



WHAT WE BELIEVE

The Bible. The Holy Spirit inspired human authors to write the books of the Bible. The Bible is God's love letter to all of humanity and is the final authority in every issue it communicates. It is complete Truth, and we can trust it for all matters in this life and eternity. All believers are exhorted to study the Scriptures and diligently apply them to their lives.

God. God created everything we can see (and even everything we can't see) out of nothing. He is one, yet has existed since the beginning of time as three distinct and equal persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. He made all things for the praise of His glory and intends for man, in particular, to live in fellowship with Himself.

Jesus. Jesus Christ is God's Son and an equal of the Father. He has existed from the beginning of time, yet lived on earth during the first century A.D. Throughout His earthly life, He was completely God and completely human at the same time. After living a perfect, sinless life, Jesus offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for every human being who has ever lived by dying on a Roman cross. By His death in our place, He revealed the divine love and upheld divine justice, removing our guilt and reconciling us to God. Having redeemed us from sin, on the third day, He rose bodily from the grave, victorious over death and the powers of darkness and, for a period of 40 days, appeared to over 500 witnesses, performing many convincing proofs of His resurrection. He then ascended to Heaven and will return to earth one day to reign as King.

Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a full and equal part of the Trinity. He works in the world to make all people understand their need for Jesus Christ. Through the proclamation of the gospel, He persuades men to repent of their sins and confess Jesus as Lord. By the same Spirit, a person is led to trust in divine mercy. The Holy Spirit unites believers to Jesus Christ in faith, brings about the new birth and dwells within the regenerate. The Spirit is our power source for life, ministry and spiritual growth.

Salvation. Our disobedient nature has eternally separated us from our Creator. No matter how hard we try, we can never earn our way back into God's presence. Our only hope is to trust Jesus as God's provision for our disobedience.

Eternity. God made you to exist forever. Heaven is a perfect place, and since none of us are perfect, we are all headed for an eternity of separation from God. That's why God sent Jesus: to pay the price for our sins so that we can spend eternity with Him. Those who are outside of Christ will be eternally separated from God in Hell. Those who are in Christ will spend eternity connected with Him in Heaven

The Church. The church is the body of Christ in the world today and is comprised as a local body of baptized believers. The head of the church is Jesus Christ. The biblical purposes of the church are worship, evangelism, fellowship, discipleship and deeds ministry to others.

Christ's Return. God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth, the dead will be raised and Christ will judge all men in righteousness.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit empowers believers for Christian witness and service. The promise of the Father is freely available to all who believe in Jesus Christ, thereby enabling them to exercise the powers of the age to come in ministry and mission. The Holy Spirit desires to continually fill each believer with power to witness, and imparts His supernatural gifts for the edification of the Body and the work of ministry in the world. All the gifts of the Holy Spirit at work in the church of the first century are available today and are to be earnestly desired and practiced in an orderly manner. The gifts are essential in the mission of the Church in the world today.