

## **GENERATIONAL HOPE CHURCH Statement of Faith**

The following statement of faith is based on the foundational truths taught in the Bible. All our teaching and ministry are rooted in and flow out of these Biblical doctrines.

### **1. The Scriptures**

The Bible is the inspired Word of God, written as men were moved by the Holy Spirit. It is God's Word to us for our doctrine and our standard for life and practice. (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21)

### **2. The Trinity**

There is one eternally existing God who has Three Distinct Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. He is the creator of all that exists, both visible and invisible, and is therefore worthy of all glory and praise. God is perfect in love, power, holiness, goodness, knowledge, wisdom, justice, and mercy. He is unchangeable and therefore is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. (John 14:9-10, John 14:26, 2 Corinthians 13:14)

God the Father resides in Heaven.

God the Son is the Word of God manifested in the flesh, the One who was begotten of God, and who has existed with the Father from the beginning. (John 1:1,14:18) In Jesus, God's Son, all the essence and fullness of deity lives in bodily form. (Colossians 2:9) The Father has bestowed upon Jesus all authority to rule and reign in Heaven and on the earth.

God the Holy Spirit is the very Spirit of God who proceeds forth from the Father (John 15:26). He has come to give testimony to Jesus and glorify Him. He convinces the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He guides us into all Truth, revealing the things of Christ, and brings Divine comfort and help to the believer (John 14:26; 16:7-14).

### **3. Jesus**

God has revealed Himself through His son, Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of men, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, fully God and fully Man. Jesus died for our sins, was buried, rose again on the third day, and personally appeared to His disciples (Luke 1:26-35, John 1:14-18, Romans 4:25, Acts 1:3).

### **4. Man, His Fall, and Redemption**

Man is a created being, made in the likeness and image of God (Genesis 5:1-2). By one man's fall (Adam) sin entered the world (Romans 5:12). We have redemption through His blood and the forgiveness of sins by grace, not works (Romans 3:24, Ephesians 1:7, Ephesians 2:8, Genesis 1:26-31, 3:1-7, Rom. 5:12-21).

## **5. New Birth and Eternal Life**

Jesus came to reconcile us with God. He brings salvation to sinners by grace, through repentance and faith in the perfect and sufficient work of the cross, by which we obtain forgiveness of sins, are born again, and have eternal life (Ephesians 2:8,9, Hebrews 9:12,22, Romans 5:11, John3:3, Titus 3:5-7, John 3:15-16).

## **6. Water baptism**

Baptism should be observed as commanded in the Scriptures, by all who have repented (in their hearts have truly believed in Christ as Savior and Lord). Through water baptism, by full immersion, the Christian has their body washed in water as an outward symbol of inner cleansing and participation in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Romans 6:4-7, Colossians 2:12, Matthew 28:19).

## **7. Communion**

As Jesus instructed us, we are to partake in the table of the Lord, commonly called Communion or the Lord's Supper, for believers as a remembrance of Him (1 Corinthians 11:28-32; Matthew 26:26-28).

## **8. Baptism of The Holy Spirit**

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a real experience, or subsequent to salvation, with the Scriptural evidence of speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts, and their uses in the work of the ministry (Acts 2:1-4, 8:14-17, 10:44-46, Galatians 3:14-15).

## **9. Sanctification**

Sanctification is the cleansing of the believer from Ungodliness. Beginning an ongoing process of growing in spiritual maturity and becoming more like Christ in our actions and attitude (Philippians 1:6, Galatians 5:16, 25, Romans 12:1-2, 2 Timothy 2:21, John 2:6, 2 Peter 3:18).

## **10. The Church**

The Church is the body of believers, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with people added by God to fulfill the great commission. Each believer is an integral part of the Church. The Church is meant to be the visible body of Christ, sent into the world to glorify God, and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ (Eph 1:22-23, 2:22, Hebrews 12:23).

## **11. God's Commission to the Believer**

Jesus instructed believers to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations, teaching them to follow and obey Christ (Mark 16:15, Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:8).

## **12. Divine Healing**

We believe in the healing of the body, soul, and spirit by Divine power, as demonstrated in the Early Church (Acts 4:30, Romans 8:11, 1 Corinthians 12:9, James 5:14, Isaiah 53:4-5).

## **13. Hell**

Anyone who physically dies without accepting Jesus Christ is eternally lost in hell separated from God (Hebrews 9:27, Luke 16:20-31).

## **14. The Devil**

The devil is real, he is the deceiver, tempter, and accuser. We are in a battle that is not against flesh and blood but against spiritual forces. The Devil rebelled against God and was cast out of heaven with other fallen angels, believers overcome the devil through Jesus Christ who is the Greater One (Genesis 3:1-7, Matthew 4:3-11, Ephesians 6:12, Ezekiel 28:14-18, Isaiah 14:12-15, 1 John 4:4, 1 John 3:8, James 4:7).

## **14. Our Lord's Return**

We believe in the bodily ascension of Jesus to heaven, His exaltation, and we wait for our Blessed Hope, the return of Jesus for His Church (John 14:2-3, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Titus 2:13).

## **15. Priesthood of Believers**

Believers are called by God to serve Him and serve others and are ministers of the Lord Jesus Christ, with access to the Father through Jesus. Each person must believe for himself, be baptized for himself, obey for himself and answer to his Creator for himself (Ephesians 2:10; Revelation 1:6; 1 Peter 2:9).

## **In addition to these basic fundamentals, We Believe...**

God has ordained and created 3 basic institutions of authority: 1) the home, 2) the church, and 3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution the responsibility to honor and not infringe on each other's authority (Romans 13:1-7, Ephesians 5:22-24, Hebrews 13:17, 1 Peter 2:13-14).

Biblical marriage is the joining of one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24, Romans 7:2, 1 Corinthians 7:10, Ephesians 5:22- 23).

God has commanded that no sexual activity occurs outside of a marriage between a man and a woman (Genesis 2:24, Genesis 19:5,13, Genesis 26:8-9, Leviticus 18:1-30, Romans 1: 26-29, 1 Corinthians 5:1, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8, Hebrews 13:4).

God will move the heart of every Christian to steward the wealth entrusted to him to support his local Church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving. The Holy Spirit will lead every Christian to give offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support the Church to relieve those in need and spread the Gospel (Genesis 14:20, Proverbs 3:9-10, Acts 4:34-37, 1 Corinthians 16:2, 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, Galatians 6:6, Ephesians 4:28, 1 Timothy 5:17-18, 1 John 3:17).

We believe in the operation of the Gifts of the Spirit as explained in 1 Corinthians 12-14 and demonstrated in the Early Church.