

Session 7

I. Question—How do I live the Christian life?

II. Survey of Key Passages

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Big Idea: The Christian life is one of purpose (make disciples), service (all authority), and relationship (I am with you).

Acts 1:8

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Big Idea: Our mission is empowered by the Spirit and has its aim as the whole world.

Romans 6:6-14

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—⁷ because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. ¹³ Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

Big Idea: As followers of Jesus, we are not only freed from the penalty of sin but also its power. We are no longer slaves!

Romans 7:21-25

So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²² For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³ but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Big Idea: Yet, the Christian life is still an ongoing struggle with sin.

Galatians 5:16-23

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Big Idea: The inclination to sin remains with us even as the Spirit indwells us. The Christian life consists of following the Spirit's desire for righteousness over the flesh's desire for sin.

Ephesians 4:20-24

That, however, is not the way of life you learned ²¹ when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Big Idea: Spiritual growth requires a transformation of the mind.

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Big Idea: True worship of God is the renewal of mind and lifestyle that comes from knowing what He has done for us in Jesus Christ and offering ourselves to Him.

Philippians 3:20-21

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Big Idea: No matter how hard and long the struggle, God will complete His work of transforming us at the resurrection.

THE CHURCH

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Big Idea: The early church was a loving community committed to each other, the apostles' teaching, and to prayer. This community worshiped and grew.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

Big Idea: The Church is Christ's body to do His work on earth. The Church is united as one and yet very diverse in its gifts.

Ephesians 5:25-27

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Big Idea: The Church is Christ's bride given to love Him and be loved by Him.

1 Timothy 5:1-2

Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, ² older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

Big Idea: The Church is Christ's brothers and sisters, given to love, encourage, and challenge each other.

Titus 1:5

The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.

1 Peter 5:1-5a

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ²Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; ³not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. ⁵In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders.

Big Idea: The leadership of the church is given by God to care for, watch over, and instruct the church. The church is to honor that leadership.

Galatians 2:9-10

James, Cephas and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised. ¹⁰All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.

Big Idea: The Church has a responsibility to love and serve the poor.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread,²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Big Idea: Communion is God's gift to the Church to regularly remember the Cross and Christ's saving work for us.

1 Peter 3:21-22

...and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,²² who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Big Idea: Baptism is the proclamation of saving faith in Christ before the church and all people.

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Big Idea: We must be faithful to attend and contribute to our local church for ongoing spiritual growth.

III. Summary of Biblical Truth

1. The Christian life is a life of progressive growth in faith and godliness.
2. The Christian life is a partnership as we rely on God's Spirit to transform us.
3. The Christian life depends on the local church as the community of faith.
4. The Church is the body, bride, and family of Christ.
5. The Church has leadership for structure and care.
6. The tasks of the Church are evangelism, acts of love and care, and worship of God.

Doctrinal Statement of Fellowship Bible Church of Northwest Arkansas

Salvation... We believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins as the only sufficient, substitutionary sacrifice. All who believe in Him are declared justified by the Father on the grounds of Jesus' death and resurrection. All who receive the Lord Jesus Christ by grace through faith have been regenerated by and baptized in the Holy Spirit. They become, thereby, the children of God, forever, and members of the one true Church, the universal Body of Christ. This salvation will result in righteous living and good works as the believer submits his life to the control of the Holy Spirit who directs the life of the believer in harmony with the Word of God.

—John 1:12; 3:16; 5:24; 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:21-26; 5:8;
1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Galatians 3:26; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-10; Titus 3:4-7;
Hebrews 10:10-12; 1 John 5:11-13

The Church... We believe that all who have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit belong to the one true universal Church and are directed by the Scriptures to associate themselves in local, visible churches. The local church is the only scriptural representation of Christ's invisible Church and consists only of regenerated believers. The local church is autonomous in its government and recognizes its own members for the Biblical offices of elder and deacon. Two ordinances have been committed to the local church—Baptism and the Lord's Supper. The purpose of the church is to lead others to Christ, mature them in the faith, and equip them for personal ministry.

—Matthew 16:13-28; 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-47; 4:1-16; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29;
Ephesians 2:19-22; 4:11-13; Hebrews 10:23-25; 1 Peter 5:1-3

5. What about certain more “supernatural gifts”?

Range of Views of Supernatural Gifts¹

DEIST	CESSATIONIST	CONTINUATIONIST	CHARISMATIC	HYPER-CHARISMATIC
This view teaches that the Holy Spirit has no role in our lives today. It is just our minds and the Bible.	This view teaches that the supernatural gifts (tongues, miracles, and prophecy) were for the early church and are not given as gifts to the church today (though God can still do as He pleases). God speaks through the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit enables us to understand, trust, and apply the Scriptures.	This view teaches that the supernatural gifts are given to every generation and should be practiced today as God gives them but always tested according to the guidelines of Scripture. Gifts are given by grace and are not the evidence of salvation or spirituality. New words from the Lord are always secondary to Scripture.	This view teaches that the supernatural gifts are given to every generation and should be practiced today but always tested according to the guidelines of Scripture. This view teaches that manifestations should be actively sought after. Gifts are given by grace and are not the evidence of salvation or spirituality. New words from the Lord are always secondary to Scripture.	This view teaches that the supernatural gifts are given to every generation and should be practiced today and are valued more than Scripture. These manifestations should be actively sought after as evidence of God's presence. Some hold that only the supernaturally gifted are truly saved and are more spiritual than others.
Verdict: Unbiblical Option	Verdict: Biblical Option	Verdict: Biblical Option	Verdict: Biblical Option	Verdict: Unbiblical Option

¹ Adapted and modified from Mark Driscoll and Gerry Breshears, *Doctrine: What Christians Should Believe*. (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010), 386.

