

# HELPING *INSPIRE* MINISTRIES

## H.I.M.

### Statement of Beliefs

**THE SCRIPTURES**—The Bible is the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God. Holy men of old wrote all sixty-six books of the Bible while being carried-along (that is, inspired) by the Holy Spirit. The New Covenant, as recorded in the New Testament, we accept as our infallible guide in matters pertaining to conduct and doctrine (2 Tim. 3:16, 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21).

**THE GODHEAD**—The word "Trinity" never appears in the Bible, though the doctrine clearly does. The Bible tells us that there is but one God (Deut. 6:4; Mark 12:29); there are no others (Zech. 14:9). The Bible clearly stresses the unity of God. Yet this teaching is not inconsistent with the doctrine of the Trinity, which states there is indeed one essence, yet three persons of the Trinity that do indeed share this divine essence. God the Father is the First Person of the Trinity, God the Son (Jesus), the Second Person; and God the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity. The three Persons of the Trinity are equal, having only a functional subordination, e.g., Jesus was subordinate—in function—to the Father while on earth. The Holy Spirit proceeds forth from both the Father and the Son and is eternal exactly as is the Father and the Son (John 14:16; John 15:26).

**MAN, HIS FALL AND REDEMPTION**—Man is a created being, made in the likeness and image of God, but through Adam's transgression and the Fall, sin came into the world. The Bible says, ". . . all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God," and ". . . There is none righteous, no, not one." (Rom. 3:10; 3:23). Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was manifested to undo the works of the devil and gave His life and shed His blood to redeem and restore man back to God (Rom. 5:14; 1 John 3:8). Salvation is the gift of God to man, separate from works and the Law. Salvation is a result of God's grace being received by man through faith in Jesus Christ. It (salvation) produces works acceptable to God (Eph. 2:8-10). Works are not the cause of salvation, but works are a result of salvation.

**ETERNAL LIFE AND THE NEW BIRTH**—Man's first step toward salvation is a change of mind (repentance). The "new birth" (to be born again, or, to be born from above) is a necessary factor for any person to become part of the Kingdom of God. When salvation is experienced, it produces a new life (2 Cor. 7:10; John 3:3-5; 1 John 5:12).

**WATER BAPTISM**—We believe that "water baptism" ought to be by the mode of immersion. Water baptism is a direct commandment of our Lord, and is for believers only. We call it "believer's baptism." This ordinance is a symbol of the Christian's identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection (Matt. 28:19; Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12; Acts 8:36-39). We use the following baptismal formula; "On the confession of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and by His authority, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Amen."

**BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**—The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a gift from God as promised by the Lord Jesus Christ to all believers in this dispensation. This experience is received subsequent to the new birth. This experience is accompanied by the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues as the Spirit Himself gives utterance (Matt.3:11; John 14:16, 17; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4; 2:38; 19:1-7).

**COMMUNION**—We believe in the Lord's Supper (communion) as an ordinance (not as a sacrament). As often as we observe this ordinance, we do so in remembrance of Jesus and his suffering, until He comes again (I Cor. 11:24-26).

**MARRIAGE**—God has ordained marriage as a contract between one man and one woman. It has been this way since the beginning. Through the institution of marriage (one man and one woman) the human race is continued. Homosexual (so-called) marriages have never throughout the history of the Christian church been accepted as "a choice." It is outside of the Christian Church's practice and policy. Marriage is a desirable state for any who enter into this contract. However, the state of being a single person, does not in any way, lessen one's status in the sight of God. God loves, calls, and uses people in the marital state in which God finds him or her. God uses single people, divorced people, people who have been married more than once, widows and widowers, in His church and Kingdom work. From a spiritual perspective, one's status in matrimony does not qualify nor disqualify one from fulfilling the call of the Lord on his/her life.

**SANCTIFICATION**—The Bible teaches that without holiness no man can see the Lord. We believe in the Doctrine of Sanctification as a definite work (it happens

at the time of the "new birth") and also as a progressive work of grace (a growing in the faith). Sanctification continues until the consummation of salvation at Christ's return (Heb. 12:14; 1 Thess. 5:23; 2 Peter 3:18; 2 Cor. 3:18; Phil. 3:12-14; 1 Cor. 1:30).

**DIVINE HEALING**—Healing is for the physical ills of the human body and is wrought by the power of God through a number of different methodologies. Healing comes sometimes by the faith of the one who is being healed. Other times, it comes from the faith of others associated somehow with the one being healed. At times, it is manifested as believers practice the laying on of hands, or anointing with oil. A beautiful way healing sometimes comes is through the "gifts of healings" (plural), as stated in 1 Corinthians. When this happens, faith is not necessarily a part of it, God just, by His own grace, through no known reason by man, administers a healing to the individual He has chosen to bestow His gift upon. This is a beautiful thing to behold and we are indeed thankful for God's demonstration of power in this way. Healing by trusting the Lord in faith is a privilege in which every member of the Church today can participate (James 5:14; Mark 16:18).

**SPIRITUAL GIFTS**—We believe in the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit as outlined in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. These gifts are to be used for the "common good" (1 Cor. 12:7). These special endowments never become a possession of individuals, but they operate for the common good of the church through the instrumentality of human beings, as the Spirit of God wills. Those desiring spiritual gifts should be open to the drawing of the Spirit and open to being a vessel as God directs. Therefore, if the Holy Spirit chooses to flow through a believer in this special anointing, that believer should step-out by faith and follow His directions in these matters. At the same time, we realize that we must also be respectful of those who are spiritual leaders. Therefore, we encourage those working in spiritual gifts in the church to consult with and be submissive to those in leadership. God is not the author of confusion and desires spiritual gifts to be manifested in an orderly manner (1 Cor. 14). When spiritual gifts are practiced in this fashion, the whole body of believers can receive a "special blessing."

**RESURRECTION OF THE JUST AND THE RETURN OF OUR LORD**--The angels said to Jesus' disciples, ". . . This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." His coming is imminent (that is, He can come at anytime). When He comes, "The dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air . . . (Acts 1:11; 1 Thess. 4:16, 17). This event is usually referred to as, the Rapture of the Church. For seven years, God's people will be in heaven, where they will worship God and experience wonderful things beyond which "one cannot even imagine." As a part of this time, New Testament saints will receive their rewards for how well they performed in their Christian life on earth. We call this judgment, "The Judgment Seat of Christ." However, it may be better described as "the Reward's Banquet" in heaven.

After the catching away of the church, there will be a period of tribulation on earth (7 years). Following the Tribulation, He shall return to earth as King of kings, and Lord of lords, and together with His saints, who shall be kings and priests, He shall reign a thousand years (Rev. 5:10; 20:6). We call this the Millennium. During this period of time the saints will rule and reign with Christ for a thousand years.

After the Millennium, there will be a general resurrection of all nonbelievers to be judged according to their works, which must include the work of rejecting Christ, or God's plan for salvation, by those who lived prior to Christ's sacrifice on the cross. This judgment is, "the Great White Throne Judgment." At this judgment, all nonbelievers will be cast away from God for eternity.

**ETERNAL RETRIBUTION**--The one who physically dies in his sins without accepting Christ is hopelessly and eternally lost in the lake of fire and, therefore, has no further opportunity of hearing the Gospel or repenting. The lake of fire is literal. The terms "eternal" and "everlasting," used in describing the duration of the punishment of the damned in the lake of fire, carry the same thought and meaning of endless existence as used in denoting the duration of joy and ecstasy of saints in the Presence of God (Heb 9:27; Rev. 19:20).

**ETERNAL BLISS**--After the GWT Judgment, believers will experience a New Heavens and The New Earth. In this bliss, believers will spend eternity in God's presence, where there will be nothing negatively, ever experienced again. All things will be perfect.