

## WE BELIEVE

**2 Corinthians 4:13 - We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written (Psalm 116:10), I believe, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe and therefore speak.....**

### **THE BIBLE**

We believe that the Bible is the infallible Word of God, written by different writers (more than forty) at different times, but all under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. The only Bible version we accept as our doctrinal base is as presented in the "Authorised King James Version".

The Bible is the best-selling book of all time with over 5 billion copies sold and distributed. The word Bible does not appear in the scriptures but originates from the Greek word Biblion, which means "**book**". Many Christians refer to it as "the Word of God" (because it is a Person). It is a unique "book" as it contains words that have been inspired by God Himself and it is the only "**book**" whose words can give life (John 6:63). "*All scripture is given by inspiration of God.....*" The Biblical term for the Bible is "*holy scriptures*" (2 Timothy 3:15) or simply "*scriptures*" (John 5:39).

It is a **blood** sprinkled **book** as declared by the "*book of the law of Moses*" (Josh 8:31). "*For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats (ANIMAL BLOOD), with water and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people*" (Exodus 24:7-8; Hebrews 9:17-21). "*How much more shall the blood of Christ (GOD'S BLOOD), who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God*" (Hebrews 9:14)?

The Bible consists of two Testaments, the Old Testament and the New Testament. It is one volume compiled of sixty six books. Thirty nine (39) books make up the Old Testament and follow a 5, 12, 5, 5, 12 pattern while the New Testament follows a 4, 1, 9, 4, 9 pattern.

#### **OLD TESTAMENT**

The law (5)  
History (12)  
Poetry (5)  
Major Prophets (5)  
Minor Prophets (12)

#### **NEW TESTAMENT**

The Gospels (4)  
History (1)  
Paul's letters to the churches (9)  
Paul's letters to friends (4)  
General letters (9)

The New Testament only came into effect once the testator (Jesus Christ) died and shed his blood. "*For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth*" (Hebrews 9:17). The executor of this Will is Jesus Christ himself as he rose from the dead and said, "*I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them: and their sins and iniquities will I remember no more*" (Hebrews 10:16-17).

"*Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God*" (Hebrews 10:7-9; Psalm 40:7-8).

There is no "**BOOK**" like this "**BOOK**", written in the blood of God himself (Acts 20:28).

**Other references:** Deuteronomy 28:58; 2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20; Rev 19:10

## THE GODHEAD

We believe in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost, eternally existent as one God, referred to in the Scriptures as the Godhead. The Character of perfection, and all the attributes of God the Father, described below, are shared equally by the Son and the Holy Ghost.

*“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one” (1 John 5:7).*

The word Godhead is referred to three times in the New Testament (Acts 17:29; Rom 1:20; Colossians 2:9). We believe in one God who has revealed himself to us in three persons, all of whom are God.

God the Father’s plan is being carried out by God the Son, under the anointing and direction of God the Holy Ghost. The amazing truth is that all the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Jesus bodily (Colossians 2:9).

The Godhead is fully operative in the building of the Body of Christ (the Church) as shown in the scriptures (1Corinthians 12:4-6). Here we see the diversities of gifts of the Holy Ghost, the differences of administration, but the same Lord (Jesus Christ) and the diversities of operations, but the same God (the Father).

The fullness of the Godhead can also be a believer’s portion, so as to enable such a person to be an effective and functioning member in the Body of Christ (Galatians 4:6; John 14:23; Acts 2:4,38-39).

*“For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be **filled with all the fullness of God**. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen” (Ephesians 3:14-21).*

## THE FATHER

We believe that the Father is in Heaven upon His throne and yet omnipresent (present everywhere). He is also omniscient (all knowing) and omnipotent (all powerful). He has a very deep and detailed interest in each individual and has sent His Son and also the Holy Spirit to administer His salvation to us. He requires us to do His will on earth.

The Father is God, and is referred to many times in the scriptures (1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 1:3; Matthew 11:27; John 6:27, 45; 13:3; Romans 1:7; 15:6; Galatians 1:1). The Father's plan of salvation is being carried out by His Son, Jesus Christ, under the anointing and direction of the Holy Ghost (Luke 4:1).

The scriptures declare that God our Saviour will have all men to be saved, and come unto the knowledge of the truth. *"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time"* (1 Timothy 2:5). God is love, and the Father has an intense desire and longing that all men should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

The Father gave the Lord Jesus a commandment, what He should say and what He should speak. He only spoke those things which His Father gave Him to speak. (John 12:49 - 50). The Father and the Son are one (John 10:30) and are united in their purpose. The Lord Jesus is obedient to His father's commandments and always pleases Him (John 8:29).

The scriptures clearly state that the Father has delivered all things unto the Son. *"All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him"* (Matthew 11:27). Without coming to know Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, you will not come to know the Father.

*"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16).

Once the Lord Jesus has completed the Father's plan, then the end will come, when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. *"And when all things shall be subdued unto Him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto Him that put all things under Him, that God may be all in all"* (1 Corinthians 15:24 - 28).

## JESUS CHRIST

We believe that Jesus Christ existed in eternity past as the Word and is the only begotten Son of God the Father, conceived of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary in the fullness of time (approx. 2000 years ago). He was crucified upon a cross, buried in a tomb and rose again on the third day, He ascended to Heaven, where He sits at the right hand of God the Father in resurrection glory, making intercession for us as our Great High Priest and Advocate. He has been given a Name above every other name, and all power in Heaven and earth and under the earth (John 1:1, 14; John 14; 6; 1 Corinthians 15:3 - 4).

All things were created by Him and for Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. Jesus Christ is before all things, and by Him all this consist (Colossians 1:17). He has been highly exalted and *given a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every knee tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father* (Isaiah 45:3; Psalm 138:2; Philippians 2:9 - 11).

The Son of God, Jesus Christ, is God and He is referred to numerous times in the scripture as such. This is a great mystery as declared by Paul the apostle to Timothy (1 Tim 3:16). The Old Testament is also very clear in declaring the Son to be God (Isaiah 6:14; Matthew 1:23; Isaiah 9:6). Many other scriptures repeatedly declare the Son to be God (Hebrews 1: 8; John 1:18; 20:28; Phil 2:6). Jesus referred to himself as *"I am"* (John 8:58), which is a name used by God himself to Moses declaring that he is the only true and living God (Exodus 3:14). Jesus told his disciples to go into all the world and baptize in the name of The Father, The Son and the Holy Ghost. Bear in mind what 1 John 5:7 says about the Son. He calls him the WORD. *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh...."* (John 1:1, 14).

The only way you can have eternal life is by getting to know Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour. The scripture declares that *"this is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent"* (John 17:3). *"He that abides in the doctrine of Christ, he has both the Father and the Son"* (2 John 9). Jesus himself stated, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes unto the Father, but by me"* (John 14:6).

Jesus Christ is the Rock of our Salvation, and He stated that on this Rock He would build His church, and the gates of hell would not prevail against it. Paul the apostle declared in the scripture, for other foundation can no man lay that is laid, which is Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11).

Jesus Christ is not only the Head of the church, which is His body, but also the Apostle and High Priest of our profession. He is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto Him. All things have been put under His feet (Ephesians 1:22; Hebrews 3:1; 1 Peter 3:22).

Once the Lord Jesus has completed the Father's plan, then the end will come, when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. *"And when all things shall be subdued unto Him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto Him that put all things under Him, that God may be all in all"* (1 Corinthians 15:24 - 28).

## **THE HOLY GHOST (HOLY SPIRIT)**

We believe that the Holy Spirit was sent by God the Father to convince the world of sin, righteousness and judgment to come. He also leads believers into all truth by revealing Jesus Christ to them and He is our Comforter. Although the world cannot see Him, nor do they know Him, He is in the world today (John 15:26; John 14:16 -17; John 14:26).

The scriptures came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost was testifying in the volume of the book, concerning Jesus Christ (Psalm 40:7- 8; Hebrews 10:7; Revelation 19:10).

John Baptist was the only man, born of a woman, to be full of the Holy Ghost from his mother's womb. He made this powerful declaration concerning Jesus Christ; *"Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world"* (John 1:29). John Baptist was a picture of the Holy Ghost testifying of Jesus.

The Holy Ghost is the third person of the Godhead. He is God and plays a vital role in salvation. Jesus said, *"I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the comforter (which is the Holy Ghost) will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgement"* (John 16:7-8). No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. He cannot reveal anybody else but Jesus Christ, because He (the Holy Ghost) is God (1 John 5:7; John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 12:3; Acts 5:3 - 4).

Jesus Christ said this about the Holy Ghost; *"Howbeit when He, Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of himself: but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for He shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you"* (John 16:13 - 14).

After Jesus had risen from the dead, He ministered to his disciples over a forty day period, by the Holy Ghost. He had previously told them that the Holy Ghost was with them, but would be in them. His last instruction to them, before His ascension, was to go and wait in the city of Jerusalem, until they be endued with power from on high. This infilling was to empower them to be witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus Christ (Acts 1:8; Acts 4:33).

## ANGELS

We believe that Angels are part of God's creation and while they are mostly invisible to us, they carry out God's instructions as ministering spirits or flames of fire. They also encamp around about those that fear God and have been sent to minister for the heirs of salvation.

All things were created by God, including angels, for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created (Colossians 1:16; Revelation 4:11; 1 Peter 3:22). The angels 'sang together' and all the 'sons of God' shouted for joy while the foundations of the earth and the corner stone were being laid (Job 38:4-7). The scriptures tell us that there are an innumerable company of angels (Revelation 5:11; Hebrews 12:22).

Angels do not have a body but are spirits and his ministers a flame of fire who are sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation. They were even involved in ministering unto Jesus (Matthew 4:11; Luke 22:43). The scripture clearly states that the Lord Jesus took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same (Hebrews 2:14, 16). Jesus said a spirit does not have flesh and bone, as you see me have (Luke 24:39). Angels have neither a natural body nor a spiritual body.

In most instances they are invisible, but are able to manifest themselves in different ways. When they appear in human form it is always male. Angels do not, however have a gender, as they neither marry nor are given in marriage. Angels are not always recognisable, as the scripture says that it is possible to entertain angels unawares (Genesis 19:1 – 5; Luke 20:35; Hebrews 13:2).

Angels have three main purposes:

1. **Witness** - they signify events to come and bare record of the Word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:1-2; 21:6). There are many accounts of angels **declaring** and bearing witness to the Word of God. They were created by God for this purpose (Judges 6:11 - 24).
2. **Warfare** – they are employed in battle in 3 ways:
  - To **deliver** and surround (2 Kings 6:8 – 18; Acts 12:1 - 11)
  - To **destroy** and punish (Genesis 19: 13)
  - To **defend** and protect(Psalm 91:11 – 12; )

The Lord said to Nathanael, "*Verily, verily, I say unto you, hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man*" (John 1:51). What protection a believer has if they are in Christ!

3. **Worship** - We are not called to worship angels, but God alone. After John had received the revelation of Jesus Christ on the island of Patmos, and having heard a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? No man could be found. Eventually, one of the elders beheld and revealed a Lamb in the midst of the Throne. This was clearly the Lord Jesus Christ. In the book of Revelation 22:8 - 9, we read these amazing verses, "*And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which showed me these things. Then said he unto me, see thou do it not: for I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: **worship God***" (Hebrews 1:6; Revelation 22:8 - 9). Somehow he missed the Lamb! Good angels will always point us to worship God the Lamb.

Angels were very prevalent in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ, from His birth through to His ascension. This indeed is a vast and fascinating topic. Angels figure from Genesis through to Revelation with just under three hundred references.

## THE DEVIL

We believe that the Devil or Satan is the fallen angel Lucifer, who corrupted his wisdom because of his beauty, while still in the presence of God in Heaven. When cast down out of Heaven, he took one third of the angels with him and has set up the Kingdom of Darkness to resist God and to tempt and destroy all who believe in God.

*“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).*

*“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:” (1 Peter 5:8).*

God created Lucifer and set him as the anointed cherub that covereth and he walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. He was perfect in all his ways from the day he was created until iniquity was found in him. God then cast him out of the mountain of God and said that He would destroy him and cast him to the ground. Lucifer’s heart was lifted up because of his beauty and he corrupted his wisdom by reason of his brightness. His desire was to exalt himself above all that is called God and sit in the temple of God as if he was God. This rebellion against God started in heaven in the very presence of God. Such was his influence that by his tail alone, he drew one third of heavens angels.

The scriptures declare that war had started in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth and his angels were cast out with him. When the dragon saw that he was cast out unto the earth he came with great wrath to persecute and deceive all those that would be true followers of Jesus Christ.

His Kingdom, is a Kingdom of Darkness and he has an organised hierarchy of demonic angels at his disposal. He has come to earth with one intention, to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. He has been described in scripture as the prince of the power of the air, the god of this world, a thief and a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Clearly a very evil angel, in total rebellion to God and His creative order.

His fate has been sealed from the very moment that he sinned and confirmed throughout scripture. However, his intention is to take captive at his will as many souls as possible to his final destination, the lake of fire.

The scriptures declare that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

When God raised his Son, Jesus Christ from the dead, He set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.

(Ezekiel 28:13 - 19; Isaiah 14:12 - 19; 2 Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 12:4, 7 - 9, 12; Genesis 3:15; Hebrews 2:14; Revelation 20:10; 2 Timothy 2:26; Ephesians 6:12; Ephesians 1:20 - 23)

## MANKIND

We believe that the first man, Adam, was created in the image of God and that God made the first woman, Eve, out of a rib that He took from Adam's side. At the moment of creation man became a living soul, possessed a human spirit, living in a human body, made from the dust of the ground, with the powers of procreation. Adam and Eve sinned against God and their progeny were conceived in their fallen state. All men and woman have sinned and come short of the glory of God. There is not one righteous in God's sight.

And God said, *Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: ..... (Genesis 1:26). So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them (Genesis 1:27).* This was the first man to be ever created (1 Corinthians 15:45; 1 Timothy 2:13). He was created from the dust of the ground. God breathed into him the breath of life; and man became a living soul (Genesis 2:7). He had a spirit, a soul and a body (1 Thessalonians 5:23). This man was made in the image and glory of God (1 Corinthians 11:7). God called his name Adam ("red earth"), in fact the scripture says, that God called their name Adam, in the day when they were created (Genesis 5:2). Adam was of the earth, and bore the image of the earthy. He possessed a flesh, blood and bone body (1 Corinthians 15:50; Hebrews 2:14).

The woman was formed by God from a rib, taken from the side of Adam after God had caused a deep sleep to come upon him. He then brought her to him. Adam said, *This is now bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man (Genesis 2:21 - 23).* Adam called his wife's name Eve (life or living); because she was the mother of all living (Genesis 3:20). She was made to be a help meet, and the glory of the man (Genesis 2:18; 1 Corinthians 11:7). Her long hair was to be her glory (1 Corinthians 11:15).

The serpent beguiled Eve in the garden as she partook of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. She gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. Tragically, through this act of disobedience on Adam's part, sin entered into the world, and God's law was broken, resulting in death (Genesis 2:17; Romans 5:12, 21; Rom 6:23). This judgement and condemnation passed upon all **mankind**, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:10 - 12, 23; Romans 5:19; 1 Corinthians 15:21 - 22).

All of **mankind** has come from one blood (Adam and Eve), and each child conceived is declared to have been shapen in iniquity, and in sin, within their mother's womb (Acts 17:26; Psalm 51:5).

## SIN

We believe that sin:

- Originated in the heart of Lucifer (the Devil), was introduced to the human race through Adam.
- Is any transgression of God's will, whether in ignorance or deliberate, by action, thought, motive, disposition or state.
- It is punishable by God's righteous standards and ordinances.
- The sentence is eternal death in the Lake of Fire, where the smoke of the sinner's torment will rise forever and ever.

God set Lucifer as the anointed cherub that covereth: till iniquity was found in him (Ezekiel 28:14). The scripture records concerning this angel: *By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee* (Ezekiel 28:16-17).

Lucifer did not want to remain in the position that God had set, but rather desired to be exalted above the Creator. The scriptures again records this situation in a very graphic way. *How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High* (Isaiah 14:12-14).

Satan in his rebellion against God came to tempt mankind and draw him away from the purpose and command of God. He instructed Adam that if he partook of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil he would surely die on that day (Genesis 2:17.) Eve was tempted and partook, but Adam disobeyed. The bible plainly declares that through one man's disobedience many were made sinners...(Romans 5:19). For as in Adam all die...(1 Corinthians 15:22). For since by man came death...(1 Corinthians 15:21). *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:* (Romans 5:12). Psalmist states that I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me (Psalm 51:5).

Sin is the transgression of God's law (1 John 3:4) and carries the death penalty. For the wages of sin is death...(Romans 6:23). Whatever is not of faith is sin (Romans 14:23), for without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin (James 3:17). It is not so much that we commit sin, but that we have inherited a sinful nature from conception and are unable not to sin, whether in thought, word or deed (Psalm 139:23-24). The scripture says that to look on a woman and lust after her, you have committed adultery already in your heart. As it is written, *There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one* (Romans 3:10-12). We can clearly say from scripture that sin has:

- Abounded (Romans 5:20)
- Reigned (Romans 5:21)
- Had dominion over all of mankind (Romans 6:15)

The greatest sin being that we have not believed on THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (John 16:9).

The sentence is eternal death in the Lake of Fire, where the smoke of the sinner's torment will rise forever and ever (Revelation 20:11-15).

## SALVATION

We believe that there is only one means of salvation from sin, Judgement and Hell; and that is to call upon the Lord Jesus Christ, believing in your heart that He died upon the cross on your behalf as a sacrifice for your sin; that He was buried and that on the third day, God raised Him to life again.

This will result in your being forgiven, born again and becoming a member of the 'Body of Christ' (The Church). You will receive the Spirit of Christ and God will call you His son and you may therefore call God your Father.

Jesus made this profound statement, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me"*. For there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we MUST be saved (Acts 4:12). *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life* (John 3:16).

The scriptures declare that in the volume of the book it is written of me to do thy will, O God (Psalm 40:7). God's will for the Lord Jesus was that He would be the only way of salvation for mankind. For this to be accomplished, He would have to voluntarily lay down His life for the sins of the world. He was to be the one and only sacrifice. For without the shedding of blood there can be no forgiveness of sins (Hebrews 10:12, 14; 1 Peter 1:18-20). The judgement for sin was death (Romans 6:23). The Lord Jesus took this punishment for us in His own body and paid the price for our salvation. In so doing, as He rose from the dead He took the keys of Hell and Death (Revelation 1:18; Hebrews 2:14).

This message is the good news of God to mankind and is referred to in scriptures as the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). Whoever repents of their sin, confesses and believes in their heart that God has raised Jesus from the dead shall be saved. For with the heart man believes unto righteousness: and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation (Romans 10:9-10). By God's grace He gives us the power to become sons of God. We are then born again, not of blood, nor by the will of man, but of God. **Salvation is all God's doing**. The bible says that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved (Acts 2:21). God sends the Spirit of His Son into our hearts and for the first time we are truly able to say, Abba Father (Galatians 4:6). We become sons of God and by the Holy Ghost He sets us in His Body as it pleases Him.

We were all dead in our sins and trespasses, but it is only God who can raised the dead to life through His incredible salvation plan. Lazarus could never have been raised to life unless he died and was buried. We too are baptized into His death, and buried by baptism, so God can raised us to life through the gospel. Salvation belongs to our God (Psalm 68:19-20). **Man has no part in it!**

## REDEEMED MANKIND

We believe that Christian men should live and walk worthy of their calling by demonstrating their total submission and obedience to their Head, Jesus Christ. Christian women should likewise demonstrate their reverence, obedience and submission to Jesus Christ by submitting to their Head; the godly man, who is the earthly representative of the authority of Christ.

It is vital to understand that it is God that has called and redeemed us, not with corruptible things, as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot (1 Peter 1:19-19). We are not our own, but have been bought with a price and are the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 4:1). Whether man or woman, this calling is of God, and as such it is a holy calling which was given us in Christ before the world began (2 Timothy 1:9). The Word of God also enlightens us to appreciate that it is also a high and heavenly calling (Philippians 3:14; Hebrews 3:1). Therefore, it is required in stewards that we are found to be faithful (1 Corinthians 4:2).

As the Lord Jesus Christ was found to be in submission and obedient to his heavenly Father, as a Son, so we are to find ourselves following in His footsteps. The scriptures tell us to deny ourselves take up our cross and follow Him, just as the chorus says, "Follow, follow, I will follow Jesus, anywhere, everywhere I will follow him. Follow, follow I will follow Jesus anywhere He leads me I will follow on".

The scriptures declare, *I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ....*(1 Corinthians 11:3) and as such we need to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called and put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

The Christian women in like manner must be in subjection to her God given head, the godly man, who has been ordained of God to be her earthly head (1 Corinthians 11:3). In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works. Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve.

Redeemed mankind is called to keep His commandment because we **love** Him (John 14:15).

## **BREAKING OF BREAD (HOLY COMMUNION)**

We believe Jesus commanded all his disciples to remember Him by declaring our unity with the work He accomplished through His death by partaking of the Bread and Wine, representing but not becoming, His body and blood. Before partaking of this sacrament the believer must be careful to examine himself.

**1 Corinthians 10:16 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 Luke 22:19**

At the Passover meal the Lord Jesus had gathered with His disciples as recorded in Luke's Gospel, "*And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you*" (Luke 22:19-20). Paul the Apostle made this declaration, "*For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come*" (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

The Breaking of Bread is a vital gathering together of The Body of Christ as instructed by the Lord Jesus. We are declaring through this act of faith that we are in Him, and He is in us (John 6:54-56). There is an understanding that Jesus died for our sins, was buried and rose again in newness of life. We are reckoning that we have been crucified with Christ, and buried by baptism, that as Christ was raised from the dead, we also might be raised in newness of life. We are also partaking with a hope in our hearts that He is coming again to take us home to be with Him in glory (John 14:2-3). The scriptures tell us that if we are Christ's, then are we Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise (Galatians 3:29). We are children of Faith.

In the book of Genesis Abraham was met by a "mysterious" figure who was the priest of the most high God. His name was Melchizedek, the king of Salem. This took place after the battle of the kings, and after Abram had rescued his nephew Lot and all that were with him. He brought forth bread and wine, and bestowed a blessing upon him from the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth. This event clearly foreshadows what the Lord has commanded us to do in remembrance of His great Salvation (Genesis 14:18-20). The Lord Jesus made this statement in John's gospel, "*Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad*" (John 8:56). Jesus continued by saying, "*Before Abraham was, I am*" (John 8:58).

In the light of the great significance and work of the cross, we are called to examine ourselves (this is a self-examination), to see that we be in the faith (1 Corinthians 11:27-32, Corinthians 13:5). The Lord has called us to this responsibility, lest we forget. There are very serious eternal consequences if we neglect this love sacrifice, which God has so freely given, to redeem mankind (Hebrews 2:1-3, Hebrews 10:23-29).

*Only bread and only wine,  
Yet to faith the solemn sign  
Of the heav'nly and divine!  
We give Thee thanks, O Lord.  
(Redemption Hymnal 705)*

## WATER BAPTISM

We believe that Water Baptism is a commandment of the Lord Jesus to every born again believer as an outward sign of their identification with the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Christ. It constitutes a single total immersion in water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Acts 2:38 Mark 16:16**

Water Baptism is a commandment given by the Lord Jesus to His disciples, which is to follow salvation, and the born again experience. It is an outward demonstration of an inward change that has taken place in a person's life. It is acknowledging that you have been baptized into His death, and buried with Him by baptism into His death, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead, you also are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who has raised Him from the dead, so that you also may walk in newness of life (Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:12).

This act of faith involves a full immersion into water and is based upon the confession of the candidate. When Philip had preached Jesus to the Ethiopian eunuch, he made this statement, "*What doth hinder me to be baptized?*" Philip's reply was, "*if you believe with all your heart, you may*". The eunuch replied by saying, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God". There is thus, a willingness and gladness on the part of the believer to obey the commandment of the Lord (Acts 2:41). Philip then commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

When the Lord Jesus was baptized of John the Baptist in the Jordan River, He said to him that he must baptize Him, because it becomes us to fulfil all righteousness (Matthew 3:13-17). It is therefore a seal of the righteousness which a believer already has having confessed and believed in the heart that Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead (Romans 10:9-10).

Furthermore, as stated by the apostle Peter, who made reference to Noah and the ark, when he wrote that only those in the ark were saved by water. Not that the water saved them, but because they were in the ark they were saved. It is Jesus Christ who saves us. The water had the power to destroy or save. The only reason why Noah and his family were saved, and the people destroyed, was because they were not in the "boat" (Body of Christ). Water baptism is the answer of a good conscience towards God by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God: angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto Him.

God the Father had this to say about Jesus when He came up out of the water, "*This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased*" (Matthew 3:17). Water baptism pleases the heart of God because He loves obedient children.

ELEMENT	CANDIDATE	BAPTISER	RESULT
Water Acts 8:36, 38-39	Willing – Acts 8:36 Glad – Acts 2:41 Obedient – Acts 10:47-48 Loving Son – John 14:15	Fellow believer Matthew 28:19 Mark 16:15-16	Righteous son Romans 10:10 Matthew 3:15 (This is a seal of the righteousness which you already have by faith)

## BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY GHOST

We believe that the Baptism of the Holy Ghost is an essential experience for all believers, subsequent to their conversion to Christ, to empower them for service. It is the Seal of God upon their lives and the earnest or down payment of their inheritance. The sign of speaking with other tongues as the Holy Spirit gives utterance, is confirmation that the believer has been filled with the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 1:8 Acts 13:52**

The scriptures clearly express the need for this baptism before entering into the ministry. The Lord Jesus after He had risen from the dead, taught His disciples by the Holy Ghost for a period of forty days before His ascension. In Luke’s gospel Jesus taught them, beginning at Moses and all the prophets concerning Himself, and then He opened their understanding that they might understand the scriptures. However, this was not sufficient! He then instructed them to go and wait in Jerusalem. He was going to send the promise of the Father upon them. This was so they could be endued with power for service and be witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The infilling of the Holy Ghost is the Seal of God upon our lives and an earnest of the Spirit, granting us an assurance of our inheritance by this down payment (Ephesians 1:11-14; 2Corinthians 1:21-22). It is a separate experience (Acts 19:2-7) to receiving the Spirit of Christ which occurs at salvation (Galatians 4:4-6).

The outpouring of the Holy Ghost is a declaration that Jesus Christ is seated on the right hand of His Father as David himself prophesied by the Holy Ghost (Psalm 110:1), and confirmed by the ministry of the Apostle Peter (Acts 2:33-35). This gift is available for Jews and Gentiles (Acts 2:39).

This experience is always accompanied by speaking in tongues. God leaves a believer in no doubt as to whether he has been filled or not. There is always clear evidence of this act of faith in desiring, thirsting and asking the Lord to be filled (John 7:37-39; Luke 11:13). Examples of the outpouring of the Holy Ghost are recorded in many places in the book of Acts:

- Pentecost – Acts 2:4
- Samaria – Acts 8:14-17
- Gentiles at Caesarea – Acts 10:44-46; Acts 11:15-17
- Ephesian believers – Acts 19:4-7

Paul, the apostle to the gentiles, was also baptized with the Holy Ghost. Ananias was instructed of the Lord to pray for him that he might receive his sight and be filled with the Holy Ghost (Acts 9:17). Paul on his first missionary journey came to Paphos and was contending with Elymas the sorcerer. The scriptures declare these words, *“Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him.”* We read in the book of 1 Corinthians 14:18 that Paul says, *“I thank my God, that I speak with tongues more that you all.”* Clearly when he was prayed for and filled with the Holy Ghost it was evidenced by him speaking in tongues.

ELEMENT	CANDIDATE	BAPTISER	RESULT
Holy Ghost	Thirsty (desirous)	Jesus	<b>Powerful, bold</b>
Acts 2:4	Asking son	Matthew 3:11	<b>son</b>
Acts 5:32	Obedient	Acts 2:33	Acts 1:8
Acts 10:44-46	John 7:37-39	John 15:26	Acts 4:31,33
Acts 11:16-17	Luke 11:13	John 16:7	Acts 6:8
Acts 13:9	Acts 5:32	Luke 24:49	Acts 6:5
Acts 4:8	Ephesians 1:11-14		
Acts 19:6	2 Corinthians 1:21-22		

## GIFTS OF THE HOLY GHOST

We believe that the nine Gifts of the Holy Spirit are imparted by the Holy Spirit to believers at His discretion for our benefit and for the revelation of Jesus Christ, and to His glory. We are encouraged to desire Spiritual Gifts and to seek to excel in the edifying of the church.

**Hebrews 2:4 1 Corinthians 12:1**

The ministry of the Holy Ghost is absolutely essential in the church of Jesus Christ. Jesus would not have told His disciples to go and wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father, before going into public ministry, if it was not critical to be full of the Holy Ghost (Acts 1:4). Jesus Himself said that the Holy Ghost would not speak of Himself but would glorify Me (John 16:14). We can therefore conclude that all the gifts of the Spirit will reveal Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul wrote that no flesh should glory in God's presence. But as it is written "*He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord*" (1 Corinthians 1:31). The Lord will not give His glory to another (Isaiah 42:7).

The Lord does not want us to be ignorant of spiritual gifts. These gifts are given into the church by the Holy Ghost. The scriptures declare that "*there are diversities of gifts but the same Spirit*" (1 Corinthians 12:4) and that "*the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal*" (1 Corinthians 12:7).

There are nine spiritual gifts as recorded in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 which can be simply tabulated as shown below:

Inspirational/vocal/utterance gifts <b>(Say something)</b>	Revelation gifts <b>(Reveal something)</b>	Power gifts <b>(Do something)</b>
Prophecy	The word of wisdom	The working of miracles
Diverse kinds of tongues	The word of knowledge	Faith
Interpretation of tongues	Discerning of spirits	The gifts of healing

As can be seen from this table, three say something, three reveal something and three do something. It is very important to note that all these gifts are given by the **same Spirit** and are all available to the church for the glory of God. The scriptures declare that "*all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will*" (1 Corinthians 12:11).

In the church we are to covet earnestly the best gifts which will edify the Body. Therefore we are instructed to "*follow after **charity** and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that you may prophesy*" (1 Corinthians 14:1). This is why Paul writes and says we must not be *ignorant* of spiritual gifts. God is a speaking God, so prophecy in the church is the best gift to be desired as it will have the following benefits:

- We will be speaking unto men (1 Corinthians 14:3)
- The church will receive edification (1 Corinthians 14:3)
- The church will receive exhortation (1 Corinthians 14:3)
- The church will receive comfort (1 Corinthians 14:3,31)
- The church will be taught (1 Corinthians 14:19)
- The church will learn (1 Corinthians 14:31)

This is why Paul writes and says that we must covet to prophesy. "*For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy*" (Revelation 19:10). On the other hand, he says that we must not forbid to speak in tongues. Clearly then tongues for the individual and in the church must also have a benefit. In the church, when the tongue is interpreted by the Holy Ghost, God is revealing to us a mystery, because when we speak in tongues we are speaking mysteries. If there is no interpreter, then the one speaking in tongues must rather remain silent in the church, and speak to himself, and to God.

Paul says in the scriptures, “...forbid not to speak with tongues” (1 Corinthians 14:39) and he says about himself, “I thank my God, I speak in tongues more than you all: Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue” (1 Corinthians 14:18-19). Speaking in tongues in private has great value as we are:

- Talking to God (1 Corinthians 14:2)
- Speaking mysteries in the spirit (1 Corinthians 14:2)
- Edifying ourselves (1 Corinthians 14:4)
- Praying with the spirit (1 Corinthians 14:14)
- Giving thanks well (1 Corinthians 14:16-17)
- Talking to ourselves (1 Corinthians 14:28)

Paul closes this discussion on spiritual gifts by saying, “If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant. Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order” (1 Corinthians 14:37-40).

## THE CHURCH

We believe that the Church consists of born again believers under the Headship of Christ. It is the Body of Christ, the Bride of Christ, the pillar and ground of the Truth and a great mystery.

**1 Corinthians 12:12    1 Corinthians 12:13    1 Corinthians 12:27**

Jesus said, “... upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18). He also said, “Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God” (John 3:5). We have to be born again of the incorruptible seed, which is the word of God (John 3:3; 1Peter 1:23). God, the Holy Ghost, baptizes us and sets us in His Body as it pleases Him (1 Corinthians 12:13; 18-21, 27). It is abundantly clear from God’s Word that His church is a living organism made up of “lively stones” which He has added. Jesus is “a living stone” chosen of God and precious. It is also said of the Lord Jesus that He is “a chief corner stone” and is “the head of the corner” (1 Peter 2:4-7). When God raised Him from the dead and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all and put all things under His feet, He gave Him to be the Head over all things to the church, which is His Body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all (Ephesians 1:20-23; Colossians 1:17-19 ).

The house of God is also referred to as the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15). The scriptures speak about the relationship between Christ and the church as akin to a husband and wife relationship. The difference being that it is a spiritual relationship as we are members of His flesh and bone. This was foreshadowed by the statement Adam made after God had put him to sleep and made Eve from one of his ribs and brought her to Adam (Genesis 2:21-24). We are told in the scriptures that this is a “great mystery”: but I speak concerning Christ and the church (Ephesians 5:32).

The apostle Paul states, “I have espoused us to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ” (2 Corinthians 11:2). There is going to be a glorious wedding in the future between Christ and His church as we read in the last book in the bible. “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he said unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he said unto me, These are the true sayings of God” (Revelation 19:7-9; Revelation 20:9).

“For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee” (Isaiah 62:5).

As the body of Christ, the church is directed and guided by the ministry gifts that the Lord has given to His body. As stated earlier, Jesus said “... upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18).

## MISSION OF THE CHURCH

To preach the gospel to every creature, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things that the Lord commanded His Disciples.

### **Matthew 28:19-20**

God's mission plan of salvation for mankind has always been in His heart from before the foundation of the world. In His infinite wisdom and foreknowledge He saw the church as being the vehicle to accomplish this mission. After He had risen from the dead and revealed Himself many times to His disciples, He gave them the great commission saying, *"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world"* (Matthew 28:18-20).

We notice that before Jesus had risen and given this commandment, that He had sent out seventy of His followers whom He appointed. He sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come. Therefore said he unto them, *"The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest"* (Luke 10:1-2). The church has been commissioned by the Lord to be a witness to the world to bring the light of the gospel so that whoever repents and believes can be brought out of darkness into the light and kingdom of His dear Son. *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"* (Romans 10:13-15)!

In the prayer of the Lord Jesus He said these words, *"As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world"* (John 17:18). *"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word"* (John 17:20).

Paul instructed Timothy to do the work of an evangelist (2 Timothy 4:5). Likewise, although we may not be evangelists we are called to the work of an evangelist, and bring the good news of the gospel to the lost. Jesus came not to destroy men's lives but to save them (Luke 9:56).

The Lord in His commission places an emphasis on teaching once a person has given their life to Jesus. He says that we must teach all nations, teaching them to observe all the things that the Lord had taught them. So an essential part of the church mission is to disciple new believers, so that they can grow and become effective members in the Body of Christ with the hope of the resurrection as their goal. *"..when He shall appear, we will be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is"* (1 John 3:2).

## GOAL OF THE CHURCH

To see believers being added to the Church and growing in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, discovering the perfect will of God for their lives and obeying Him, until they come to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (spiritual maturity) and attain to the resurrection of the dead.

**2 Peter 3:18    Philipians 3:10-11**

Immediately after Pentecost and the infilling of the Holy Ghost, Peter preached the Word and the same day there were **added** unto them about three souls. Following this experience they continued daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, and did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and having favour with all the people. And God **added** to the church daily such as should be saved (Acts 2:41-47). There is no doubt from these scriptures that God's intention and goal for the church is that members be **added**. It is the Lord's desire that they get set in the Body as it pleases Him (1 Corinthians 12:18).

The church must grow! Each member must desire the sincere milk of the Word so that they can grow, and come into a place of spiritual maturity, being able to discern both good and evil (1 Peter 2:2; Hebrews 5:14). They must grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). The perfect will of God for each believer's life in fulfilling the calling of God, can only be found when the believer is willing to present themselves to God in the Body of Christ. The scriptures clearly state, *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God"* (Romans 12:1-2). It is in the Body of Christ that we will find the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16; Philipians 2:5).

Believers must be motivated and exhorted to fulfil the ministry that they have received of the Lord (Colossians 4:17). As each member in the body operates and supplies that which God has given them, the church is able to grow and be edified (Ephesians 4:16). The goal in the heart of the Lord is that through the ministries the body may be perfected, and united through this knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13). It is through this process of submission to the Word that each believer will learn obedience by the things that he/she will suffer. This is where you get to know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death: If by any means we might attain unto the resurrection of the dead (Philipians 3:10-11).

The final goal of the church is to get each believer ready for the coming of the Lord so that they can get into heaven. The church is the vehicle which God's has chosen to do this work. It is a mystery, *"Christ in you the hope of glory"* (Colossians 1:27-28).

## CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

The Church is led, controlled and directed by the ministry gifts of the ascended Christ i.e. apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. These ministries have been given to men for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry and for the edifying of the Body of Christ. The 'Local Church' is governed, cared for and fed by ordained Elders who form the local oversight and who watch for the souls under their care and give an account before God for each one.

### Ephesians 4:11-12

The church is under the headship of Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:18; Hebrews 3:6; Colossians 2:19; Ephesians 1:22). The Father has delivered all things unto the Son. This means that the Son oversees all that takes place in the church. Jesus said that He would build His church and the gates of hell would not prevail against it (Matthew 16:18). Jesus's earthly ministry laid the foundation for the church and when He ascended on high He gave ministry gifts unto men for the administration of His church. The scriptures declare that there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord (1 Corinthians 12:5). These include the following ascended Christ ministry gifts, apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. These ministries are given for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13).

When Peter ministered on the day of Pentecost he told the new converts to continue steadfastly in apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and breaking of bread, and prayers. These diversities of operations were ordained by God (the Father) which worketh all in all (1 Corinthians 12:6).

God the Holy Ghost also gave diversities of gifts into the church. The manifestation of the Spirit (Holy Ghost) is given to everyman to profit with all. These gifts can be categorised in the following way; three reveal something, three do something and three say something (see table below). Notice, all these gifts are given by one and the selfsame Spirit and are divided to everyman severally as He wills.

<b>Three Reveal Something (Revelation gifts)</b>	<b>Three do something (Power gifts)</b>	<b>Three say something (Inspirational utterance gifts)</b>
The word of wisdom	Faith	Prophecy
The word of knowledge	Gifts of healing	Speaking in tongues
Discerning of spirits	Miracles	Interpretation of tongues

The ministry of the elders in the "local church" is a ministry gift given by Jesus Christ. When Paul was on his third missionary journey he called for the elders of the Ephesian church to give them some final instructions. He said, "*Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood*" (Acts 20:28). The elders are responsible to care for the sheep in the local fellowship. They must take the oversight, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock (1 Peter 5: 2-3). The scriptures declare that the flock must remember them that have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. The church is called to obey this ministry of Christ, and submit yourself to it: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you (Hebrews 13:7, 17).

## PARTICIPATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

We believe in the Priesthood of every believer and the effective working of each member of the Body of Christ, through prayer, Spiritual Gifts, testimony and ministry as each member exercises himself and herself in accordance with the measure or ability that God has given to each one, and the leading of the Holy Spirit, to edify and build one another up in love.

**Hebrews 4:14 1 Corinthians 12:25 1 Corinthians 14:26 1 Peter 2:5 Ephesians 4:16 Romans 12:4-8**

If the Lord Jesus Christ is our Great High Priest, and He is, then there must of necessity be a priesthood of believers. It is abundantly clear from the scriptures that this is the case. The Word of God describes us as lively stones, built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, so as to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. We are also told that we are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that we should shew forth the praises of Him that has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9). Clearly then, each believer priest is to be actively involved in bringing praise and worship to the Head of the Church, Jesus Christ. This must take place not only in the Body of Christ, but must be a life style of each believer. This principle is further supported by what is written in the book of Hebrews, which says, *“By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name”* (Hebrews 13:15).

There is a very good reason why each believer must be actively involved in the church, after all it is the Body of Christ. A body is made up of many members, but is one body. The only way the body can remain healthy is if each member is functioning according to purpose for which that member was made. Likewise, in the Body of Christ we are exhorted to all function according to the measure that God has given to that member. The scripture says, *“For as we have many members in one body, and all the members have not the same office: so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one member’s one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us...”* (Romans 12:4-6), we must exercise these gifts. Ephesians tells us that *“...the whole body **fitly joined together** and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, making increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love”* (Ephesians 4:16). We also read, *“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building **fitly framed together** groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit”* (Ephesians 2:19-22).

There are many avenues by which each believer priest is able to participate in the Body of Christ. As we have freely received of the Lord, so we are now able to give. The Lord Jesus said, *“It is more blessed to give than to receive”* (Acts 20:35). He also said, *“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again”* (Luke 6:38). If we “breathe in”, we will then be able to “breathe out”. If we are giving someone CPR, we can never breathe life into them unless we first take a breath in. In Romans chapter twelve there is a list of avenues whereby a believer priest is able to serve. It is by no means a complete list. God has given into His Body, ascended Christ gift ministries (Ephesians 4:8-12), gifts of the Holy Ghost (1 Corinthians 12:4, 8-11), the office of a deacon (helps). There is in fact no limit to the extent in which a believer may serve the Head of the Church and Great High Priest.

*“For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister”* (Hebrews 6:10). *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service”* (Romans 12:1).

## THE DUTY OF EACH MEMBER

To keep my body and mind pure from sin and separated from worldly pleasures of indulgence, fornication (sexual sins) and other vices, (e.g. drugs, alcohol and smoking) so that I may be a temple for the Holy Spirit and a vessel fit for the Master's use. To submit myself to the perfect will of God for my life, and to submit myself to the Oversight and Ministries of the Church. To be a witness to the unsaved of the world, pointing them to Christ, through the Gospel. To give myself fully to the edifying of my fellow believers as the Lord enables me. To faithfully attend all the meetings of the Church (Assembly), serving God with all my heart. To give of my substance, by faithfully tithing to the Local Assembly, where God has added me.

**2 Timothy 2:21 1 Corinthians 6:19 1 Corinthians 6:20 1 Corinthians 9:27**

Each member making up the Body of Christ is accountable and responsible to God, as well as himself and the other members to walk in the Light. The scriptures record that God has sanctified us through the offering of the Body of Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:10). Remember, a little leaven, leavens the whole lump, so our conduct and life style is critical to the health of the local fellowship. The Lord Jesus has loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood. It is important to note the instruction that Paul the Apostle gave to the church leaders at Ephesus when he said, *"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood"* (Acts 20:28). It was not just any blood, but the blood of God. The letter to the Corinthians says, *"What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's"* (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Paul said that we must be followers of him as he also was of Christ and made this statement, *"But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway"* (1 Corinthians 9:27).

The duty of each believer is to fear God and keep His commandments. In other words, to find himself/herself in submission to the Word of God and to continue steadfastly in the divine ordinances set out in the scriptures. David wrote these piercing words in the Psalms, *"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting"* (Psalms 139:23-25). Peter writes in his epistle, *"As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, be ye holy; for I am holy"* (1 Peter 1:14-16).

We could in short summarize the duties of a believer in the following way:

1. Keep your spirit, soul and body pure and free from sin (1 Thessalonians 5:23)
2. Love not the world, neither the things in the world (1 John 2:15)
3. Abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul (1 Peter 2:11; 2 Timothy 2:21-22)
4. Give yourself wholly to those things outlined in the first paragraph of the topic.

## TITHES

We believe every believer is called upon to tithe on all their income thereby acknowledging God as the source of all their blessings, and acknowledging Jesus Christ as their Great High Priest.

**Malachi 3:8-10    2 Corinthians 9:6**

Tithing is not a New Testament teaching, but was in fact introduced in the book of Genesis. It may seem strange to you but it was not something that was demanded of by God. It was a response from the heart of a man that God had called to walk by faith, and to be the father of the faithful.

We read in Genesis chapter fourteen that after Abram was returning from a battle which he undertook in order to rescue his nephew Lot, as well as the goods, the women and the people, he was met by the king of Sodom. However, he was intercepted by a man who was both a King and a Priest. This was Melchizedek king of Salem and he brought to Abram both bread and wine. He was the Priest of the Most High God. He blessed Abram and said, *"Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: and blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand"* (Genesis 14:17-20). Notice the response from the heart of Abram as he offered him a tithe of all in acknowledgement of the fact that it was God who gave him the victory and that He is the possessor of all things. Abram had no intention of taking anything from the king of Sodom lest he should say that he had made Abram rich (Genesis 14:21-23).

In the New Testament we discover that Jesus Christ was made a great High Priest after the order of Melchizedek. This was a very unique order as it involved an unending priesthood and was confirmed by God with an oath. God called His Son into this heavenly ministry after the power of an endless life.

In the Old Testament the children of Israel paid tithes to the Levites, which in turn paid a tithe of this to the high priest in acknowledgement of God's provision and the fact that the high priest was alive. The weakness of this Aaronic order was that the high priest had to be replaced after death. We read the following scriptures in the book of Hebrews, *"Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils. And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham: But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises. And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better. And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth. And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham. For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him"* (Hebrews 7:4-10).

Clearly, the principle of tithing was established in the book of Genesis and is a requirement for each believer as it is an act of faith declaring that our Great High Priest, Jesus Christ, **is alive, that He is our provider and that all blessings come from Him.** *"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it"* (Malachi 3:8-10).

Tithing is a **heart issue**, more than a money issue! *"Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men; and by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift"* (2 Corinthians 9:13-15). **Tithing is a response to this unspeakable gift, Jesus Christ.**

## FOUNDATION OF EACH MEMBER

We believe that the Foundation of Jesus Christ needs to be laid in the heart of each believer. The foundation is 'The First Principles of the Doctrine of Christ' or the 'Milk of the Word'.

**Hebrews 6:1-2 Luke 6:48**

### The Principles of the Doctrine of Christ/Milk of the Word - Hebrews 6 v 1 – 3/1 Peter 2 v 2 – 3)

There are **3 kinds of minds** spoken about in the scripture:

1. **Natural mind** – this mind cannot know the things of God: they are foolishness unto him (1Corinthians 2 v 14).
2. **Carnal mind** – babes; walk as men; not able to discern between good and evil (1Cor 3 v 1 – 4)
3. **Spiritual mind** – to be spiritually minded is life and peace (Romans 8 v 6).

***(If individuals do not want to retain God in their knowledge, God will give them up to a reprobate mind)***

**Principle 1: Repentance from dead works.**

You cannot do it yourself. Jesus has done it for us. Romans 3 v 20 – 28)

**Principle 2: Faith towards God.**

Without faith it is impossible to please God. The just shall live by His faith (Habakkuk 2 v 4/Galatians 3 v 11)

**Principle 3: Baptisms.**

Romans 5 v 3 – 13; Colossians 2 v 12 – 15

Baptism is a complete immersion into the 'Element'. The scriptures speak loudly and clearly that when we are baptized we enter into the DEATH, BURIAL and RESSURECTION of Jesus Christ so we can walk in newness of life. Through these baptisms we will become an Obedient, Powerful, Righteous, Son.

ELEMENT	BAPTIZER	CANDIDATE	RESULT
Body of Christ 1 Cor 12 v 13	Holy Ghost 1 Cor 12 v 3, 13	Repentant Sinner Act 2 v 38	<b>Son</b> (Member of the body) Gal 4 v 6-7; 1 Cor 12 v 14
Water Acts 8 v 35 – 39 Matt 28 v 19; Mark 16 v 15 – 16	Fellow Believer Acts 8 v 35 - 39	Willing/Glad/Obedient Acts 2 v 41	<b>Righteous</b> Matt 3 v 13 - 17
Holy Ghost John 1 v 33 Act 2	The Lord Jesus John 1 v 33	Thirsty Believer John 7 v 37 - 39	<b>Powerful</b> Luke 24 v 49; Acts 1 v 8
Sufferings of Christ 1 Peter 4 v 13	The World, the prince of the power of the air, the flesh Eph 2 v 2-3	Godly 2 Tim 3 v 12	<b>Obedient</b> Heb 5 v 8

**Principle 4: Laying on of hands:** Matthew 10 v 8. Freely you have receive, freely give. Enter into the ministry for which God has called you.

**Principle 5: Resurrection from the dead:** Philippians 3 v 10 – 11, 20 – 21. Gives a believer HOPE and MOTIVATION.

**Principle 6: Eternal Judgement:** 1 Corinthians 3 v 13 v 15. A believer's judgement for rewards. Walk reverently before the Lord. The beginning of wisdom is to fear the Lord. Acts 17 v 31

**Principle 6: Going on to perfection:** Hebrews 6 v 1. To be made more like Jesus. If God permit... Hebrews 13 v 20 - 21

If these principles become alive in your heart you will become spiritually minded. And to be spiritually minded is LIFE and PEACE. The Lord Jesus is the PRINCE of LIFE and the PRINCE of PEACE.

## MARRIAGE

We believe that God instituted Marriage between a man and a woman and that Marriage is honourable and the bed undefiled. We believe that the Husband is the head of the home and that he should love his Wife as Christ loved the Church and gave His life for it; That Wives should submit themselves to their own Husbands as the Husbands honour their Head, Who is Christ.

**Matthew 19:25   Ephesians 5:22-23   Ephesians 5:24-25**

The institution of marriage was ordained of God from the very beginning when God made Adam (the first man) and Eve (the first woman) as recorded in the book of Genesis (Genesis 2:18, 21-25). God's principle was that a man should leave his father and his mother, and should cleave unto his wife and that the two should become one flesh. It is to be noted that the woman was taken out of the man thereby deriving the name 'woman'. When Adam beheld what God had created out of the rib of his own body he made this profound prophetic statement "***This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh***" establishing the principle of unity and oneness. No wonder when the Pharisees came to the Lord Jesus tempting Him they said, "*Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?*" (Matthew 19:3). The Lord was quick to respond by saying, "*Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be **one flesh**? Wherefore they are no more twain, but **one flesh**. What therefore God hath **joined together**, let not man put asunder*" (Matthew 19:4-6). This is why God affirms in the book of Malachi that, "*He hateth putting away*" (Malachi 2:16).

Through marriage God clearly established a visual pattern and order for Christ and His Body, which is the Church. In the book of Ephesians we read these glorious words, "*Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of **his flesh, and of his bones**. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. **This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church**. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband*" (Ephesians 5:22-33).

Marriage is indeed a great mystery, because as Adam made that first statement when beholding what God had created as a helpmeet for him and said, "***This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh***" he was prophetically making a statement concerning the spiritual BODY OF CHRIST. For the scriptures declare, "*For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit*" (1 Corinthians 12:12-13). It must be clearly noted that the blood is absent, as this is what the Lord Jesus shed for us to be cleansed, so that we could be accepted by God into the Body of Christ. Jesus said, "*Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not **flesh and bones**, as ye see me have*" (Luke 24:39). Jesus was here speaking about His Spiritual Body, of which we are now a part. WHAT A MYSTERY! By this God declares His WISDOM to principalities and powers (Ephesians 3:10). Christ and His Body are **not divided**, but are inseparably joined to Him and are now "**ONE FLESH**". He that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit (1 Corinthians 6:17). We have been married to another, even to Him who has been raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God (Romans 7:4). One day Jesus is coming to fetch His Bride (the Body), and when He shall appear, then shall we also appear with Him in glory (Colossians 3:4).

## PARENTHOOD

We believe that parents carry a responsibility before God to bring their children up in the knowledge of the Lord; to love them, care and provide for them; and to train and discipline them in the light of the Scriptures. We believe that a daughter is under the care and oversight of her God-fearing father until he gives her hand in marriage. We also believe that a son is answerable to his Father and Mother until he leaves his Father's house to marry and establish his own home.

The scripture says, *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it"* (Proverbs 22:6). Parents carry this great responsibility of training and instructing their children in the ways of the Lord. Children are required of the Lord to obey their parents in the Lord (Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20). The bible says that they must honour their father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise; that it may go well with them and that they will live long on the earth (Ephesians 6:2-3). Fathers must be careful to not provoke their children to wrath but to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). Children can bring great source joy and rejoicing to their parents if they are found walking in the truth (2 John 4; 3 John 4). Fathers are required to bring correction to their children because they love them. This correction may not be pleasant at the time but afterwards, if taken correctly, will yield the peaceably fruit of righteousness (Hebrews 12:9-11).

When a boy comes of age and decides to marry the scriptures teach *"And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh"* (Genesis 2:21-25; Ephesians 5:31). He now becomes the head of his own wife and can now begin to establish his own home.

The girl remains under her father's care and responsibility until such time that he gives her in marriage (1 Corinthians 7:38).

Godly parents should by the grace of God endeavour to guide and direct their children into the Body of Christ, where they can find the place where God has set them, so that they can be functioning members and effective in edifying the Body.

## THE LAST DAYS

We believe that we are living in the Last Days, which are described as perilous (2 Timothy 3:1), in which the final prophecies of the Bible are rapidly being fulfilled before our eyes. While we do not know the day or the hour of the Return of Jesus Christ (Matthew 24:36), we are told in the Scriptures to *“Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also **ready**: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so **doing**”* (Matthew 24:42-46). *“For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words”* (1 Thessalonians 4:15-18). This is known as the First Resurrection, or Rapture. The Rapture is followed directly by the Tribulation during which God deals primarily with His ancient people, Israel. This 7-year Great Tribulation will culminate in the Battle of that great day of God Almighty, where God will gather the nations together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon (Revelation 16:14,16), which will be cut short by the Second Coming of Christ.

It is at this point that the Lord Jesus returns physically to earth, with His saints and Holy Angels as recorded in the gospel of Matthew, *“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other”* (Matthew 24:29-31). The Lord Jesus is returning on a white horse to make war against the Anti-Christ, the False Prophet and the ungodly nations (Revelation 19:11-21), and to establish His earthly Kingdom for one thousand years (Revelation 20:1-6). During this thousand-year period, the Millennial Reign of Christ, Satan will be bound. We believe that there will be Jews and sheep nations during the millennial which will have survived the tribulation. At the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed to deceive the nations for the last time. This short period of rebellious deception ends with the Great White Throne Judgment. Here Satan and his angels and all the dead whose names are not found in the Book of Life, both great and small, will be judged by Jesus Christ; they will be cast into the Lake of Fire. This is known as the Second Death.

This will be followed by the introduction of a universal new world order established by God. *“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son”* (Revelation 21:1-7).

## OUR FINAL DESTINATION

We believe that we have a place in the Holy City, the Heavenly Jerusalem, the City of the living God, which will come down out of Heaven to be situated over the Earth, surrounded by new Heavens, and that we will live there forever in the presence of the Godhead.

As much as there is an earthly Jerusalem which has inhabitants, but is in bondage with her children, so there is a Jerusalem which is above but she is free, and is the mother of all those who have been born of the Spirit of promise (Galatians 4:25-29).

At present heavenly Jerusalem is described in the following way in the book of Hebrews and chapter twelve, *“But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel”* (Hebrews 12:22-24). Born again believers make up part of this company but like the Old Testament saints, they are awaiting the resurrection of the dead at the coming of Jesus Christ. Those that are alive at the return of Christ will be caught up or raptured (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

To all those who overcome there is a promise given by God as declared in the scriptures as follows, *“Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name”* (Revelation 3:12).

After Christ has ended His thousand year reign and the Devil has been cast into the lake of fire, and unbelievers has been judged at the White Throne Judgement resulting in death and hell being delivered up and also cast into the lake of fire, there will be the introduction of an eternal state for the believer. This is detailed in the twenty first chapter of the book of Revelation. *“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, **new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son”*** (Revelation 21:1-7).

*“Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless”* (2 Peter 3:11-14).

Isaiah the prophet also expresses this future eternal state in the presence of Almighty God. *“For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying”* (Isaiah 65:17-19).