



Statement of Faith

This document covers the core beliefs of this body of believers. We invite you to review our beliefs. If you have questions, feel free to contact either the Pastor or Deacons.

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Holy Bible: The sole basis for our belief is the Bible, which is uniquely God-inspired, without error, and the final authority on all matters on which it speaks. (See Prov. 30:5; Rom. 16:25-26; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:20-21; 2 Pet. 1:20-21)

Trinity: As the Bible teaches, there is one God, eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - each possessing all the attributes of deity. (See Gen. 1:26; Isa. 9:6; Matt. 3:16-17; 28:19; Luke 1:35; Heb. 3:7-11; 1 John 5:7).

Jesus Christ: Jesus Christ is God the Son, the second person of the Trinity. On earth, Jesus was 100 percent God and 100 percent man. He is the only man to have ever lived a sinless life. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, performed miracles, died on the Cross for human kind and, thus, atoned for our sins through the shedding of His blood. He rose from the dead on the third day according to the scriptures, ascended to the right hand of the Father, and will return again in power and glory (see Isa. 9:6; John 1:1,14; 20:28; Phil. 2:5-6; 1 Tim. 2:5; 3:16).

Virgin Birth: Jesus Christ was conceived by God the Father, through the Holy Spirit (the third person of the Trinity) in the Virgin Mary's womb; therefore, He is the Son of God (see Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18, 23-25; Luke 1:27-35).

Redemption: (deliverance from sin) Humanity was created good and upright, but by voluntary transgression, it fell. Humanity's only hope for redemption is in Jesus Christ, the Son of God (see Gen. 1:26-31; 3:1-7; Rom. 5:12-21).

Regeneration: (spiritual rebirth) For anyone to know God, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential (see John 6:44, 65).

Salvation: We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ: His death, burial and resurrection. Salvation is a gift from God, not a result of our good works or of any human effort (see Rom. 10:9, 10; Acts 16:31; Gal. 2:16; 3:8; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; Heb. 9:22).

Repentance: (deep sorrow, regret for past sin) Repentance is the commitment to turn away from sin in every area of our lives and to follow Christ, which allows us to receive redemption and to be regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Thus, through repentance we receive forgiveness of sins and appropriate salvation (see Acts 2:21; 3:19; 1 John 1:9).

Sanctification: (to make holy, set apart, consecrated) Sanctification is the ongoing process of yielding to God's Word and His Spirit in order to complete the development of God's character in us. It is through the present ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God that the Christian is enabled to live a Godly life (see Rom. 8:29; 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 3:18; 6:14-18; 1 Thess. 4:3; 5:23; 2 Thess. 2:1-3; Heb. 2:11).

Jesus' Blood: The blood Jesus Christ shed on Calvary was sinless and is 100% sufficient to cleanse humankind from all sin. Jesus allowed Himself to be punished for both our sinfulness and our sins, enabling all those who believe to be free from the penalty of sin, which is death (see John 1:29; Rom. 3:10-12, 23; 5:9; Col. 1:20; 1 John 1:7; Rev. 1:5; 5:9). Jesus Christ Indwells All Believers: Christians are people who have invited the Lord Jesus Christ to come and live inside them by His Holy Spirit. They relinquish the authority of their lives over to Him, thus making Jesus the Lord of their lives as

well as when Savior. They put their trust in what Jesus accomplished for them when He died, was buried and rose again from the dead (see John 1:12; 14:17, 23; 15:4; Rom. 8:11; Rev. 3:20).

Baptism in the Holy Spirit: Given at Pentecost, the baptism of the Holy Spirit is the promise of the Father. It was sent by Jesus after His ascension to empower the Church to preach the gospel throughout the whole earth (see Joel 2:28, 29; Matt. 3:11; Acts 1:5; 2:1-4, 17, 38,39; 8:14-17; 10:38, 44-47; 11:15-17; 19:1-6).

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit is manifested through a variety of spiritual gifts to build and sanctify the Church, demonstrate the validity of the resurrection and confirm the power of the gospel. The lists of these gifts in the bible are not necessarily exhaustive, and the gifts may occur in various combinations. All believers are commanded to earnestly desire the manifestation of the gifts in their lives. These gifts always operate in harmony with the scriptures and should never be used in violation of biblical parameters (see Rom. 1:11; 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:1-31; 14:1-40; Eph. 4:16; 1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:5-16; Heb. 2:4; 1 Pet. 4:10).

The Church: The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of Jesus' Great Commission. Every person born of the Spirit is an integral part of the Church as a member of the Body of believers. There is a spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ (see John 17:11; 20-23; Eph. 1:22; 2:19-22; Heb. 12:23).

Two Sacraments (something regarded as possessing a sacred character)

- Water Baptism: Following faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the new convert is commanded by the Word of God to be baptized in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (see Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38).
- The Lord's Supper: A unique time of communion in the presence of God when the elements of bread and grape juice (the body and the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ) are taken in remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross (see Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 16:16; Acts 8:12, 36-38; 10:47,48; 1 Cor. 10:16;11:23-26).

Anointing with Oil: The bible teaches us that if any believer is sick, those who are true believers should anoint them with oil and pray over them believing that God will heal them. The oil is not magical but is applied in an act of obedience to the scripture. (see Exodus 29:7, James 5:14).

Healing of the Sick: Healing of the sick is illustrated in the life and ministry of Jesus, and included in Jesus' commission to His disciples. Healing of the sick is given as a sign that is to follow believers. It is also part of Jesus' work on the cross and one of the gifts of the Spirit (see Psalm 103:2,3; Isa. 53:5; Matt 8:16, 17; Mark 16:17, 18; Acts 8:6, 7; Rom. 11:29; 1 Cor. 12:9, 28; James 5:14-16).

Resurrection: Jesus Christ was physically resurrected from the dead in a glorified body three days after His death on the cross. As a result, both the saved and lost will be resurrected - they that are saved to the resurrection of life, and they that are lost to the resurrection of eternal damnation (see Luke 24:16, 36, 39; John 2:19-21; 20:26-28; 21:4; Acts 24:15; 1 Cor. 15:42, 44; Phil. 1:21-23; 3:21).

Heaven: Heaven is the eternal dwelling place for all believers in the gospel of Jesus Christ (see Matt. 5:3, 12, 20; 6:20; 19:21; 25:34; John 17:24; 2 Cor. 5:1; Heb. 11:16; 1 Peter 1:4).

Hell: after living one life on earth, the unbelievers will be judged by God and sent to hell where they will be eternally tormented with the devil and the fallen angels (see Matt. 25:41; Mark 9:43-48; Heb. 9:27; Rev. 14:9-11; 20:12-15; 21:8).

Second Coming: Jesus Christ will physically and visually return to earth for the second time to establish His kingdom. This will occur at a date undisclosed by the scriptures (see Matt. 24_30; 26:63-64; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thess. 4:15-17; 2 Thess. 1:7-8; Rev. 1:70).

Deacons:

Deacons have been appointed to the church as servants of the Church. Deacons assist the Pastor and lay members in various matters which can include the up-keep of the facility, assistance in church functions, visitation, spiritual guidance and counseling when necessary. Deacons will not make major decisions for the church without involving the Pastor and members of the church in a formal meeting (see Acts 6:1-7, I Tim 3:10,13).

Pastor:

The Pastor is an under-shepherd that has the responsibility to lead God's people. The Pastor will have the heart of Jesus, be tender toward God's people and yet vigilant against the enemy. The Pastors main purpose is to feed the flock with knowledge and understanding of God's Word through the Holy Spirit's guidance. Although the Pastor is responsible for the welfare of the whole church, the Pastor will not make major decisions without involving the Deacons and the members of the church in a formal meeting (see I Tim 3:1-2, Titus 1:7, Jer 3:15).

Affiliations:

Christ is the recognized head of our church, not any person, group, or religious organization. While recognizing the value of associating and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe every local church should be self-governing and independent from any denominational control or over-site.

Although our legal name stands as Meade County General Baptist, not all members agree with the General Baptist theology. Even though a variety of personal beliefs exist among our members, our main concern is that the foundational truths within this statement of faith are upheld and taught.