

Statement of Beliefs

As an expression of our commitment to our faith as Christians, we hold to both the Apostles Creed and Nicene Creed as foundational Christian beliefs. In coherence with the INC declaration of faith, we hold to the following:

GOD: THE TRIUNE

WE BELIEVE that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three equally divine yet distinct Persons; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Scriptures set forth the eternal Trinity, that is, the Unity of Godhead, which has ever existed in three Persons.

Genesis 1:1,2,26; Exodus. 3:14; Deuteronomy. 6:4; Matthew 28:19; John 8:58; John 1:1-2, 5:17-23; 15:25-26; 16:7, 27-28; Philippians. 2:6; Hebrews 1:1-3, 8; Revelations 4:8-11.

GOD: THE FATHER

WE BELIEVE in God the Father; the infinite One Who concerns Himself mercifully and with justice in the affairs of mankind. He hears and answers prayer and saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. He is infinite in knowledge, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, truth and love.

Acts 17:24-28; Rom. 11:33-36; 1 John 1:5, 4:8.

JESUS: OUR SAVIOR

WE BELIEVE Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and is co-equal and co-eternal with the Father. *Matthew* 1:22-23, *Isaiah* 9:6, *John* 1:1-5, 14:10-30.

WE BELIEVE that Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, conceived by the Holy Spirit; we believe in His virgin birth through Mary.

Acts 17:24-28; Rom. 11:33-36; 1 John 1:5, 4:8.

WE BELIEVE in His sinless human life, His miracles and teachings. He offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of humanity by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death and to validate that the way of salvation is through Him alone. He then ascended to heaven.

Matthew 28:5-7; Mark 16:19-20; Luke 24:50-51; John 14:6; Acts 1:9-11; Romans 1:3-4; 4:25; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:20; 4:8-10; 1 Timothy 2:5; 6:14-15; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 4:14-15; 7:25; 10:12.

WE BELIEVE that Jesus is now at the right hand of God and His present mediatory work in heaven in interceding for us and where He exercises all authority.

 $Acts\ 7:55-56; Romans\ 8:34; Ephesians\ 1:20; Colossians\ 3:1; Hebrews\ 1:3;\ 8:1;\ 4:14-16;\ 12:2.$

WE BELIEVE He will personally, visibly return to earth again in power and glory to receive His people unto Himself, to execute judgment and to reign as "King of Kings and Lord of Lords". Christ will subsequently set up His kingdom on earth.

John 14:3; 1 Corinthians 15:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelations 19:11-16; Luke 1:32-33; Isaiah 9:6-7; Daniel 2:44-45; 7:13-14.

THE HOLY SPIRIT: OUR HELPER

WE BELIEVE the Holy Spirit is also fully God, co-equal with both the Father and the Son. He was sent to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgement and to make people aware of their need for Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 48:16; Matthew 28:19; John 10:33-36; 16:7-13.

WE BELIEVE the Holy Spirit lives in every true believer in Jesus Christ and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and source of strength (comforter) and with power for ministry, understanding of God's Word, comfort through trials and guidance in doing what is right. The Christian seeks to be led by the Spirit daily.

John 14:16-17, 26; 1 Corinthians 2:12.

WE BELIEVE the Holy Spirit desires to express Himself in His fullness in every believer; to develop in us godly character, to empower us and to minister through us in the exercise of all His gifts. We believe that all Biblically stated spiritual gifts exist and should be found in full operation in the church today for significantly more effective ministries.

1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 1:1; Galatians 5:22-23,25; Titus 3:5.

THE BIBLE: GOD'S LOVE LETTER

WE BELIEVE that the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments comprise the totality of Scripture and were penned without error by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit fully inspired Word of God and is fully inspired, inerrant, completely authoritative and sufficient. While the Bible is for us, it is not primarily about us. Instead, the Bible is God's Word to humanity about Himself, revealing His will, nature, character, being and His saving work in the world. We are called to enjoy, study, and submit to the Word of God.

Psalms 19:7-11; Luke 24:27; John 10:35; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Peter 1:10-12; 2 Peter 1:20-21.

HUMANITY: DYSFUNCTIONAL BUT DEEPLY LOVED

WE BELIEVE that Man, who was created by God to worship and serve Him, is alienated from Him because of sin. All human beings are sinners by nature and choice and are therefore under God's judgement. This is what is known as being spiritually dead. Incapable of regaining a right relationship with God through our own efforts, our greatest need is the undeserved love of this same God, who alone can rescue us and restore us to Himself.

Genesis 1:27, 3:1-7; Psalms 8:3-6; Isaiah 59:1-2; John 3:16-19; Romans 3:9-23; 5:12,19; 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3; 1 John 4:10.

THE GOSPEL: GOOD NEWS FOR ALL!

WE BELIEVE that although people are completely sinful, God had a plan in place to lovingly save and redeem a people for Himself. Throughout the Old Testament, we read what God will do to save His people from their sins.

Genesis 3:21; 22:8, 13; Micah 5:2; Romans 5:8; 6:23; 1 Corinthians 15:3; Hebrews 9:22.

WE BELIEVE that in the New Testament, we see this plan fulfilled perfectly through the Lord Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. God forgives and transforms by the Holy Spirit those who repent of their sins, embrace Jesus Christ as Saviour and confess Him as Lord.

John 1:12; 3:15-16; Romans 10:9; 1 John 5:11-12.

WE BELIEVE the Holy Spirit then comes to indwell the believer, and in doing so, makes alive man's spirit. This is what is known as being "born again".

John 3:5, 16-17; John 14:15-17; Romans 8:9-11; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 5:5; Ephesians 1:13; 2:1, 5.

WE BELIEVE that righteousness is appropriated to man through Christ's finished work on the cross once man responds through repentance towards God and faith in (commitment to) Jesus Christ and in His redemptive work on the cross.

Luke 24: 47; Acts 13:38-39, 20:21; Romans 3:21-26, 4:4-5; 5:1; Galatians2:16; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14.

WE BELIEVE the gospel alone is the power of God for salvation. Man's salvation from sin and its consequences is entirely an act of God's sovereign grace; it is not accomplished by any meritorious works on man's part.

Romans 3:22, 5:9; Ephesians 2:8; 1 Peter 1:19; Ephesians 1:4-5, Isaiah 53:1-11, Hebrews 2:9, 4:15; 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, Titus 3:5-6, 2 Timothy 2:25, Romans 10:13, Romans 1:16, Ephesians 2:4-9.

THE CHURCH: IT'S ABOUT PEOPLE, NOT A BUILDING!

WE BELIEVE in the universal church, the living spiritual body of which Christ is the Head and consisting of all who have been redeemed and reconciled to God through faith in Jesus Christ. It is a community of believers in which there is no difference based on race, social standing or gender. While our new relationship with God is personal, it is not individual – we have been saved into God's family. We believe that we are to gather together in large and small settings to worship God, proclaim and celebrate the gospel, and share our lives together for His glory.

Acts 2:42-47; Romans 5:1; Ephesians 2:19-22; Hebrews 10:14; 1 Peter 2:9-10.

THE SACRAMENTS: BAPTISM & HOLY COMMUNION

WE BELIEVE in water baptism as an act of commitment to Christ. This is a demonstration of belief in, and identification with, the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. At HighPointe Life, we practice baptism by immersion. As baptism is the outward demonstration of our inward change of heart; we do not baptize infants but confessing believers who have willingly trusted themselves to Christ.

Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 8:36-38, 16:31-33; Galatians 3:27; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 2:12-13; 1 Peter 3:21.

WE BELIEVE in commemorating our Lord's death by partaking of the bread, symbolizing Christ's body broken for us, and of the cup, symbolizing Christ's blood. This is commonly called "Breaking of Bread" or "Communion". Communion is open to all believers. The bread and juice/wine represent Christ's body that was broken and His blood that was shed for us. We believe that observance of these two sacraments is for confessing Christians only.

Matthew 26:26-29; Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11:25-26.

THE BAPTISM AND GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

WE BELIEVE that every believer is indwelled and sealed by the Holy Spirit at the moment of conversion. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is a one-time occurrence and happens upon our invitation to God to come and reside in our lives. The Holy Spirit then comes as a seal and a deposit of guarantee of our salvation. It is the Presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives that transforms us and begins the sanctifying work of changing us into the image of Christ.

John 10:28-29; John 15:7, 16:4, 15; Galatians 5:22-23; Romans 8:9b; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30, 6:17; Colossians 3:16; 1 Peter 1:14-17, 2:1-2; 2 Corinthians 3:18.

WE BELIEVE that separate to this regenerating work, the baptism of the Holy Spirit (or being filled with the Holy Spirit) is a distinct and ongoing experience that is promised to believers in which they are clothed with power for Christ-exalting ministry. This subsequent experience begins when we cross the threshold of yielding our inner selves to the pre-existing Presence of the indwelling Spirit. The infilling, unlike the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, is a continuous experience and enables us to live and serve God more effectively through spiritual gifts that He equips the believers with for the building of the local church and the Body of Christ.

Luke 24:48-49, Acts 1:4, 2:32-33, 39; 1 Corinthians 12:11, Ephesians 1:13; 4:11-13, 5:18.

WE BELIEVE that believers should desire and pray for the various spiritual gifts that the Holy Spirit sovereignly distributes as He wills. All of the spiritual gifts are still in operation and are available to believers for the building up of the church and for the glory of God. The Holy Spirit's empowerment in a believer's life also equips us to fulfil the Great Commission more effectively

John 20:22; Acts 1:8; 10:44-46; 1 Corinthians 14:1-5.

THE END TIMES AND FINAL RESTORATION

WE BELIEVE in the personal, glorious, bodily, and imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ where He will consummate His kingdom. We trust in God's promise that a day is coming when He will banish sin, sickness, death, decay, and Satan.

Matthew 24:30; Acts 24:15; 1 Corinthians 15:23; Revelation 1:7.

WE BELIEVE in the final judgement of the world, in eternal life for the righteous and eternal punishment for the wicked. We believe in the eternal judgement of Satan and his fallen angels. Those who have rejected God will be eternally separated from Him in Hell, while those who have accepted the immeasurable gift of His forgiveness will receive eternal life with Him in Heaven.

John 5:22; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Matthew 25:46; John. 3:16; Revelation 20: 4-15.

WE BELIEVE When Jesus returns, He will usher in the New Heavens and New Earth where we will live peacefully and joyfully in harmony with God and one another forever.

Acts 3:20-21; 2 Peter 3:12-13; Revelation 19:11-16, 21:1-5.