

# Statement of Faith

## 1. THE BIBLE

We believe the sole basis of our beliefs is the Bible, God's infallible written Word, the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. We believe that it was uniquely, verbally and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, that it was written without error (inerrant) in the original manuscripts, and that it reveals Himself and His purpose and plan for all mankind. It is the supreme and final authority in all matters on which it speaks and is the absolute standard for faith and conduct (2 Timothy 3:15-17; Matthew 5:18; 2 Peter 1:20, 21).

## 2. GOD

**A.** There is one true God co-equal and eternally existing in 3 distinct persons: the Father; the Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit (1 John 5:7; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:21, 22; John 14:16-18).

**B.** The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God:

1. He was born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:21-23; Luke 1:31-35).
2. He lived a sinless life (1 Peter 2:21, 22; Hebrews 4:15; 1 John 3:5).
3. He died on the Cross to save sinners (Isaiah 53:5, 6; 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
4. He rose bodily from the dead (Luke 24:36-43; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; Acts 2:22-24).
5. He ascended to the right hand of the Father (Luke 24:50-52; Acts 1:9; Hebrews 1:3).
6. He will come again to rule as King over all the earth (Acts 1:9-11; Revelation 19:11-16; 20:1-4; Zechariah 14:3-5; Matthew 24:27-30, 36; Philippians 2:5-11).

**C.** The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity. During His present ministry:

1. He convicts and calls the sinner to repentance (John 16:7-11).
2. He places the believer into the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13).
3. He regenerates and indwells the believer, affirms his sonship, and enables him to live a godly life (Titus 3:5; 1 Corinthians 6:19; Romans 8:16).
4. He bestows spiritual gifts and supernatural power to the Church (1 Corinthians 12:4-11).

**D.** The works of God – Creation:

1. God created all things "good" – He did not create evil (Genesis 1:1-31; John 1:1-3, 10; Colossians 1:16, 17; Psalm 33:6-9; Hebrews 11:3; Mark 13:19).
2. God made the angels with intelligence, emotion, will, and freedom of choice. One of these angels, named Lucifer, led a rebellion in heaven. Being the first to sin, He became the fallen angel, Satan or the devil. Some of the angels defected with him who then became evil spirits or demons (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19; 1 John 3:8; Matthew 25:41; Revelation 12:7-9).

### 3. MAN

- A. Adam and Eve were created in God's own image and likeness (spirit, soul, and body), without sin, with the ability to make their own choice whether to serve Him or not (Genesis 1:26, 27; 2:7, 16, 17).
- B. When God tested Adam and Eve's obedience in the garden, they chose to reject God's sovereign rule over their lives and sinned – "missing the mark" for the purpose they were created (Genesis 3:1-13).
- C. When Adam sinned, he relinquished the rule God intended mankind to have over the earth to the devil; therefore, mankind became a slave to sin and to Satan (Luke 4:5, 6; John 12:31; 14:30; 8:34; Romans 6:6; 2 Timothy 2:25, 26).
- D. A sin-diseased couple began to propagate a sin-diseased race resulting in separation from God (i.e., spiritual and physical death), evil, sickness, suffering, injustice, etc., that has gripped our world ever since. Mankind now came under the judgment of God (Acts 17:26; Romans 5:12, 19; Psalm 51:5; John 3:36; Galatians 5:19-21).
- E. Man's only hope of reconciliation with God and being saved from the judgment of hell is through receiving the work Jesus accomplished for us by His substitutionary death on the cross. We become partakers through these conditions:
  - 1. Christ's work on the cross for us is a gift and cannot be earned; therefore, we obtain it through God's grace, not our "works" (Ephesians 2:8, 9; Luke 7:47-50; Romans 4:3-5, 20-5:1; 9:30-33; Titus 3:5; John 6:28, 29).
  - 2. By faith in Christ alone and repentance of our sins (Luke 13:1-5; 7:50; 2 Peter 3:9; Acts 2:37, 38; 4:12; John 14:6; Romans 10:9-11; 1 Timothy 2:5, 6).
  - 3. By choosing to allow Christ to rule our lives through a "born-again" experience whereby we become His children (John 1:12; 3:3, 5; Romans 8:14-17).
  - 4. By the life-long process of separating ourselves from evil – to God for sacred use which is called sanctification (Hebrews 12:14; Colossians 3:5-14; Revelation 3:5, 21).

### 4. THE CHURCH

- A. When one meets these conditions to salvation, one becomes a member of Christ's church – the worldwide Body of Christ – which transcends man-made church denominations (1 Corinthians 12:13; Acts 15:14-17; Romans 11: 7-25; Matthew 16:15-18; Ephesians 4:4-6; 5:27; 1 Corinthians 3:16).
- B. The mission of the church is worldwide evangelization on the one hand and the nurture and discipline of Christians on the other (Matthew 28:19-20).
- C. The two ordinances of the church are:
  - 1. Baptism into water for public profession of one's faith, and identification with Christ – not for forgiveness of sins (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-8).
  - 2. Commemorating the Lord's Supper – a symbolic remembrance of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection (Luke 22:14-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32).

- D. The Church, Christ's Bride, anxiously awaits her "*blessed hope*" – the return of her Bridegroom, Christ, in which all deceased believers will be resurrected and the believers who are alive will be caught up to meet Christ (commonly known as "the Rapture") Ephesians 5:23-27; Titus 2:13-14; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

## 5. THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. Jesus Christ is the "baptizer" who gives us this gift (Mark 1:8; John 1:32-34; Acts 2:38, 39).
- B. It is an experience distinct from the "born-again" experience and not a requirement for salvation (Acts 1:4-5, 12-15; 2:1-18; 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:13-18; 15:7).
- C. It is an additional impartation of power to live a victorious Christian life, to witness with boldness, and to experience the fullness of the Spirit (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; 2:4; 4:8, 31-33; 13:9; Ephesians 5:18; John 7:37-39).
- D. It is the gateway to the bestowment of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and their uses in the work of the ministry (1 Corinthians 12:1-11; 14:1-40).

## 6. THE AFTERLIFE

- A. We believe there will be a resurrection for both the just and the unjust, and each will be judged according to what they did on earth (commonly known as the Great White Throne Judgment). Those who have received Christ's work on the cross and have met the conditions of salvation will live with Him forever. Those who have not, God will cast into the Lake of Fire for eternity in perfect justice and fairness. (John 5:22, 27-29; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10-12; John 3:36; 12:48; Matthew 25:41, 46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 20:10-15; 21:8).
- B. There will be a new Heaven and a new earth (2 Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 21:1).