

## LIVING HOPE CHURCH TENETS OF FAITH

As Tenets of Faith, this church adopts the following doctrinal statement. The following is intended simply as a basis for doctrinal purity and fellowship among us; i.e., that we all speak the same thing (1 Corinthians 1:10; Acts 2:42). The phraseology employed in this statement is not inspired or inclusive of all biblical truth but is essential for scriptural ministry and unity.

**Section 1. The Scriptures Inspired.** The Bible is inspired by God and is the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct (Psalm 119; Isaiah 40:8; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21).

**Section 2. The One True God.** There is only one true God who exists as a Trinity of three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They are coequal and coeternal, and they coexist in perfect unity (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10-11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

**Section 3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ.** Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and the second person of the Trinity (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31-35; 1 Peter 2:22; 1 Corinthians 15:3; Matthew 28:6; 1 Corinthians 15:4; Acts 1:9-11; Philippians 2:9-11).

**Section 4. The Fall of Man.** Humankind was created morally good but was separated from God through original sin (Genesis 1:26-27, 2:16-17, 3:6-7; Romans 5:12-19).

**Section 5. The Salvation of Man.** Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38, 4:12; Romans 5:6-11; Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 2:11-15, 3:5-7; John 14:6).

**Section 6. The Ordinances of the Church.** The Lord Jesus gave two ordinances to His church: baptism and communion. Baptism by immersion is a declaration to the world that a believer has decided to follow Jesus, died to sin, and been raised together with Christ (Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:3-4). Communion is a symbol expressing our union with the body of Christ, a memorial of Christ's suffering and death, and our anticipation of His Second Coming (Luke 22:14-21; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, 11:23-26).

**Section 7. Spirit Empowerment.** The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a separate and subsequent experience following conversion that is available to all believers to empower them to live an overcoming life and to be an effective witness in their culture (John 7:37-39; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8, 2:4, 8:14-17, 19:1-4; Romans 8:26-27; 1 Corinthians 14).

**Section 8. Sanctification.** Sanctification is the process by which a believer separates themselves from evil and becomes more like Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 6:11-23, 12:1-2, Ephesians 4:22, Colossians 3:1-6, 1 Thessalonians 5:23, Hebrews 13:12).

**Section 9. The Church and Its Mission.** The Church's mission is to seek and save those who are lost in sin and disciple them as followers of Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20). The Church is the body of Christ and consists of all people who accept Christ, regardless of Christian denomination (1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:19-22, 3:10; Hebrews 12:23).

**Section 10. The Ministry.** Divinely called and scripturally-ordained ministers serve and lead the local church in fulfilling its mission (Ephesians 4:9-14; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-5).

**Section 11. Divine Healing.** Divine healing is part of the Christian gospel and provided for in Christ's atonement (Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16-17; James 5:14-16).

**Section 12. The Second Coming.** The Second Coming of Christ includes the rapture of believers and the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years. This is our Blessed Hope. (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27-31; Romans 8:23; 1 Corinthians 15:51-56; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Revelation 1:7, 19:11-14, 20:1-6).

**Section 13. The Final Judgment.** All believers are saved by grace; however, the Lord will grant rewards and responsibilities in the eternal kingdom according to their stewardship of God's gifts (Matthew 25:14-46; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15). There will also be a final judgment when nonbelievers are judged according to their works (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20, 20:11-15, 21:8).

**Section 14. The New Heavens and the New Earth.** There will be new heavens and a new earth "where righteousness dwells"; and resurrected and transformed believers worship and work in the New Jerusalem (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21 and 22).