

STATEMENT OF FAITH

BIBLE. We believe that the whole Bible, as originally given, is the fully inspired and infallible Word of God given to man, without error. We believe it is the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct, with the final end to lead people to God and to eternal salvation.

2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:21; Romans 1:16; 1 Thessalonians 2:13

ONE GOD. We believe in the one and only Eternal and Omnipotent God, known to the Hebrews as YHWH, which then became YAHWEH. He is the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe and of all things that fill it, including heaven and earth. Although the Godhead is one, He manifested Himself in 3 Persons: the Father, the Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit. They are equal in nature, but distinct in authority and purpose. The Father is presented as the Creator, the Son as the one who reconciled men to the Father and the Holy Spirit as the one building the body of Christ, the Church, spotless and holy. He leads people to the Son, who eventually leads them to the Father.

Ephesians 4:6; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:21-22; 1 John 5:7

JESUS. We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit in the body of a virgin called Mary. He was formed as a real man, but pre-existing as God since eternity.

We also believe in Jesus' sinless life, in his miracles, in his substitutionary sacrificial death for mankind, in his bodily resurrection, in his ascension to the Father as the only mediator between people and God, and in his future second coming, to establish justice on earth, through his glorious Kingdom.

1 Peter 2:22; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Acts 2:22; 1 Peter 3:18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; Romans 1:4; 1 Corinthians 15:4, 25; Acts 1:9-11; John 14:1-3; John 1:1-2, 14; Luke 1:34-35; Matthew 1:23

HOLY SPIRIT. We believe in the Holy Spirit, sent both by the Father and by Jesus. He was sent after Jesus' resurrection to guide us into all truth, to teach us all things, to glorify Jesus, to witness, to help, to comfort and to remind us all things taught by Jesus. We believe He will "*convict the world concerning sin, righteousness and judgment*" and will continue His work regenerating and sanctifying those who want to become children of God and walk as such.

John 15:26; 14:26; 16:7-11, 13-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2; Titus 3:5

ANGELS. We believe in angels, created all perfect. Some of them rebelled against God led by Lucifer, who used to be a great angel. Rebellious angels are called demons, Lucifer is commonly known as Satan or Devil. We believe in an on-going spiritual warfare between good and evil, and in the believers' part in it through remaining truthful, righteous, ready to share the Gospel, having faith, walking in salvation, remaining close to the Word of God and praying at all times. We do not believe in any sort of veneration or prayers to angels, as they are ministering spirits for God and for the saints, and prayers are only to God. Believers pray to the Father, in the name of Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit; God might answer by sending angels.

Luke 10:18; Matthew 25:41; Ephesians 6:11-18; Hebrews 1:14; Exodus 20:3-5

SALVATION. We believe that human beings were created perfect but chose to disobey God, introducing sin into the once perfect world. As sin produces death, death entered the world. Jesus' choice to sacrifice his uniquely perfect life gave provision of forgiveness for sin, hence salvation.

Romans 3:22-25; 6:23; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Genesis 1:26-31; 2:15-17

- **Grace.** The salvation offered by God is by grace, undeserved; no one can obtain it by good deeds. Still, each one is called to repent of his sin and believe in Jesus Christ to be saved, which involves a change of life direction (also called 'conversion'), from self focused to Christ focused.

Romans 3:22-25; Acts 2:38; Ephesians 2:8; John 1:12-13; 3:3; Titus 3:5

- **Baptism.** Baptism comes from the Greek work '*baptizo*', which means 'immersion. All those who have received grace and are 'born again' (another word which speaks of a new beginning, or conversion), are to obey God's command to be baptised in water. Water baptism is therefore only for people who have received the grace of God, who are adult enough to take a life commitment (not infants), and via full immersion in water (not sprinkling). Baptism is performed in the name of the Father, the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38; 8:12; 22:16; Matthew 28:19

- **Sanctification.** Also called the way of salvation, sanctification is a life-long process of perfecting our life through a continuous relationship with God and with the Church and by offering our service to God through the abilities received by Him. As faith without works is dead, the grace (obtained by faith) without sanctification (works are the results of it) will be dead.

Romans 12:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Hebrew 12:14; Matthew 24:13

CHURCH. We believe in the Church, not done by a building but by people who repented of their sin, believed in Jesus Christ and wanted to be baptised in water. The Church was founded by Jesus, is the body of Christ and follows Jesus' guidelines, with Jesus Himself being the Cornerstone. As the Church is a living organism made of people, its essence and foundations never change, but the ways to accomplish its mission always adapt to society. We believe that the purpose of the Church is to reflect God's heart, love and purpose of salvation to the world, while "*making known his manifold wisdom to the authorities in the heavenly places*". As the Church is made of people, we believe that every member is to be responsible and committed to serve and support the work of the ministry. We believe in the five ministry gifts given by the risen Christ, Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers. They are for the building of the Church and to release the believers to do the work of ministry. We also believe that the local Church is to be led by Elders, with one of them being the Senior Elder (or Pastor).

1 Corinthians 12:13, 27; 9:20; Matthew 16:18, 5:13-16; Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 2:20; 3:10; 4:7-16; Hebrews 13:8; John 3:16; Titus 1:5; Acts 20:17,28; 14:23; Revelation 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14

HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM. We believe that all those who believe in Jesus and are saved receive the Holy Spirit as a pledge (without the work of the Holy Spirit no one could be saved). Still, Jesus also offers the power of the Holy Spirit to witness with strength to all those who believe. This gift is called 'baptism with the Holy Spirit'. The evidence of the baptism with the Holy Spirit is the sudden ability to speak in unknown languages, as the Spirit gives utterance. The Holy Spirit baptism makes the believer a vessel of the supernatural power of God in the Church through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment, tongues and interpretation. Although the baptism happens once and then the power resides in the believer, we are called to live a life continually filled with the Holy Spirit in order to confidently access the supernatural and be sensitive to the Spirit's guidance.

John 20:21-22; 2 Corinthians 1:22; Acts 1:4-5, 8; 2:4; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 19:6; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11; Ephesians 5:18

COMMUNION. We believe in the breaking of bread and sharing of wine as a sign of proclamation of the Lord's death until He comes. We believe in the bread representing the body of Christ and in the wine representing His blood. Taking communion is a sign of having received Jesus in our lives, therefore we believe that communion is reserved to those who are saved, who have been born again, who have been baptised in water and who walk in sanctification.

Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32

DELIVERANCE. We believe in the deliverance made available by the Lord Jesus Christ to those who believe, whether physical, emotional or spiritual through His victory over sin.

- Physical. We believe that all physical addictions or habits can be broken by the powerful name of Jesus (and with the human will). No drug, smoke, alcohol or substance is more powerful than the blood of Jesus.
- Emotional. We believe that also emotional wounds caused perhaps by traumas, losses or family problems, and all possible consequences in relationships and life, can be overcome with the help of the Helper, the Holy Spirit.
- Spiritual. We believe that even those people possessed or influenced by evil spirits can be set free by the power and discernment given to believers in the name of Jesus.

Healing is also a form of deliverance (from sickness) made available by Jesus' resurrection through the saints. The topic of healing is often difficult to fully comprehend, but what is sure and we believe is that God is a healing God. Sometimes He grants a healing on earth through the gifts of the Spirit, other times He will wait the final resurrection to give a glorified healed body to everyone.

Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16-17; James 5:14-16; 4:14-15; 1 Peter 2:24

RESURRECTION. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, with Jesus being the first. All the dead will be resurrected at His return: the believers to be glorified and enjoy a blissful life with God, the unbelievers to be condemned to an eternal life without God and all which He represents (love, peace, joy, etc.), to a place called Hell.

1 Corinthians 15:20-26; Acts 24:15; Matthew 25:46; 24:12-13; Revelation 20:10-15; John 5:28-29

FINAL NOTES. As mentioned above, we believe in the Bible as the final authority in all matters of faith and conduct of the believer, therefore before all the pressing challenges of the modern society in which we live, we look at the Bible for guidance. We don't believe in any sort of discrimination of people based on sexual orientation, marital status, culture, background, etc., we strongly condemn it. On the contrary we believe in loving and welcoming everyone who approaches our Church, whatever the present or the past. Still, our commitment is to do a journey of godliness with anyone who shows interest in wanting to know God, according to the Scriptures. We are aware that some Biblical ways might be unpopular, disliked or even persecuted, still we believe in remaining faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ and to His Word.

2 Timothy 3:1-7; Luke 9:23-26; John 15:18-16:4, 33