

Living Hope Tabernacle **Articles of Faith**

(A brief overview of what we believe to be true)

1. We believe that the body of scripture known commonly as "The Holy Bible" has been provided for us through individuals as they were inspired of God and enabled by the Holy Ghost. We hold that the Bible is the revealed Word of God to mankind through which the will of God is communicated, and that it is to man's eternal benefit to receive the instruction therein contained.

> (II Timothy 3:16-17, II Peter 1:19-21)

2. We believe that God is a trinity; Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. These three are one in nature and purpose, truly a unity and unified though they each hold a specific office and ministry in their dealings with mankind. All are God.

> (Matthew 3:16-17, Romans 8:9-11)

3. We believe that Jesus the Christ is the Son of God, was born of a virgin according to the sovereign will of God and by the power of the Holy Ghost, and has therefore come into the world in the likeness of sinful man yet without sin that He might offer Himself an acceptable, holy sacrifice for the redemption of man.

> (Luke 1:30-35, Philippians 2:5-11)

4. We believe in the complete depravity of the human race due to the sin of willful disobedience by Adam and Eve. The Triune God created man in His likeness and gave man the opportunity to choose whether to believe the Word of God or follow a path of self will. After the opening of their eyes to the horror and shame of sin, Adam and Eve became the parents of the human race and all their children are born in sin, at enmity with God.

> (Genesis 3:1-19, I Corinthians 15:45-50)

5. We believe that the salvation of man is totally dependent upon the grace of God who has provided redemption to all who believe upon

the name of Jesus. We are saved by grace through faith in the shed blood of the Lamb of God who came into this world to save sinners who exist in a condemned spiritual state because of indwelling sin.

> (John 3:16-18, Romans 3:19-28, Colossians 1:12-14)

6. We believe that the Holy Ghost is the presence of God on earth today carrying out the will of God in reproofing the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and that He is the Comforter and Guide upon which the Christian is dependent. He ministers the truth of God in Christ to the body of believers and empowers them to do the works which God has ordained. The Holy Ghost continually provides spiritual enabling, wisdom, and strength that are manifest in manners that are openly witnessed by the world as a testimony of the authority and presence of God. We believe that the office which the Holy Ghost holds in the world today and the manner in which He carries out the functions of this office remain unchanged since the time of the early church.

> (John 14:16-17, John 16:7-14, I Corinthians chapters 12-14)

7. We believe that there are many historic Christian traditions that can provide special meaning to believers in their spiritual walk with the Lord, but that we are only instructed to keep two ordinances with consistency. These are water baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism provides a visible testimony of faith that the believer has been provisionally buried and resurrected with Christ Jesus, and called to walk in newness of life according to the promise of God. Partaking of the Lord's Supper provides a visible testimony of faith in the redemptive death of Jesus until He comes again, and is to be indicative of a chastened heart before God and man. Neither ordinance embodies any inherent redemptive power, but bespeaks of the faith already embraced by the individual believer in their new life in Christ.

> (Romans 6:1-10, I Peter 3:21-22, I Corinthians 11:23-32)

8. We believe that the epistles of Paul hold the most complete revelation of the Word of God for believers in any period of the history of man. Paul was given direct understanding and glorious good news

by the resurrected Christ which is essential in understanding the entire body of scripture. Paul was called to be the apostle of the Gentiles and his gospel carries special importance for the Church which is the body of all believers. It is by the revelation contained in Paul's gospel that believers and unbelievers of this age will be judged.
> (Romans 16:25-26, Ephesians 3:1-12)

9. We believe in the literal fulfillment of the promise of deliverance from the wrath of God which will come upon the world during the period of tribulation. This will be manifested in the bodily translation of believers, each in their own order, even as Enoch and Elijah were translated and never experienced physical death. Those who have previously died in faith will be resurrected similarly.
>(I Corinthians 15:51-52, Hebrews 11:5-6, I Thessalonians 5:9-10)

10. We believe in the glorious return of Jesus Christ to earth in glory and power. His return will culminate life on earth as we now know it, and He will at that time establish the visible presence of His Kingdom over which He will reign for 1000 years. His second coming will bring due, thorough, righteous judgment upon mankind. At the end of this 1000 year reign (and after a brief, final rebellion kindled by the releasing of Satan from bondage), all whose names are not written in the book of life will be judged before the throne of God and cast into a lake of fire along with Satan, the fallen angels, death and hell. Such will then be the end of sin and all rebellion against God forever.
> (Titus 2:11-13, I Corinthians 15:24-28, Revelation 20:7-15)

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