

Speaker: Stefan Duerksen, Lead Pastor

CWP: NO CWP – MEMBERSHIP WEEKEND

TITLE Intro: 1 Corinthians 1:4–9 (ESV) ⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— ⁶ **even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—** ⁷ **so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,** ⁸ who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sermon Title: Part 11: Scripture is our Firm Foundation

P. Ray, “Prayer isn’t everything, but everything should proceed from prayer.”

P. Stefan, “Scripture isn’t everything, (Rom. 1 says there is general revelation that reveals truth but cannot save), but everything should be built on a foundation of Scripture. (Generational revelation must be submitted to Scripture.)”

A. Theology: Knowing God, Truth, Right Doctrine, Ethics, Beliefs

How do we arrive at the right beliefs? What does the Bible say? TRUE. What about disagreements? Why are there so many denominations?

Scripture isn’t everything, but everything should be built on the foundation of Scripture.

Enter: The Wesleyan Quadrilateral: It consists of a foundation (Scripture) and three distinct "tools" or pillars: Scripture (foundation) – Reason, Tradition, and Experience.

NOTE: Everyone will naturally lean on one of the three pillars. Though good and necessary for knowing the truth & God, the pillars, on their own, crumble and can easily lead to deception.

Imbalance Leads to Error:

1. **Reason:** Science, philosophy, logic, etc. = rejecting the supernatural.
 2. **Tradition:** How things have always been, etc. = accepting false doctrine
 3. **Experience:** Trust my gut/feelings/heart = easily deceived
 4. **SCRIPTURE:** literalism = reject context, genre, etc.
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1. **Scripture:** The primary and foundational authority. It is the lens through which all other pillars are viewed. Scripture is: God’s revealed Word in the Old & New Testaments, sufficient, infallible, foundation for truth & faith.
 - **2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV)** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
 - **Matthew Barrett:** *The sufficiency of Scripture means that all things necessary for salvation and for living the Christian life in obedience to God and for his glory are given to us in the Scriptures. Not only is the Bible our supreme authority, but it is also the authority that provides believers*

with all the truth they need for reconciliation with God and for following after Christ. (God's Word Alone, Matthew Barrett, p. 334)

2. **Tradition:** Tradition provides the historical context of the Church. This includes the writings of the early Church fathers, the creeds, and the collective wisdom of past generations and current generations. It ensures that modern interpretations are grounded in a heritage that has stood the test of time, preventing "theological reinventing of the wheel."
3. **Reason:** Reason is the intellectual faculty used to process and understand revelation. Wesley believed that faith and logic are not enemies; rather, God gave us the ability to think critically, organize thoughts, and apply evidence to our beliefs. Faith should be rational, not superstitious.
 - **Romans 1:19–20 (ESV)**¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.
 - **For example**, some verses talk about God having body parts & we are told He is Spirit. The Bible uses anthropomorphisms to help us understand. NOT LITERAL – OR WE HAVE A CONTRADICTION.
4. **Experience:** This refers to the lived reality of the individual and the community. It is the "internal evidence" of God's work—how a person's heart and life are transformed by grace. Experience can validate the truths found in scripture, turning abstract doctrine into personal reality.
 - Witness of the Spirit, operating in the gifts of the Spirit, Validation of Truth, proof that the Bible is true, Vitality – prevents "dead orthodoxy" and keeps the "hearts on fire for the Lord."
 - **1. For example**, worship music – I hear this all the time! If it's emotional or experiential, it is somehow suspect. Rather than being judged on the foundation of TRUTH.
 - **2. For example, David Wilson**, a Cessationist scholar, argues against the gifts primarily because a prophetic word would undermine Scripture. In a debate with Michael Brown, he conceded that Scripture may provide grounds for prophetic words, but he still wouldn't accept them, asking how that would not undermine Scripture. This is an EXPERIENTIAL ARGUMENT, NOT A BIBLICAL ONE.

Charles Spurgeon & Jonathon Edwards – Reformed and cited by Reformers. BOTH experienced outpourings of the Spirit and operation of the Spiritual Gifts. (resting in the Spirit, words of knowledge, healing, etc.)

PRAY FOR FILLING OF THE SPIRIT AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS! If they are here for today, WE NEED THEM.

Next week we are going to look at: Church Traditions (History) & Spiritual Gifts

MODIFIED PRAYER: (Acts 4:24–31) "Sovereign Lord, you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David, the Prophets, and the Apostles. Now, Lord, consider the days we live in, the struggles we face, the weakness inherent in us, and grant us Your Spirit to empower us to minister, break free from sin, persevere through hardship, and speak Your word with great boldness. While you stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

PRAY & COMMIT – PRAY FOR THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

SPECIAL: Walk in Your Ways

AFTER SERVICE PRAYER – PRAYER ROOM – 9 AM and 11 AM

MARANATHA!! Come soon, Lord!

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Cruise ship → → → → → Battleship

- 1. Love God – Love People – Be Discipled – Make Disciples**
- 2. Next Gen: Grounded, Connected & Mobilized**
- 3. CRI: Development of CRI School to Train Next Gen Pastors**
- 4. Canadian Church: Religious Freedom & Cultural Engagement**
- 5. Persecuted Church & Israel: Salvation, Hope & Perseverance**