



Foundations Class

Lesson #1

- Church membership
- History
- Vision
- Mission

Welcome:

Introduction: Dan and Dianne Coflin- Senior Pastors

This class is the first in a four DVD series.

I. The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ

- A. Jesus is building His Church (Mt. 16:18; Ps.127:1; Acts.2:47).
- B. The Church is the Body of Christ (Col.1:18; 1 Cor.12:12-18).
- C. The Church is universal (Jn.17:20; Eph.1:10).

II. God ordained local churches

- A. Different churches found in Rev. 2,3.
- B. Paul ordained elders in the churches of Galatia (Acts.14:23).

III. The 5-fold ministry gifts are given to the church (Eph.4:11).

IV. The responsibility of the Pastors/Elders

- A. Feed (teach), guide (I Pet.5:1-4)
- B. Pray for, protect, nourish (Acts.20:28-32)
- C. Oversee (Heb.13:17)

V. Why do some people float from church to church?

- A. They do not understand the protection in having a pastor over them.
- B. They do not want to submit to authority
- C. They get offended easily
- D. Itching ears (2 Tim. 4:3)
- E. Control issues
- F. Critical spirit
- G. They do not want any accountability

VI. Spiritual authority

- A. Jesus has all authority (Mt. 28:18).
- B. Authority is given by God for the purpose of serving not ruling (Mk. 10:35-45).
- C. Authority in God's kingdom is not something anybody can simply choose for themselves, but is given by God according to His placing individual members in His body as it pleases Him (Rm.12:3-8; 1 Cor.12:27-31).
- D. Those God calls into 5-fold ministry are gifted by God and given authority to fulfill the function of their calling (Eph. 4:11-16).
- E. Along with the calling and authority comes great accountability (James. 3:1; Heb. 13:17).

VII. Elders

- A. At R.O.L. Elders are assigned to every church member. Their purpose is to serve you and be available to pray for you daily and minister to your needs. These men and women have been chosen by the pastors to help them oversee the members of this church family.

VIII. Church membership

- A. You become a member of the body of Christ when you receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior.
- B. You become a member of the local church when you submit to the spiritual authority and other members of that church (Heb.10:25; 1 Cor.12:18).
- C. When you were born-again you received a measure of the grace (ability) of God to be utilized in His Church. It is God's grace working through you to serve the other members of the Body of Christ (1 Pet.4:10; Eph.4:15,16).
- D. Becoming a member of River of Life Church:
 - 1. Be born-again of the Spirit of God.
 - 2. Believe God has placed you here to serve Him in this body of believers.
 - 3. Be submitted to the spiritual authority God has placed here.
 - 4. Be submitted to one another walking in the love of God.
 - 5. Fill out and submit a membership form.
 - 6. Be in agreement with the vision, mission statement and membership commitment of R.O.L.

E. Financial support:

While tithing is not a requirement for Church membership it is expected that if you are in agreement with the mission statement and purpose of this ministry you would want to support it financially. We believe that tithing (giving 10 % of your income) is not a commandment of God that must be followed, but it is a principle found in the Word of God that has great benefits and blessings attached to it. Those who tithe and give offerings as they are directed of the Holy Spirit put themselves in a position for God to bless them financially making the remaining 90% go further and do more than those who decide not to give God the first of their increase (Mal.3:10,11; Heb.7:8).

Foundations Class

Lesson #2

Spirit - Soul - Body

Water Baptism

Introduction to a Quiet Time

I. Spirit, Soul and Body - Man is a 3 part being (1 Thes. 5:23).

A. The spirit of man is the only part of man that gets born again.

1. God breathed into Adam the breathe (spirit) of life (Gen. 2:7).
2. Jesus said to Nicodemus “you must be born again” (Jn.3:1-7).
3. The Holy Spirit joins with your human spirit (1 Cor.6:17).
4. Paul writes to the church in Ephesus and reminds them that God has “quickened” (made alive) them who were dead (Eph.2:1-3).
5. The new birth is a spiritual birth.
 - a. We hear the Word of God and faith is produced in us (Rm.10:17).
 - b. Having believed in our hearts as a result of hearing God’s Word
we confess with our mouths that Jesus is LORD and are born again (Rm.10:9,10; II Cor.5:17).
6. The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord (Pr.20:27).
7. God will light your candle (spiritual birth) (Ps.18:28).
8. When my spirit is born again I receive God’s righteousness as a gift (II Cor.5:21).
 - a. I am not a sinner saved by grace.
 - b. I was a sinner and now I am saved by grace and have received
in my spirit God’s life and God’s righteousness (Eph.2:8,9).
9. Jesus is my substitute.
 - a. I am forgiven - Jesus paid the price required for my forgiveness.
 - b. I am righteous - Jesus gave me His righteousness as a gift (Tit.3:5). All of this happened to my spirit man.

B. The Soul of man

1. The soul of man consists of his mind, will, and emotions.
2. Our soul is to be transformed by renewing our minds to think according to the Word of God (Rm.12:2,3).
3. How do you renew your mind? (Josh.1:8).
 - a. Keep speaking the Word of God at all times
 - b. Meditate on the Word of God day and night
 - c. Choose to obey what the Word of God says: “observe to do”

d. See things the way God says they truly are; not just how things

may appear to be.

4. Babies must be fed daily in order for them to grow-up to be healthy and mature. Spiritually, we must feed on the Word of God daily in order to grow-up spiritually (1 Pet.2:2).
5. There is no shortcut to spiritual growth. Just like growing physically it is a process. Some people never grow up (Heb.5:12-14; I Cor.3:1-3).

C. The Body of Man

1. The body of man is not the real man, but the house in which he lives. (I Cor.9:27).
2. The body of a born-again believer is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor.6:19,20).
3. Jesus took upon himself all of the curse that entered the world because of man's sin (Gal.3:13) which included sin, sickness, poverty and death.
4. Even though our physical bodies have not yet experienced the transformation that will occur when Jesus returns (1 Cor.15:51-57) we have received the earnest or down payment of that redemptive work because of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit (Rm.8:11).
5. We are responsible to daily present our bodies to the Lord that we might please and glorify Him (Rm.12:1; I Cor.6:19,20; Lk.9:23).

II Water Baptism

- A. A believer's baptism (Mt.28:19; Mk.16:15,16)
- B. It is not water baptism that brings a person into salvation, but it is believing on the Lord Jesus Christ (Jn.1:12,13; Rm.10:9,10; Eph.2:8,9).
- C. Water baptism is a token of our new covenant with God.
- D. Every example of those converted in the New Testament were water baptized (Acts.2:41; Acts.8:35-39; Acts.9:17,18; Acts.10:47,48).

III. Quiet Time

Our fellowship with God is to be ongoing and continuous (1 Thes.5:17); however, a scheduled, daily time spent with the Lord in prayer and Bible study is absolutely necessary to grow spiritually.

- A. If a natural baby could not survive with just one meal a week, why would we believe we can survive spiritually with just a snack on Sundays?
- B. Two things are necessary for spiritual growth
1. Prayer - worshipping God, spending time just being quiet before Him and making our petitions, based on the Word of God. The model prayer that Jesus gave His disciples is a good pattern to follow Mt.6:9-13. The prayers Paul recorded are good examples of how to pray for ourselves and others (Eph.1:16-23; 3:14-21; Col.1:9-18).
 2. Systematic Bible reading
 - a. Read through the Bible in one year
 - b. Read daily a psalm, proverb, a chapter in the Old Testament and one chapter in the New Testament.
 - c. If reading the old English style of the KJV Bible is confusing read from modern translation such as the NLT.
 - d. Memorize scriptures that speak to your heart.
 - e. Meditate on the Word of God

Foundations Class

Lesson #3

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

- I. The Holy Spirit comes and resides in our spirit when we are born again.
 - A. If you are born-again you have the Holy Spirit (Rm. 8:9).
 - B. Your human spirit is “made alive” (born-again; made a new creation) and made one with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:1; 2 Cor. 5:17; 1 Cor. 6:17).
 - C. Your physical body becomes the “temple” or dwelling place of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19; Jn.14:16,17).

- II. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a subsequent experience to being born-again.
 - A. After His resurrection, Jesus breathed on his disciples and said to them “receive the Holy Spirit” (Jn. 20:22).
 - B. He commanded them to wait in the city of Jerusalem until they were “endued with power from on high” (Lk.24:49).
 - C. The very day Jesus ascended into heaven he told those who were with him that they would receive power after the Holy Spirit comes upon them (Acts.1:8).
 - D. Ten days later the Day of Pentecost came and the 120 that were gathered in the upper room were filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts.2:1-4).
 - E. Philip goes to the city of Samaria and preaches the gospel to them. Many believed and were baptized (Acts.8:12).
 - F. Later the apostles at Jerusalem sent Peter and John to the city of Samaria and laid hands on those that were baptized as a result of Philip’s preaching and they received the baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts.8:14-17).
 - G. When Saul had an encounter with the resurrected, glorified Jesus he confessed Jesus as his Lord (Acts.9:6).
 - H. Three days later God sends Ananias to Saul to lay his hands on him to be healed and filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts.9:17).
 - I. When Peter went to Caesarea he preached to all those Gentiles that had assembled together in the house. They believed on Jesus and were baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts.10:44-46).
 - J. Paul went to the city of Ephesus and found 12 men and he asked them if they had received the Holy Spirit since they had believed. Afterward he laid his hands upon them and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts.19:1-6).

- III. What is the baptism in the Holy Spirit?
 - A. The word baptism means to dip, immerse or dye.
 - B. John the Baptist was a prophet sent to prepare the hearts of the people for the coming of Jesus. God sent John to baptize in water those who received his prophetic word (Mt. 3:1,2,5,6).
 - C. John compared his ministry to that of Jesus by saying “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that comes after me is mightier than I...he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire” (Mt. 3:11).

- D. When anyone is baptized in the Holy Spirit they receive power (ability, might) to do things they could not on their own.
1. Jesus is our example to follow. (Mk.1:8-11).
 2. Jesus did not do any miracles because he was the Son of God, but because of the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon him (Acts.10:38; Jn. 5:30; Jn.14:10).
 3. When we are anointed with the Holy Spirit we can do the works of Jesus (Jn. 14:12; 16:7; Acts.1:8).

IV. There is an initial evidence of someone receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit

- A. In 3 out of 5 instances in the book of Acts where people received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, they spoke with tongues.
1. The 120 on the Day of Pentecost in the upper room (Acts.2:3,4).
 2. Cornelius and those in his house when Peter preached to them (Acts.10:44,45).
 3. When Paul went to the city of Ephesus and laid his hands on the 12 men (Acts.19:1-6).
- B. In the other two accounts speaking in tongues is not specifically mentioned but implied.
1. Peter and John in the city of Samaria (Acts.8:5-21) [“matter” = word].
 2. Paul later said to the Corinthian church “I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than you all” (I Cor. 14:18).

V. Praying in other tongues

- A. What Is Praying in Tongues?
1. Praying in tongues is different than the spiritual gift or manifestation of tongues described in 1 Cor.12:8-11, 29-30. We will call this the gift of tongues. Its purpose is described in 1 Cor.12 and is to operate when the church gathers together.
 2. When you speak in tongues you are praying in a language you have never learned. It is not a language spoken through your mind or intellect, but originates in your human spirit (1Cor. 14:14).
 3. The “prayer language” of tongues is for the benefit of every believer.
 - a. You are speaking mysteries with God (1 Cor.14:2,27,28).
 - b. You are being edified or built up or made strong in your spirit (1 Cor. 14:4; Jude 20).
 - c. You are praying the perfect will of God (Rm. 8:26, 27).
 - d. Because you are strengthening your spirit man you are empowered to overcome the flesh and walk in the spirit (Rm. 8:1,5,6).
 - e. Brings revelation knowledge of spiritual things (1 Cor. 14:14,15; I Cor. 2:7-10).
 - f. Helps you give thanks (I Cor. 14:16,17).

B. How do we pray in tongues?

1. Yield to the Holy Spirit within you (Jn. 7:38, 39).
 2. On the Day of Pentecost they spoke as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts.2:4).
 3. You are doing the speaking not the Holy Spirit, but it is the Spirit that resides in your spirit giving you inspiration (1 Cor. 6:17).
 4. As you are filled with the Spirit you give expression to the Spirit within your “inner most being” and speak out in a spiritual language.
- C. Speaking in tongues is not a one time event but a daily practice (1 Cor. 14:18; Eph. 5:17-21).

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Lesson # 4

Getting Involved and Staying Involved

- I. God needs you
 - A. You are the answer to the prayer Jesus instructed his disciples to pray Mt. 9:37, 38.
 - B. Will you volunteer your life for God's use? Is. 6:8
- II. The local Church is the hub
 - A. Each member of the Body of Christ must discover his or her gift and calling then become fully connected to the local church and each other.
 - B. Listen to what Paul had to say in 1 Cor. 12:12-27.
- III. You might say "There's no reason for me to get involved because I don't have anything to offer".
 - A. 1 Pet. 4:10 "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."
 - B. This is what the Amplified Bible says, "As each of you has received a gift (a particular spiritual talent, a gracious divine endowment), employ it for one another as [befits] good trustees of God's many-sided grace [faithful stewards of the extremely diverse powers and gifts granted to Christians by unmerited favor]."
 - C. So just look around you. There are ample opportunities to put your talent to good use. You are important and you are needed.
- IV. We will experience spiritual breakthroughs when each member of the Body of Christ gets involved. Acts 6:1,2,7
 - A. You must remember you are in this for the duration. Don't be a spiritual hitchhiker.
 1. God has a purpose in life for you to fulfill. You are not here by accident 2 Tim. :9.
 - a. It was the God-ordained and God-destined time for the children of Israel to go in to the Promised Land when he took them out of Egypt.
 - b. But, doubt and unbelief caused them to miss their purpose in life and they died in the wilderness. They asked themselves, "Can we really do this?"
 - c. God's purpose will be fulfilled Esther 4:14
 2. Make sure your relationship with Christ is one of intimacy Phil. 3:10
 - a. The disciples asked Jesus in Lk.11:1 to teach them to pray. They wanted intimacy with God.
 3. Don't use your position as a stepping-stone.
 - a. Knowing you have God's will for your life you should stay where He has put you. Jer. 17:5-8; Ps. 118:8; Ps. 1

- V. Trust God's grace and always obey God's original instructions 1 Cor. 15:10
 - A. You have the grace of God on your life and you have talent and abilities to do what God has called you to do. Phil. 4:19; 2 Cor. 9:8; Ps. 23
 - B. If you operate within the will of God He will meet your need. 1 Jn. 5:14
 - C. Always obey God's original instructions and you will begin to see things work. Is. 55:11
 - D. Sometimes we can become so over-zealous to do some great thing for God that we can get off course.
 - 1. "Do the first works", Rev. 2:5
 - 2. "Stir up the gift", 2 Tim. 1:6

- VI. To develop your gift and calling to its fullest you must learn patience. Heb. 6:12
 - A. We live in an "instant" society; we want everything now.
 - B. Patience means enduring without murmuring or fretting. Ps. 37

- VII. Along with patience you must develop flexibility. 2 Cor. 3:18
 - A. Flexibility is the ability to make adjustments without losing sight of your original purpose.
 - B. Where there is life there must be growth and where there is growth there must be change or flexibility. 2 Kings 7:3



Membership Information

Membership Agreement

After prayerful consideration, I believe the Lord is calling me to submit myself to the spiritual leadership and other members of the Body of Christ here at River of Life Church. I understand and agree with this ministry's vision, mission statement and statement of faith. I confess that I have received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I promise to support this ministry with my prayers, my attendance, my finances and my ministry gift. I will always strive to maintain the unity of the Spirit and walk in love towards everyone according to the grace God has given me. I purpose to honor the Lord in my words and deeds and I recognize that if I speak against a child of God I am speaking against God himself. I believe that I will be fed and nurtured in this ministry and equipped to be fruitful in every good work. I believe that by joining the membership of this ministry that I am covered and protected and I become a covering and protection for others. It is with great joy that I take my place in this body of believers.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name _____ DOB _____

Phone (H) _____ (C) _____

Address _____

Email _____

Marital Status _____ Spouse's Name _____

Names and Ages of Children _____

When were you Born-Again? _____

Have you been water baptized? _____

Have you completed the four session Faith Foundations class online? : _____

Previous Church Home? _____ How long? _____

List areas of previous church involvement. _____

Have you ever been in full-time ministry? _____ What field? _____

What do you consider to be your strong points? _____

Please check all areas that you would be interested in serving in:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Audio Visual | <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bookstore | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publications/Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administration | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greeter | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Usher | <input type="checkbox"/> Janitorial/Cleaning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance/Indoor or
Outdoor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visitation | <input type="checkbox"/> Café Barista |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prison Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Explain |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Street Evangelism | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Men's Ministry | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Ministry | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Security | _____ |