

BETHEL BIBLE CHURCH
STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. We believe in the Holy Scriptures accepting fully the writings of Old and New Testaments as the very Word of God, verbally inspired in all parts, our infallible and authoritative rule of faith and practice (II Tim. 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:21; I Cor. 2:13; Matt. 24:35).
2. We believe there is one God eternally existent in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Gen. 1:1; Matt. 28:19; II Cor. 13:14; Deut. 6:4; John 4:24; 10:30; 14:16).
3. We believe in the Deity of Christ (John 1:1; 10:30; 14:9; Rom. 9:5; Col. 2:9), His virgin birth (Isa. 7:14; Luke 1:26-35; Matt. 1:18-25), His shed blood for atonement (Heb. 2:9; Rom. 3:25; Heb. 9:14), His bodily resurrection (Acts 2:32-36; I Cor. 15:4-8; 12-19), His ascension into Heaven, there to be our Intercessor (Acts 1:9-11; Luke 24:51; Heb. 9:24).
4. We believe that the Holy Spirit convicts of sin (John 16:7-11), makes believers children of God through the new birth (I Cor. 12:13; John 3:5; II Cor. 5:17), assuring them of Heaven (John 10:27-39; Rom. 8:28-39; I Peter 1:3-5), and by His indwelling enables Christians to live a godly life (Rom. 8:9, 8:16; I Cor. 3:16; 6:19).
5. We believe that all men are by nature and choice, sinful and lost (Eph. 2:1-3; Rom. 3:23; 5:12), and have within themselves no possible means of salvation (Eph. 2:8,9; Titus 3:5; Isa. 64:6).
6. We believe in salvation by grace through faith; that salvation is the free gift of God, not by virtue or works of man (Eph. 2:8,9), and is received only by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, which includes repentance and confession of sin (John 3:16; I John 1:9; Luke 13:3), that all believers possess the gift of eternal life (John 3:16; 10:28), a perfect righteousness (Rom. 3:22), and son-ship in the family of God (Rom. 8:14; Gal. 4:5-7). We also believe in the progressive sanctification of the believer which is wrought by the indwelling Holy Spirit and mediated by the Word of God (II Cor. 3:18; I Thess. 5:23; II Thess. 2:13; I Peter 1:2; Rom. 12:2; John 17:17; Eph. 5:26).
7. We believe in the existence of Satan, the deceiver and god of this present world (II Cor. 4:4; John 8:44; Rev. 20:8-19), that he was defeated and judged at the cross of Calvary (John 16:11; 12:31), and therefore his doom is certain (Rev. 20:10).
8. We believe in the second coming of Christ; that His return from Heaven will be personal, visible and glorious (Acts 1:11; I Thess. 4:16), the time being unrevealed but always imminent (I Thess. 5:2; Matt. 24:42; I Cor. 15:51-52), that when He comes He will first by resurrection of the dead and the translation of the living remove from the earth His waiting church (I Thess. 4:16,17), then pour out the righteous judgments of God upon the unbelieving world (I Thess. 5:9; Matt. 24:21), and afterwards descend with His church and establish His glorious and literal kingdom over all nations for a thousand years (Rev. 20:6; Isa. 2:1-4; 11:1-9; Dan. 2:44).

9. We believe that the spirits of the saved at death go immediately to be with Christ in Heaven (II Cor. 5:1-8; Phil. 1:23); that at His second coming their works will be judged and rewards determined at the Judgment Seat of Christ (II Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10; I Cor. 3:10-15), that the spirits of the unsaved at death descend immediately into Hades, which holds these spirits until the final day of judgment (Luke 16:23; Rev. 20:13 – Hades is place of “hell” in the original Greek), at which time their bodies will be raised from the grave, judged, and cast into Hell, the place of final and everlasting punishment (Rev. 20:14).
10. We believe in the priesthood of all believers (I Peter 2:9; Rev. 1:6); that Christ is our Great High Priest and through Him every born again person has direct access into God’s presence without the need of a human priest (Heb. 9:24; 10:19-22; I Tim. 2:5); that the believer has the right and responsibility to personally study and interpret the Scriptures, guided by the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 3:16; Acts 17:11; Rom. 15:4).
11. We believe that a New Testament Church is an organized body of born again believers (Acts 2:47; I Cor. 12:13), practicing the scriptural ordinances: Baptism (Matt. 28:10), the Lord’s Table (I Cor. 11:23-26), also the example of the early church: (Acts 2:41; 8:12, 38; 9:18; 10:48; 16:15, 33; 18:8; 19:5) Lord’s Table (Acts 2:46), and actively engaged in fulfilling the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47).
12. We believe the two scriptural ordinances given to the local church are baptism by immersion (the Greek word for baptism means inherently to immerse, Matt. 28:19 and others) of believers only (see No. 11), and by this token we are thus opposed to infant baptism, but we do approve of and practice infant dedication upon the request of the parents and the Lord’s Table to be partaken by the obedient Christians (Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:17-20; I Cor. 11:23-34).