

The Foundations of the Faith

- Read the Word of God – Pray – Fellowship – Share with others.
- Turn away from sin - Minister, serve.

1 Peter 3:15 “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”

2 Peter 1:10 “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.”

- We are called to know what we believe, and why we believe it.

1 Timothy 4:13 “Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.”

- There are essential and non-essential Christian doctrines, teachings.
- The deity of Jesus, the virgin birth, Jesus’ bodily resurrection from the dead, the inerrancy of God’s Word are examples of essential Christian doctrines – without which there is no Christianity.
- The rapture of the church, tithing, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and many other teaching from the Bible exist – while these teachings affect our faith and practice they are not considered essential to our faith. You might not believe in the rapture, but you can still be saved, there is room for debate about the baptism of the Holy Spirit, it doesn’t mean someone is condemned to hell, it just means they are right or wrong on an issue.

2 Timothy 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

- **Topics to be covered:** See list below:
- **Statement of faith:** ccsusanville.com

Let’s take a look at the parable of the four soils:

Matthew 13:1-23

- We have a choice in what kind of soil we are going to be, we can soften or harden our hearts to instruction from God’s word.

Speaking of virtue and a good witness, inward beauty vs outward appearances:

1 Peter 3:4 “... let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.”

- The speaks of a quiet and a gentle spirit, a teachable spirit; one who is willing to receive instruction – that is one of the characteristics of a disciple, a follower, a learner of Jesus.
- There are some characteristics of a disciple that are worth discussing:

Jesus said:

Luke 7:47 “Wherefore I say unto thee, her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.”

- Those who are forgiven much, love much.

1 Timothy 1:12-15 ¹²“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; ¹³who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in un-belief. ¹⁴And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.”

- Disciples have an appreciation for their salvation; an appreciation that is manifest in obedience to God’s word.
- A disciple puts their relationship with Jesus above all other relationships.

Luke 14:26 “If any man come to Me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.”

James 4:4 “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”

- A disciple places Jesus before all their possessions:

Matthew 6:24 “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

Matthew 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

- A disciple is dedicated to God’s Word:

John 8:31-32 ³¹“... if ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed; ³²and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

A disciple is a “God seeker” – someone who passionately seeks after the Lord, someone with an insatiable hunger and thirst for the things of the Lord.

Salvation – regeneration: “Born again”

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

John 3:3 “... verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

John 1:12-13 “¹²But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: ¹³Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 “⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

Romans 10:9-13

Topics to cover:

1. Salvation. What Have I done? Assurance of salvation. Salvation explained. (Counseling priority)
2. The centrality of scripture, the importance of God’s Word.
3. How did we get the Bible? Can we trust the Bible? What about Bible translations, Which Bible? Bible study basics.
4. Repentance: Forsaking sin, we are saved from sin, not in sin.
5. Baptism.
6. Walking in the Spirit, baptism of the Holy Spirit – God’s empowering.
7. Communion.
8. Prayer.
9. Worship.
10. Church attendance, fellowship.
11. Tithing.
12. Basic Doctrines (teachings) of the Bible.
 - a) Deity of Jesus.
 - b) Veracity, inerrancy, inspiration of the Bible.
 - c) Trinity.
 - d) Virgin birth.
 - e) Depravity / sinful nature of man.
 - f) Doctrine of Marriage.

- g) Creation.
- h) Redemption, forgiveness, grace, and mercy.

- 13. Maturity, growth, hearing God's voice.
- 14. Spiritual warfare:
- 15. Characteristics and character of God.
- 16. End times (Eschatology) and the return of Christ.
- 17. Scriptures to memorize:
- 18. Sharing your faith / personal testimony.
- 19. Suggested books to read.