Faith Life Family Church Membership Class 2

WHAT WE BELIEVE

The Scriptures Inspired

The Bible is the inspired Word of God, a revelation from God to man, the living, infallible, and everlasting rule of faith and conduct, and is superior to conscience and reason. (II Timothy 3:15-17; I Peter 1:23-25; II Peter 1:21; I Thessalonians 2:13; Hebrews 4:12).

The One True Godhead

The triune Godhead is comprised of 3 separate and distinct personalities, The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit, who are eternally self-existent, self-revealed and function as one entity. Jesus Christ, who is God manifested in the flesh, is the second member of the Godhead, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and The Holy Spirit. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10; John 1:1-5, 10-14; Matthew 28:18-20; Philippians 2:6).

Man, His Fall and Redemption

Man was created good and upright, for God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness". But, man, by voluntary transgression, fell, and his only hope of redemption is in Jesus Christ the Son of God. (Genesis 1:26-31, 3:1-7; Romans 3:10, 23; Romans 5:12-21).

The Salvation of Man

(a) Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. (Romans 3:24; John 3:3) On the cross Jesus Christ became sin and sickness providing both salvation and divine healing for all mankind (Psalms 103:3), being justified freely by His Grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. For by grace we are saved through faith (Ephesians 2:8) "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart; that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation." (Romans 10:8-10)

(b) The Evidences of Salvation. The inward evidence to the believer of his salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit. (Romans 8:16; I John 3:18-19, 24)

The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness. "You will know them by their fruits." (Matthew 7:16-20)

(c) Faith and Works. Salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ and not by human works; however, our works will determine the rewards in eternity. (Ephesians 2:8-10; Galatians 2:16; II Corinthians 5:10)

Baptism in Water

The ordinance of baptism by burial with Christ should be observed as commanded in the Scriptures by all who have truly repented and in their hearts have truly believed in Christ as Savior and Lord. In so doing, they declare to the world that they have died with Jesus and that they have also been raised with Him to walk in newness of life. (Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:4; Acts 10:47-48)

The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements, bread and fruit of the vine, is the symbol expressing our sharing in a memorial to His suffering and death, and a prophecy of His second coming, and is enjoined to all believers "until He comes" (John 6:48, 51, 53-57, Luke 22:19, 20, II Peter 1:4, I Corinthians 11:24-25, 28)

The Promise of the Father

All believers are entitled to, and should ardently expect and earnestly seek, the promise of the Father, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5; Acts 2:38) With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry. (Acts 1:8; I Corinthians 12:1-31) This wonderful experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth. (Acts 2:38, 10:44-46, 11:14-16)

The Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The full consummation of the Baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is evidenced by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance and by the subsequent manifestation of spiritual power in public testimony and service. (Acts 2:4, 10:44-46, 19:2, 6, 1:8; Galatians 5:16-26)

The Church

The church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer,

born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the general assembly and church of the first born, whose names are written in Heaven. (Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:19-22; Hebrews 12:23)

Ministry

Divinely called and Scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for a two-fold purpose: (1) The evangelization of the world, and (2) The edification of the Body of Christ (Mark 15:16, 20; Ephesians 4:11-13).

Sanctification

The Bible teaches that without holiness no man can see the Lord. We believe in the Doctrine of Sanctification as a definite, yet progressive work of grace, commencing at the time of regeneration and continuing until the consummation of salvation at Christ's return. (Hebrews 12:14; I Thessalonians 5:23; II Peter 3:18; II Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 3:12-14; I Corinthians 1:30)

Total Prosperity

(a) Spiritual. – III John 2; II Corinthians 5:17-21
(b) Mental. – II Timothy 1:7; Romans 12:2; Isaiah 26:3
(c) Physical. – Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:17; I Peter 2:24
(d) Financial. – Malachi 3:10-11; Luke 6:38; II Corinthians 9:6-15; Deuteronomy 28:1-14
(e) Social. – Proverbs 3:4; Luke 2:52; Esther 2:15

Blessed Hope

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation, together with those who are alive and remain unto the Lord, is imminent and is the blessed hope of the church (I Corinthians 15:51-52; I Thessalonians 4:16-17, Romans 6:23; Titus 2:13).

The Lake of Fire

Those who have not accepted the redemptive work of Jesus Christ will suffer eternal separation from the Godhead. The devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, and anyone whose name is not found written in the Book of Life, shall be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone. This is the second death, the lake of fire. (Revelation 19:20, 20:10-15)

The Millennial Reign of Jesus

The Scriptures promise the return of our Lord Jesus Christ with His saints from Heaven to rule and reign for one thousand years on earth (II Thessalonians 1:7; Revelation 19:11-16; 20:1-6) After this, there shall be a new heaven and a new earth. (Revelation 21)