

# THE LIGHTHOUSE FELLOWSHIP

## STATEMENTS OF FAITH

### **THE BIBLE**

We believe the entire bible both old and New testaments together are the authoritative Word of God. It is the final authority in all theological and doctrinal truth. We Also believe the Bible is the divine inspired word of God, which was written with and through human authors to reach a local audience using writing styles techniques and forms appropriate to its time of writing but is also together forms the truth and the message of the gospel of our Lord Jesus. Through his Spirit, God providentially prepared each person who played a role in producing the final form of the sacred, inspired, canonical work we call the Bible, for their role.

### **THE TRINITY**

We believe there is one God who alone is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son (Jesus Christ) and Holy Spirit. These three are coequal and coeternal. This God head manifests itself through different names and titles throughout scripture and engages with creation in a unique but intended way.

### **JESUS CHRIST**

We believe Jesus Christ is God the Son, the second person of the Trinity. On earth, Jesus was 100% God and 100% man. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, performed miracles, died on the cross for humanity and thus, atoned for our sins through the shedding of His blood. He rose from the dead on the third day according to scriptures, ascended to the right hand of the Father, and will return again in power and glory. But also that Jesus existed as the son before his incarnation and was fully part of the work of God through the entirety of scripture.

### **VIRGIN BIRTH**

We believe Jesus of Nazareth was conceived by God the Father, through the Holy Spirit, in the virgin Mary's womb; therefore, He is the incarnate Son of God, the Christ, the Word made flesh.

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## **RESURRECTION**

We believe Jesus Christ was physically resurrected from the dead in a glorified body on the third day following His death on the cross and ascended into heaven where He sits at the right hand of the Father. That in him all who believe will be raised from the dead and join him in the age to come.

## **REDEMPTION**

We believe every human being was created in the image of God for the purpose of representing His rule throughout all the earth. Through voluntary disobedience man sinned and fell. Cutting man off from a direct relationship with God and created a necessity of atonement. Consequently, all of humanity not in relationship with God is lost and is thus in need of being brought back into relationship with God. Every human being apart from Jesus Christ is thus unable to avoid sin. The only hope for this redemption is in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, apart from any human deed or merit.

## **REGENERATION**

Regeneration is the work of the Holy Spirit in which he takes the guardian role of a believer beginning and continuing the process of renewal of the heart and mind so that believers are reconnected with God as our source of life and begin to grow towards being like him. This is ultimately fulfilled in the resurrection and the new creation. This process is enacted by the Holy spirit and by the believer and is done by the holy spirit but also by the intentional choices made of the believer.

## **SALVATION**

We believe man is saved only by the power of grace, through personal faith in Jesus Christ. Salvation is a gift from God, which a person must choose to receive by faith. Salvation means turning from our old ways and desire to have lordship over our own life but also from the idea that we are good enough to save ourselves. When we embrace the gospel we are made new creations by the regeneration and indwelling of the Holy Spirit, who convicts us and leads us to commit ourselves to Jesus Christ, our King. Who is the lord of our lives

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and thus we choose to turn from sin in every area of our lives and to live a life of complete loyalty to him.

## **SANCTIFICATION**

We believe in sanctification, the on-going process of yielding to God's Word and the Holy Spirit in order to develop a mature Christ-like character and judgement. It is an ongoing process through the life of a believer and an essential part of one's walk with Jesus as we seek to bring every area and aspect of our lives unto the Lordship of Jesus and defined by what he says is right and wrong.

## **JESUS' BLOOD**

Jesus Christ lived a perfectly sinless life, and shed his blood for us on the cross of Calvary. His perfect sacrifice is 100% sufficient to cleanse humankind of all sin. His Blood being the sacrificial Passover lamb but also as the day of atonement goat who brought all the sin laid upon him back to the realm of sin and death where it belongs. Jesus allowed Himself to be punished for both our sinfulness and sins, enabling all those who believe to be free from the penalty of sin, which is death.

## **THE CHURCH**

Every person who accepts Jesus as Lord is brought into the family of God as a son or daughter. This family is called the church. Being part of the universal Church as a member of the body of believers and is encouraged by Scripture to be planted in a local church enabling it to be the salt and light in its local area. The Church is vessel by which God works through to bless the nations of the earth. Made up of a mixed multitude of all nations tribes and tongues. In which all are equal and united in Jesus. Every believer has a function which can be used to serve the church and build it up.

## **PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVER**

We believe that every believer is a priest (minister) and is enabled by the Holy Spirit to fulfill his or her calling in their homes, workplaces, and community. This priesthood is the ability to mediate between God and humanity. Bringing

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God to people and people to God. This was the original design of the priesthood. Through Jesus we begin to return to our intended function as part of the Divine counsel of God and co-ruling the new creation with Jesus.

## **ANCIENT PRACTISES**

The Church has been given ancient practices to help keep the believer God focused. These practices have a physical and symbolic meaning. The main practices are water baptism, the Lord's supper or communion or eucharist and also the celebration of Jesus death and resurrection. There are also the feasts given to Israel all of which either have been or will be fulfilled by the Jesus either during his time on earth or when he returns.

## **WATER BAPTISM**

Following faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, in scripture we see the New believer can show his commitment to Jesus by getting baptized in water. There is a powerful declaration made in baptism that one dies to his/her old life by going under the water and is reborn anew once they resurface. Following the Great Commission, we baptize believers in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. In baptism, we renounce Satan and the forces of darkness and declare our allegiance to Jesus as the Lord of our lives.

## **BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe the baptism with the Holy Spirit, given at Pentecost, is the fulfillment of the new covenant promise of the Father for all believers. Every believer should also expect and seek the gift of the Holy Spirit that can be distinct and is given to build up the believer and the wider body. The presence of the Spirit in the believer is God's definite means of endowment/ deposit of gifting and power for service. As the believer surrenders more to the Spirit's control, this empowerment will produce more and more fruit in the life of the believer.

## **GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is displayed through a variety of spiritual gifts to build and build and empower the Church. The lists of these gifts in the Bible

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are not necessarily exhaustive and may occur in various combinations. These gifts always operate in harmony with the Word of God and should never be used in violation of Biblical parameters. Every believer should eagerly desire spiritual gifts and develop these gifts to promote the gospel in their everyday lives. The gifts of the spirit are not linked to ones progress in the faith. A person who has a gift does not make them a mature or good Christian. They are tools and gifts to enable us to bring the kingdom. They are never to be used for self-gain or profit.

## **THE LORD'S SUPPER (COMMUNION/ EUCHARIST)**

The Lord's Supper is a unique time when the body of Christ gathers together to partake of the elements of bread and grape juice or wine, which represent the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. These are taken in remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, which fulfilled God the Father's requirement of just punishment for our sins so that we can be in covenant relationship with Him. As we partake of the elements together. We remember the New Covenant and renew our devotion to Jesus. This remembrance which can be linked back to the Passover meal as the covenantal meal of Jesus of which he gathers all those in him to join him on his exodus from sin and death. When we partake in this remembrance, we are also reaffirming our faith in Jesus and loyalty to the covenant.

## **HEAVEN AND HELL**

Heaven is the place where God dwells; a place which will be reunited with a new earth at the end of the age. The new heavens and the new earth are the eternal dwelling place for all believers in the Gospel of Jesus Christ where we will fulfill our original purpose of ruling and reigning over God's creation with Him and our Lord, Jesus Christ. Unbelievers have no share in the eternal life on the new earth, but are instead eternally separated from God.

## **SECOND COMING**

We believe Jesus Christ will physically, visibly, and gloriously return to earth for the second time to establish His kingdom. This will occur at an undisclosed date to which only God the Father knows. Although nobody will ever know the

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day or time we can always prepare ourselves, and choosing the live as if Jesus is coming back soon.