

# ESSENTIAL BELIEFS

## What We Believe At



### THE BIBLE

#### God Wrote a Book

The Bible is God's Word to all people. It was written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. Because it was inspired by God, the Bible is truth without any mixture of error and is completely relevant to our daily lives. Its authority is final and eternal.

*(Deuteronomy 4:1-2; Psalm 119:11, 89, 105; Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 22:29; John 5:39, 6:13-15, 17:17; Romans 15:4; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 3:16)*

### TRINITY

#### God: Three in One

God has existed in relationship with himself for all eternity. He exists as one being in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Although each member of the Trinity serves different functions, they each possess equal power and authority.

*(Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 61:1; Matthew 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 1:35; John 5:21-23, 14:10, 16; Romans 8:9-11; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 13:13; Hebrews 1:8-10; James 2:19)*

### THE FATHER

#### God Is Great, God Is Good

God is great: He is all powerful, all knowing, ever present, unchanging, completely worthy of our trust, and above all, holy. It is in Him that we live, move, and exist. God is good: He is our Father. He is loving, compassionate, and faithful to His people and His promises.

*(Exodus 3:14; Numbers 23:19; Leviticus 11:44-45, 19:2; Psalm 11:4-6; Malachi 3:6; John 3:16, 4:24, 5:26, 14:1, Acts 17:28, Romans 3:3-4)*

### THE SON

#### God Became Man

Jesus Christ always existed as God the Son. In the beginning, He was with the Father and the Holy Spirit, and all things were made through Him. He was born of a virgin and is completely human, but at the same time, completely God. He is the only plan for bringing people who are separated from God back into a right relationship with God. He lived a perfect life, so that He could be a substitution for us in satisfying God's demands for perfection. He defeated death in His resurrection so that we could have life.

*(Isaiah 7:14, 53; Matthew 1:18-23, 3:17, 8:29, 14:33, 16:16, 28:5-6; Luke 22:70, 24:46-47; John 1:1, 14, 10:30, 11:25-27, 17:1-5; Acts 1:9, 2:22-24, 7:55-56; Romans 1:3-4, 3:23-26, 8:1-3, 10:4; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; Galatians 4:4-5; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:15, 2:9; 1 Timothy 2:5-6, 3:16)*

### THE HOLY SPIRIT

#### God In Us

The Holy Spirit is God. He is coequal to and has always existed with God the Father and Jesus, God the Son. He is present in this world to convict non-Christian people of their sin and need for Jesus. He lives inside of every Christian from the moment they accept Christ. He is in us to provide the power to conquer sin, walk through and overcome the trials of this life, produce fruit, serve God, understand the Bible, guide us, change us from the inside out, and help us in a myriad of other ways. He will baptize any Christian who so desires, releasing the fullness of the Spirit in them which produces gifts of the Holy Spirit.

*(1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16-17, 3:12, 3:14; Matthew 3:11; John 14:16-17; Acts 1:8, 2:4, 2:38-39, 19:1-7; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 1:13, 5:18)*

## ETERNITY

### Somewhere Forever

Man was created to exist forever. He will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or in union with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is a life in Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

*(John 3:16, 36; Romans 6:23; 1 John 2:25, 5:11-13; Revelation 20:15)*

## MAN

### God's Image Bearers

Man is made in the image of God and is the supreme object of His creation. Man was created to have fellowship with God, but became separated in that relationship through sinful disobedience. As a result, man cannot attain a right relationship with God through his own effort. Every human personality is uniquely created, possesses dignity, and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

*(John 3:16, 36; Romans 6:23; 1 John 2:25, 5:11-13; Revelation 20:15)*

## SALVATION

### God's Only Way

The blood of Jesus Christ, shed on the cross, provides the only way of salvation through the forgiveness of sin. Salvation occurs when people place their life in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ as sufficient payment for their sin. Salvation is a gift from God and it cannot be earned through our own efforts. There is no other way to heaven but through placing faith in and calling on Jesus.

*(Isaiah 1:18, 53:5-6, 55:7; Matthew 1:21, 27:22-28, 6; Luke 1:68-69, 2:28-32; John 1:12, 3:16, 3:36, 5:24; John 14:6; Acts 2:21, 4:12, 16:30-31; Romans 1:16-18, 3:23-25, 5:8-10; Romans 6; 1 Corinthians 1:18; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20, 3:13; Ephesians 2:8-10; Philippians 2:12-13; Hebrews 9:24-28; Revelation 3:20)*

## WATER BAPTISM

### An Outward Display

Jesus commanded all believers to be water baptized. Water baptism is an outward sign of your inward commitment to follow Jesus. It is a symbol of the miracle God did inside of you when you accepted Christ. We baptize people in the name of Jesus in whom the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*(Mark 16:16; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:41, 10:48, 18:8)*

## THE CHURCH

### God's Design for Community

The Church is a local community of baptized believers unified through faith in Christ. It is committed to the teachings of Christ, to obeying all of His commands, and it seeks to bring the gospel to the world and make disciples of all those that believe. The Church works together in love and unity, intent on the ultimate purpose of glorifying Christ.

*(Matthew 16:18-19, 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-47, 5:11-14, 13:1-3, 14:23, 16:5, 20:28; 1 Corinthians 7:17, 9:13-14, 12; Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:19-22, 3:10-12, 5:22-32; Colossians 1:18, 3:15; 1 Timothy 4:14; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 21:2-3)*

## HEALING

### God's Gift to Your Physical Body

Healing is for the physical challenges that come with living in a human body. It is sparked directly by the power of God through the prayer of faith and by laying on of hands. Similar to salvation, healing was purchased through the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross, and it is the privilege of every member of the Church today.

*(Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:17; Mark 16:18; James 5:14-16; 1 Peter 2:24)*

