

Statement of Faith

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES We believe that the Holy Bible is the Word of the living God; true, immutable, steadfast, unchangeable, as its author, the Lord; that it was written by holy men of old as they were moved upon and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Scripture References: *Mt. 24:35; Ps. 119:89; 2 Tim. 3:16,17; Ps. 119:105; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Jn.5:39; Phil. 3:16; 1 Jn.4:1; Is.8:20; 1 Thess. 5:21; Acts 17:11; 1 Jn.4:6; Jude 3; Eph. 6:17; Ps. 119:59,60; Phil. 1:9-11; Prov. 30:5; Rom. 16:25, 26*

THE ETERNAL GODHEAD We believe that there is but one true and living God; maker of heaven and earth and all that is in them; the Alpha and Omega, who ever was, and is and shall be, time without end, Amen; and that in the unity of the Godhead there are three, equal in every divine perfection executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

The Father — Whose glory is so exceedingly bright that mortal man cannot look upon His face and live, but whose heart was so filled with love and longsuffering for His lost children that He freely gave His only begotten Son to redeem and reconcile them unto Himself.

The Son — Co-existent and co-eternal with the Father, who, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary took upon Himself the form of man, bore our sins, carried our sorrows, and by the shedding of His precious blood upon the cross of Calvary, purchased redemption for all that would believe upon Him: then, bursting the bonds of death and hell rose from the grave and ascended on high leading captivity captive, that as the great mediator between God and man, He might stand at the right hand of the Father making intercession for those whom He laid down His life and will return again in power and glory. On earth, Jesus was fully God and fully man. He is the only man ever to have lived a sinless life.

The Holy Spirit — The third person of the Godhead, the Spirit of the Father shed abroad, omnipotent, omnipresent, performing an inexpressibly important mission upon earth, convicting of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, drawing sinners to the Savior, rebuking, pleading, searching, comforting, guiding, quickening, teaching, glorifying, baptizing and enduing with power from on high those who yield to Him, preparing them for the great day of the Lord's appearing.

Scripture References: *Gen. 1:26; Isa. 9:6, 43:10, 44:8; Matt. 1:23, 3:16,17; 28:19; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-3, 3:16, 15:26; Heb. 3:7-11; 1 John 5:7; 1 Tim 2:5, 6a; Eph 2:18; 2 Cor. 13:14; Mt. 28:19; Rom. 8:11; Jn. 16:7-14*

VIRGIN BIRTH Jesus Christ was conceived by God the Father, through the Holy Spirit (the third person of the Trinity) in the virgin Mary's womb; therefore, He is the Son of God.

Scripture References: *Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18,23-25; Luke 1:27-35*

THE FALL OF MAN We believe that man is created in the image of God but, by voluntary disobedience, fell from perfection—thereby imbuing humanity with sinfulness, and the consequences of sin.

Scripture References: *Gn. 1:27; Rom. 5:19; Jn.3:6; Ps. 51:5; Rom. 5:15-19; 8:7; Is. 53:6; Gen. 6:12; 3:9-19; Eph. 2:3; Rom. 1:18,32; 2:1-16; Mt. 20:15; Gal. 3:10; Ez.18:19, 20*

THE PLAN OF REDEMPTION We believe that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us, the Just for the unjust; freely, and by divine appointment of the Father, taking the sinner's place, bearing his sins, receiving his condemnation, dying his death, fully paying his penalty, and signing with His life's blood, the pardon of everyone who should believe upon Him; that upon simple faith and acceptance of the atonement purchased on Calvary, the sinner may be cleansed of his iniquities and made whiter than snow.

Scripture References: *Is. 53:5; Titus 2:14; Is. 55:7; Heb. 7:25; Is. 1:18*

SALVATION THROUGH GRACE We believe that the salvation of sinners is through grace; that we have no righteousness or goodness of our own to seek divine favor, and must come, therefore, upon the unfailing mercy and love of Him who bought us and washed us in His own blood, pleading the merits and the righteousness of Christ the Savior, standing upon His word and accepting the free gift of love and pardon.

Scripture References: *Eph. 2:8; Rom. 3:10; Rom. 3:23; Is. 64:6; Jn. 6:47; Eph. 2:13; Rom. 6:23*

REPENTANCE AND ACCEPTANCE We believe that upon sincere repentance, godly sorrow for sin, and a whole-hearted acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ, they who call upon Him may be justified by faith, through His precious blood and that in place of condemnation they may have the most blessed peace, assurance and favor with God; that with open arms of mercy and pardon the Savior waits to receive each repentant heart who will in supplication for mercy, open the door of their heart and accept Him as Lord and King.

Scripture References: *1 Jn. 1:9; Rom. 5:1,2; Rom. 8:1; Lk. 1:77-79; Jn. 6:37*

THE NEW BIRTH We believe that the change which takes place in the heart and life at conversion is a very real one; that the sinner is then born again in such a glorious and transforming manner that the old things are passed away and all things are become new; insomuch that the things once most desired are now abhorred, while the things once abhorred are now held most sacred and dear; and that now having imputed to him the righteousness of the Redeemer and having received of the Spirit of Christ, new desires, new aspirations, new interests, and a new perspective on life, time and eternity, fills the blood-washed heart so that his desire is now to openly confess and serve the Master, seeking ever those things which are above.

Scripture References: *Jn. 3:3; 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 2:20; Rom. 3:24,25; Ps. 1:1,2*

SANCTIFICATION We believe that having been cleansed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ and having received the witness of the Holy Spirit at conversion, it is the will of God that we be sanctified daily and become partakers of His holiness; growing constantly stronger in faith, power, prayer, love and service, first as babies desiring the sincere milk of the Word; then as dear children walking humbly, seeking diligently the hidden life, where self decreases and Christ increases; then as strong men having on the whole armor of God, marching forth to new conquests in His name beneath His blood-stained banner, ever living a patient, sober, unselfish, godly life that will be a true reflection of the Christ within.

Scripture References: *1 Thess. 4:3; 5:23-24; 2 Thess. 2:1-3; 2 Cor. 1:10; 3:18; 6:14-18; 7:1; Prov. 4:18; Heb. 2:11; 6:1; 12:14; Rom. 8:3-5, 29; 12:1,2; Is. 35:8; 1 Peter 1:15-16; 2:2; 1 Jn 2:6*

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT We believe that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is the incoming of the promised Comforter in mighty and glorious fullness to endue the believer with power from on high; to glorify and exalt the Lord Jesus; to give inspired utterance in witnessing of Him; to foster the spirit of prayer, holiness, sobriety; to equip the individual and the Church for practical, efficient, joyous, Spirit- filled soul winning; and that this being still the dispensation of the Holy Spirit, the believer may have every reason to expect His incoming to be after the same manner as that in which He came upon Jew and Gentile alike in Bible days, and as recorded in the Word, that it may be truly said of us as of the house of Cornelius: the Holy Ghost fell on them as on us at the beginning.

Scripture References: *Jn. 14:16,17; Acts 1:5,8; 2:1-4,17, 38, 39; 8:14-17; 10:38,44-47; 11:15-17; 19:1-6; 1 Cor. 3:16; Joel 2:28,29; Matt. 3:11; Mark 16:17*

THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE We believe that while the Holy Spirit is as a mighty rushing wind and as tongues of living flame that can shake and set ablaze whole communities for God, He is also as a gentle dove, easily grieved and wounded by impiety, coldness, idle conversation, boastfulness, a judging or criticizing spirit and by thoughts and actions dishonoring to the Lord Jesus; that it is therefore, the will of God that we live and walk in the Spirit, moment by moment, under the precious blood of the Lamb; treading softly as with unshod feet in the presence of the King; being patient, loving, truthful, sincere, prayerful, not murmuring, instant in season and out of season, serving the Lord.

Scripture References: *Eph. 4:30-32; 6:18; Rom. 12:1,2; 1 Jn. 2:6; Gal. 5:16,25; 1 Cor. 3:17*

THE GIFTS AND FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT We believe that the Holy Spirit has the following gifts to bestow upon the believing church of the Lord Jesus Christ: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment, tongues, interpretation; that according to the degree of grace and faith possessed by the recipient, these gifts are divided to every man, as He, the Holy Spirit, wills; that they are to be most earnestly desired and coveted, in the order and proportion wherein they prove most edifying and beneficial to the church; and that the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace,

long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, should be put forth, cultivated, and diligently guarded as the resultant adornment, the constant, eloquent, and irrefutable evidence of a Spirit-filled life.

Scripture References: *1 Cor. 12:1,11, 31; 14:12; Rom. 11:29; 12:6-8; Jn. 15:8; Lk. 3:9; Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:1-31; 14:1-40; Eph. 4:16; 1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:5-16; Heb. 2:4; 1 Pet. 4:10*

DIVINE HEALING We believe that divine healing is the power of the Lord Jesus Christ to heal the sick and the afflicted in answer to believing prayer; that He who is the same yesterday, today and forever has never changed but is still an all-sufficient help in the time of trouble, able to meet the needs of, and quicken the body into newness of life, as well as the soul and spirit in answer to the faith of them who ever pray with submission to His divine and sovereign will. Healing of the sick is illustrated in the life and ministry of Jesus, and included in Jesus' commission to His disciples. Healing of the sick is given as a sign that is to follow believers, It is also a part of Jesus' work on the cross and one of the gifts of the Spirit

Scripture References: *Mt. 8:16-17; 9:5; Mark 16:12-18; Acts 4:29, 30; 8:6, 7; 10:38; James 5:14-16; Psalm 103; Isaiah 53:4; 1 Cor. 12:9,28; Rom. 11:29*

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST We believe that the second coming of Christ is personal and imminent; that He will descend from Heaven in the clouds of glory with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God; and that at this hour, which no man knows beforehand, the dead in Christ shall rise, then the redeemed that are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, and all will be restored. Also seeing that a thousand years is as a day with the Lord, and that no man knows the hour of His appearance, which we believe to be near at hand, each day should be lived as though He were expected to appear. We intend to do as the Lord commanded "Occupy till I come," the work of spreading the gospel, the sending forth of missionaries, and the general duties for the upbuilding of the church. All should be carried on as diligently, and thoroughly, as though neither ours nor the next generation should live in the flesh to see the glorious day.

Scripture References: *1 Thess. 4:16,17; 2 Thess. 1:7, 8; Titus 2:12,13; Mt. 24:30, 36, 42, 44; 26:63, 64; Heb. 9:28; Lk. 19:13; 12:35-37; Acts 1:9-11; Rev. 17*

THE CHURCH The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of Jesus' Great commission. Every person born of the Spirit is an integral part of the Church as a member of the Body of believers. There is a spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that having accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior and King, and having thus been born into the family and invisible body or church of the Lord, it is the sacred duty of the believer, whenever this lies within his power, to identify himself with, and labor most earnestly for the upbuilding of God's kingdom with the visible church of Christ upon the earth; and that such visible church is a congregation of believers, who have associated themselves

together in Christian fellowship and in the unity of the Spirit, observing the ordinances of Christ, worshipping Him in the beauty of holiness, speaking to each other in psalms, and hymns and spiritual songs, reading and proclaiming His Word, laboring for the salvation of souls, giving their temporal means to carry on His work, edifying, encouraging, establishing one another in the most holy faith, and working harmoniously together as dear children who are many members but one body of which Christ is head.

Scripture References: *John 17:11, 20-23; Eph. 1:22; 2:19-22; Heb. 12:23; Ps. 111:1; Heb. 10:24,25; Acts 2:42-47; Acts. 16:5; Rom. 12:5; Rom. 12:6-8; Mal. 3:16,17*

CIVIL GOVERNMENT We believe that the civil government is of divine appointment to uphold righteousness and justice, for the interests and good order of society; and that governors and rulers should be prayed for, obeyed, and upheld, at all times except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the ruler of the conscience of His people, the King of Kings, and the Lord of Lords.

Scripture References: *Rom. 13:1,3; Deut. 16:18; 2 Sam. 23:3; Ex.18:21-23; Jer. 30:21; Acts 5:29; Mt. 10:28; Dan. 3:15-18;6:7-10; Acts 4:18-20; Mt. 23:10; Rev. 19:16; Ps. 72:11; Proverbs 29:2*

JUDGMENT We believe every person will one day stand before the judgment seat of Christ to receive eternal life or death.

Scripture References: *2 Cor. 5:10; Mt. 13:41-43; Rev. 20:11-15; Heb. 9:27*

HEAVEN We believe that Jesus has come to redeem all things and restore all things, there will be a new heaven and a new earth, the glorious eternal home of born-again believers.

Scripture References: *Matt. 5:3,12,20; 6:20; 19:21; 25:34; John 17:24; 2 Cor. 5:1; Heb. 11:16; 1 Pet. 1:4; 1 Cor. 2:9; Jn. 14:1-3; Rev. 22:5; Rev. 21:4; Rev. 7:15-17; Isaiah 65:17-19; Acts 3:21*

HELL We believe that hell is the place of eternal torment for all who reject Christ as Savior.

Scripture References: *Mt. 13:41,42; Rev. 20:10,15; 21:8; 14:9-11; Mt. 25:41; Mk. 9:43,44; Ezekiel 33:11; Matt. 25:41; Heb. 9:27*

EVANGELISM We believe that soul winning is the great co-mission of the Church upon earth; and that therefore every weight and hindrance which would tend to quench the flame or hamper the efficiency of world-wide evangelism should be cut off and cast away as unworthy of the Church, detrimental to the most sacred cause of Christ and contrary to the great commission by our Lord.

Scripture References: *2 Tim. 4:1,2; Eph. 5:16; Prov. 11:30; James 5:20; Ezekiel 3:17,18; Jn. 4:35-37; Mt. 9:38; 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15*

TITHING AND OFFERINGS We believe the method ordained by God for the support and spread of His cause is giving tithes and offerings.

Scripture Reference: *1 Cor. 16:1,2; Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; II Corinthians 9:7*

MODERATION We believe that people who follow Christ should avoid the extremes of fanaticism and pursue lives of balance and moderation, demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit.

Scripture Reference: *Phil. 4:5; Col. 3:12, 13; Galatians 5:22-24*

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP We believe women are gifted, called, and anointed by God and can be leaders in civil and spiritual arenas at any level of authority. Acts 2:17,18 gives clear evidence the Holy Spirit empowers both males and females equally. In Galatians 3:26-29 Paul clearly states that there is neither male nor female in Christ, and all are one in Christ Jesus.

We look to biblical figures and see called, anointed women operating in God's leadership gifts. Those like Deborah, a civil and spiritual senior leader, as Judge over all of Israel (Judges 4, 5). Huldah was a Prophetess (2 Kings 22, 2 Chronicles 24). Priscilla was a Pastor who helped teach men (Acts 18:26). Phoebe was an Evangelist Missionary (Romans 16:1). These women are clear examples of Godly leadership. We believe God still uses women today.

1 Corinthians 14:34 and 1 Timothy 2:12 describe specific situations that happened at the time of Paul's writings for the immediate context of the churches and leaders he was writing to advise. We do not see these verses as Paul's declaration against all female leaders forever.

Therefore, we desire to equip, send, and appoint both male and female leaders individually and together as God calls and anoints them.

ISRAEL God made an everlasting covenant with Abraham (the first "Hebrew" in Genesis 14:13) and his descendants which includes the giving of all the land of Canaan (Israel) as an everlasting possession (Genesis 17:7-8)

God is a covenant-keeping God and keeps covenant even if human beings do not. We believe that God has an end-time redemptive plan which includes Israel and the nations. He has not cast Israel away (Romans 11:1). The Gentile Church does not replace Israel. Rather, the Church is grafted into the commonwealth of Israel and God is creating from the two (Jew and Gentile) "one new man" (Ephesians 2:11-18) to the glory of HIS Name!

We believe it is our mandate to bless Israel (Genesis 12:3), especially the Messianic believers because they are of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10), and to comfort, comfort the people of Israel (Isaiah 40:1) by our actions and support of Israel. We pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6) and long for the day when all Israel will be saved (Romans 11:25-27).

SANCTITY OF LIFE We believe that human life is sacred, precious, and should be protected from conception to natural death.

Scripture Reference: *Psalms 139:16, 37:18; Job 14:5; Acts 17:25*