

## DISCUSSION GUIDE



**"What We Believe"**  
**The Monterey Way, Part 2**  
**Pastor Bryan James**  
**November 6, 2023**

**WELCOME** Meet at the front of Sanctuary for Welcome & Prayer, Worship, and Sermon Synopsis & Discussion Guide)

**WORSHIP** "Christ is Risen" – Matt Maher  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBqPXvP6aso>

**WORD** Scripture References: [John 3:16](#), [Hebrews 4:12-13](#), [2Timothy 3:14-17](#), [2 Peter 1:20-21](#), [John 16:12-14](#); [Nicene Creed](#)

1. Share 1 nugget that uniquely spoke to you and 1 question that you have after hearing this week's message.
2. Read John 3:16 NIV and the further amplified 'NBV'. Discuss the words *belief/believe* and *faith*. What does it mean to believe (put our faith) in something?
  - Who and what do we believe (put our faith) in?
3. What is the Bible (Canon) and how was the Canon discerned and bound together by the Early Church Fathers (i.e., six criteria)?
4. Read 2 Peter 1:20-21 and John 16: 12-14. Discuss the following:
  - What is our church *Ministry Philosophy*?
  - Discuss the relationship between the Word of God and the Spirit of God in the ministry of the church.
5. Pastor Bryan said, "Churches rise and fall in fidelity to God's Word. Discuss the 3 essential words in our logo: *Truth, Love and Power* After hearing the message, how do these words define 'what we believe' and our ministry at Monterey Church?
6. Discuss the terms: Biblical doctrine, Theology, and Practice. What are they and what is their relationship to one another?
7. Does your practice (i.e., the way you live) reflect what you declare to believe? Why or why not? Share if you desire.
8. Read Hebrews 11:6. What can you do grow stronger in your faith (belief) in God & His Word?

**To close the discussion time, read the Nicene Creed together and close out with a personal prayer for the group.**

**WITNESS** This week, consider the doctrine and theology you believe in and how that affects your practice (the way you live). Let your life reflect the Hope you profess.