discussing is the first element of that firm foundation, and it's – I want to say the most important but it's not any more important than the other elements we are going to be discussing but without this element, none of the others kind of work. It's kind of like the cement for the concrete for the foundation kind of thing. And so today we'll be discussing that first element of a firm foundation for lives – the Bible. And there is a handout that's available, it's on our website and it's got some discussion questions, some scripture references and some other information that we have put together, and the discussion questions will also be displayed on screen at the conclusion of the video.

So if you want to pause the video for a moment and download that, go right ahead. We do believe – we believe that the Bible is the divinely inspired, undivided, infallible, authoritative word of God. Wow, that's a mouthful! So what does that mean? What does that mean? And that was a very good question because when I say that to people, "well, what do you believe about the Bible?" Well, I believe it's divinely inspired, I believe it's undivided, I believe it's infallible, I believe it's authoritative and people go, what does all that mean? That's a good question. Well, we are going to break that down into its components today and Jessica is going to look at the first one.

Jessica: Yeah and really dividing that mouthful, taking that first one is – the first element is what we believe about the Bible is that it is divinely inspired, and really what that means is that God is the author.

Brian: Yes.

Jessica: Plain and simple, straightforward, cut and dry, God is the author. And pretty much what we believe about that is that the Holy Spirit inspired 40 different authors really over a period of 1500 years to pen the words of the Bible, to write down what God told them to write down. And really it's awesome because he used an assortment of people. From Kings, you have King David, King Solomon, you have fisherman, Peter and John and really a whole assortment of people who wrote down the words of God. And really looking at what the Bible says about its own divine inspiration, looking at 1 Thessalonians 2:13 and it says, And we also thank God continually because when you received the word of God, what you heard from us you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

Brian: Amen.

Jessica: Halleluiah. And really reading that you could see right here that it plainly says that the Bible is the word of God.

Brian: Very simply.

Jessica: Yes. The word of God, there you go. And it also says that it is alive as it is at work in those who believe. So, us believers, it is alive, so it wasn't just for the people who were writing it, those who read it a week later, not for those who read it thousands of years ago but for us who believe here, now, today, the word of God is alive and active.

Brian: Well, and I think a piece of that is when you look at some of the letters that Paul wrote which are now part of the Bible, it makes up a good portion of the New Testament, those were letters to specific churches correcting certain things that they were believing, teaching, living, doing whatever, but those were letters specifically for the – to those individual churches, but on the same token they were inspired by God through the Holy Spirit; and today we take that scripture and we apply it to our lives today because we can find ourselves in some of those very same places. We can find ourselves in the same places as the Corinthian Church was 2000 years ago and again things like that. So that's where, when we say that it is alive and at work in us today, that's what we are talking about.

Jessica: It's applicable.

Brian: It is applicable, exactly, exactly. You know, and there's another piece of scripture also that talks about this, it is found in 2 Peter 1:20-21. It says this, 'Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things, for prophecy never had its origin in the human will but prophets though human spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.' Right here, God again is telling us through another

writer, this time it's Peter, the last passage we read was Paul, this was Peter and he is saying that, you know, prophecy never had its origin in human will, it's not man coming up with this stuff. I've read enough series of books and things to know, and one of the gifts, sometimes a curse that God has given me is I can watch a series of movies and I pick out the inconsistencies through them. I just see them, you know, I see – because they will do multiple takes on shots and things and you will see someone will have, they will have their top button buttoned and then all of a sudden it's unbuttoned, then all of a sudden it's buttoned again and I see these things, my eyes –

Jessica: It is a curse.

Brian: – oh it is a curse and I just see these things. But you know, it's amazing with God's work, with the Bible, is this is a product of man, this is a product of God because even the prophets though human spoke from God, they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. It was the Holy Spirit that was doing this. You know, these writers who put pen to parchment were inspired by the Holy Spirit, they weren't making it up as they went along because frankly it wouldn't work.

Jessica: Yeah. And going on to another scripture which was written by Paul, is 2 Timothy 3:14-17 and it says, "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know that those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ, Jesus. All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." I love that scripture.

Brian: I know it.

Jessica: And really here you can see that God breathes the scripture into existence so that we can be thoroughly equipped to live a righteous life.

Brian: That's right.

Jessica: And like we said earlier, it's applicable. It's useful for the teaching, rebuking, correcting, training and righteousness, it's getting us ready for the life we want to live. It's that foundation that we can build everything else up on.

Brian: Exactly. Yeah and I think that's the gist as we are moving along, as we talk in further videos on this 'Building a Firm Foundation' series that the Bible is that glue that holds everything, because the Bible, as we believe the Bible, you know the Bible to be true that's where everything falls back in its baseline. And so yeah it's great and that's an awesome first point that God's authorship; that divinely inspired.

The second piece that we believe about the Bible is that it is undivided; and undivided, what do you mean by undivided? Is there some civil war amongst the Bible, you know, what's going on? Undivided simply means that it is complete as it is, the Old Testament and New Testament together is complete and it is one work, and it's not dividable or anything else. Romans 15:4

says this, “For everything that was written in the past, was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the scriptures and the encouragement they provide, we might have hope.

There are some Christians that believe that the New Testament and Jesus’ work on the Cross and his subsequent resurrection nullifies the Old Testament. Yeah, there are some that believe that you know when Jesus said, it is finished or you know, this is a new covenant that I give, that it nullifies the Old Testament; and it does not at all. There are also those that believe only the Old Testament is valid and that is just as not true. How would you like I put that not true, yeah. That is just as not true. So the Old Testament and the New Testament together make the complete Bible. Each points to the other in many, many, many ways. One of the great things I’ve heard, I’ve heard it’s said that the New Testament is a great commentary on the Old Testament; and I have heard the Old Testament is a great prequel to the New Testament. But at the end of the day, neither really stands alone, they only stand together. And so we believe that not only is the Bible divinely inspired but the Bible is also undivided.

Jessica: It’s one book.

Brian: It is one book.

Jessica: Yes and the next point we have is that the Bible is infallible. And before we dive in, we are going to read a scripture from 2 Peter 1:20-21. It says, “Above all you must understand that no prophecy of scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. The prophecy never had its origin in the human will but prophets though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” So pretty much what that means is that God as creator and author of everything has inspired through the Holy Spirit, the Bible, and therefore there cannot be any errors or inaccuracies.

Brian: Yeah, exactly. You know, in 2 Timothy 3:16 and another verse that we’ve already shared in its entirety, but this is a piece of it. “All scripture is God breathed that is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training righteousness.” Again, with God as the author there can be no errors because God doesn’t make mistakes. God makes no mistakes, therefore there can’t be any errors in the Bible.

The interesting thing about me personally; I came to know Jesus later in life, I was 23-years old, I had actually never set foot in a church until I was 23 years old. But you know before I said yes to Jesus, this is kind of an interesting piece of my testimony, I read through the Bible twice. I read through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, I read through it twice looking for errors, inaccuracies and inconsistencies. I took a lot of notes, and when I kept each passage of scripture in context, I couldn’t find anything that contradicted anything else. I couldn’t find any inconsistencies, I couldn’t find anything and it had to be without error, and that was, without saying yes to Jesus that was kind of a tough pill to swallow. You know, I had a rough time with that because it wasn’t making a lot of sense to me because I didn’t have the Holy Spirit in me, I hadn’t said yes to Jesus yet, but as I read, I couldn’t find– I couldn’t find anything that said one thing here but it said something completely different here. I couldn’t find any of that anywhere in there.

Again, when I kept passages in context and that's the real key – keeping things in context and so, it's kind of an interesting thing just by doing that we can – I found out myself that the Bible – that I couldn't find any errors. I mean I was taking all kinds of notes and stuff. I do have a friend, he is another pastor, he is the one who actually led me to the Lord and he always gets a kick out of this. And when he introduces me to people, he always laughs and he says, “yeah Brian, this is my friend Brian, I led him to the Lord years ago, he is a pastor now but, you know, he is the only guy I know that read through the Bible twice and still didn't get saved.” So it took me some time to process everything. But you know, that's the piece about being infallible is there are no errors, and I don't want to say, I challenge you to find errors in the Bible, but as you read if you keep things in context you will not find inconsistencies.

Jessica: Well, sometimes that's a personal journey everyone has to take to really determine, oh there were no errors, because sometimes it's like, oh I don't know, I want to take his word for it; but sometimes it's like something we have to find out for ourselves and every person is different but some people do have to do that, and it's like, oh and they do it, it's like there were no errors.

Brian: Right. Yeah, yeah.

Jessica: And really the final point we have is the – we believe about the Bible is that it is authoritative, that means that it is the standard that everything we say and do is measured against. That no other work or published book is really up to par with the Bible at all. And a couple of scriptures we want to share about this is Matthew 4:4 “And Jesus answered, it is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” Every word that comes from the mouth of God. And then Hebrews 4:12, “For the word of God is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

Brian: Yeah, you know, these both point to using the Bible as a standard to gauge our thoughts and our words and our actions. We talked about building a foundation and we were making that introduction and how you want to make sure you measure everything just right, and use all the right materials and everything. Yeah in measuring, when you are building something, measuring is huge. There's an old adage, ‘Measure twice, cut once’. And I had to learn that the hard way a few times, but like I said, I used to do construction for a couple of years after I got out of the Navy, not so much anymore, and many people are thankful for it.

But, you know, when we are – when we're trying to gauge the way we should respond to situations, when we're trying to gauge whether we ought to be doing something or not, we are trying to gauge how we should react or respond to things, all of these things we find in the Bible. There is nothing that we are going to face in life that's not addressed in the Bible. Somehow somehow, it is addressed in the Bible. And sometimes it's an adventure and a journey to pour through the Bible and study the Bible, and find and apply different passages to our lives, you know for the longest I'm reading Numbers, I encourage you to read Numbers but for the longest I'm reading Numbers, is like good golly why is this so important, you know, so and so was the father of so and so, was the father of so and so, it's a census of Israel, is what it is –

Jessica: I've only read Numbers once.

Brian: Really, oh my dear. But, you know, what's funny about that is Kelly and I and Kelly is in the next video, Kelly is my wife, Kelly and I were just talking a few days ago even about how even Numbers – I have been able to appreciate Numbers as I've gotten older – as I've gotten older – as I've gotten older. I've been able to appreciate numbers and the details there, and the fact that each individual person mattered to God, for him to record them in Numbers. You know, that's huge and it's just one of those things. But every bit of God's word is applicable to our lives at some point in some time. 2 Timothy 3:16, "All scriptures God breathed, and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." God's word has authority in our lives when we apply his teaching.

You know, you can't – if someone comes to me and says, "Brian, I think you need to rethink your actions on this, your reactions on this, what you're doing, what you're saying, whatever. Here is where it says it in God's word – here's what God's word says. That has power, that has authority, oh my goodness, you are right, I need to – I need to – I need to figure this – I need to change this or whatever. That's entirely different than someone saying, "you know what, I know this might be what the Bible says but this is what I think we should really do, and this will be better safe than sorry kind of a thing, you know. That starts throwing an opinion, that starts throwing in perspective, that just changes things. God's word is complete and it is authoritative.

We can't – yeah there's another verse and we didn't read it and I'm sure we will sometime, it's in Revelations, and actually God speaks a curse on anyone who adds anything or removes anything from his word. It is complete. And so by adding stuff on top of it, by removing stuff, by taking, oh well, that's for that day, that's not for today, all of that – that is bad news, you can get into a lot of trouble that way. And so God's word has authority in our lives and we apply his teachings.

Jessica: Yeah, amen. And really going back to that mouthful what we said at the beginning, reviewing that we believe the Bible is divinely inspired, undivided, infallible, and authoritative.

Brian: Yes

Jessica: Divinely inspired, God wrote the Bible. It is undivided – it is one book; Old Testament, New Testament, it's one book. It is infallible – has no errors; and authoritative – it is the measuring stick by which everything else is really held up against.

Brian: It really is.

Jessica: And this is like one of the essential things of the foundation of our faith, and really all other things are kind of built on this because if you don't believe the Bible, well, how can you believe anything else?

Brian: Exactly.

Jessica: How can you believe what it says. And a popular children's mnemonic for the BIBLE that I think it's a lot of fun, it's 'Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth.'

Brian: Yes.

Jessica: And I think it's so true, it's so fun and really it's what the Bible is. It's useful for the teaching, for rebuking, correcting, training in righteousness, for foundation, Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth.

Brian: Absolutely, you know, and the 'Before Leaving Earth' part when in the next video, when Kelly and Danae will talk about that, the next topic which is 'The Trinity', it is one of the heady things that we don't completely – and we're not going to understand everything we read in the Bible right away. There's going to be a lot of things that we are going to need to ask God when we are standing face to face and go, "What did you mean by that? because I just don't get that," and he is going. "Ah! sweet, okay." So, yeah that is so true, Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth.

We want to thank you for joining us today. We do want to encourage you to contact us if you have any questions or comments about this video or any of the others that we put together or any of our blogs. Please visit us on our website, our Facebook page, our YouTube channel and you can comment or ask questions in any of those places. You can also follow us on Twitter, on iTunes, on Sticher, lots of places where you can – our podcasts, our videos, our blogs, you name it, we've got it out there for you. And that's really what it is, because that's what God asks us to do. Please join us next time as Kelly and Danae discuss the Trinity which is the relationship between God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit. And it's a good video, you're going to really enjoy it; and until then bye, bye.

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