



*INTEGRITY
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ARTICLES OF FAITH

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I. The One God and Father

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God - who is and who was and who is to come – the Almighty.¹

Truly, God is.² He is the eternal Father who always has been and always will be above all.³ His existence precedes all creation for he is the origin of the heavens and the earth and all life within it.⁴ It is through his Word (*logos*) that all things were made.⁵ Indeed, God is the foundation of law and order.⁶ And the government of God is the basis from which all logic, natural laws and moral realities are realized within the world.⁷ With unlimited power the everlasting king rules according to infinite knowledge and righteous purposes.⁸ The Lord of Hosts – He is the sovereign master of heaven and earth.⁹ Although the things of this world fade away, the Holy Father will always be the all-powerful and only wise God.¹⁰ For the immortal God is incorruptible - ever holy and unchangeable in his being.¹¹ Eternally perfect and immutable, the authority of his word remains forever.¹²

Out of his infinite power and perfect wisdom, God created heaven and earth.¹³ He is the father of humanity having made of one blood all nations of men.¹⁴ From his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.¹⁵ “In him we live, and move and have our being”.¹⁶ We depend on the “Father of light”, for every good thing.¹⁷ The father of creation is ruler and judge over all that he has made.¹⁸ We are his, he is our

¹ Revelation 1:8

² Exodus 3:13-15

³ Psalms 90:2, 93:2, Isaiah. 43:10, 44:6-8, 45:5-7, 1Timothy 1:17, 6:15-16, Revelation 1:4, 1:8

⁴ Psalms 135:6-7, 1Timothy 6:13, Isaiah 44:24, 1Corinthians 8:6, Revelation 4:11

⁵ John 1:1-3

⁶ Jeremiah 51:15, John 1:1-3, 1Corinthians 8:5

⁷ Genesis 1:1-31, John 1:1-3, Romans 1:18-20

⁸ Psalms 104:13, 115:3, 147:5, Isaiah 46:9-11, Jeremiah 10:10, 32:18, Mark 10:27, 14:36, 1Timothy 6:15,

⁹ Genesis 14:22, Deuteronomy 4:39, 32:39-41, 1Samuel 2:6-8, 2Kings 19:15, Psalms 29:10, 89:5-8, 93:1, 103:19, , 21:1 Isaiah 6:2-3, 45:5-7, Ephesians 4:6, 1Timothy 1:17

¹⁰ Exodus 3:14-15, Psalms 147:5, Romans 16:27

¹¹ James 1:17

¹² 1Samuel 2:2, Job 42:2, Psalms 102:12, 25-27, Isaiah 43:10-11, 44:6-8, 45:5-7, 46:8-11, Malachi 3:6

¹³ Genesis 1:1-2, Psalms 33:9, 74:15-17, Jeremiah 51:15, John 1:1-3, Revelation 4:11

¹⁴ Genesis 1:26, Malachi 2:10, 1Corinthians 8:6

¹⁵ Psalms 104:29, Job 12:7-10, 26:13, 27:3, 33:4, Ezekiel 37:14, Acts 17:25, 1Timothy 6:13

¹⁶ Acts 17:25-28

¹⁷ James 1:17

¹⁸ Psalms 50:1-6, 95:3-5

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God, and we are the sheep of his pasture.¹⁹ He who upholds the world looks down from heaven seeing every place and knowing all that transpires.²⁰ For there is no place that man can hide where God is not afar off.²¹ His awareness transcends space and time into the depth of all things, even within the hearts of man.²² Being immanent everywhere within the universe yet infinitely superior, God alone is able to rule with perfect justice.²³ Government belongs to the transcendent creator of all things.²⁴

God is one.²⁵ He is the only true God and there is no other God besides him.²⁶ For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth, there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist.²⁷ Pre-eminence excludes all but one Lord who is the first, greatest, highest, and supreme.²⁸ And the Lord is one within himself- undivided in person and character.²⁹ This is in accordance to the creed, “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might”.³⁰ Accordingly, we are to love God with oneness of person, regarding the Father alone as the Most High God - the Almighty.³¹

God our Father is a living being active in personality and character.³² As the individual from whom man was made in his image, the divine Father possesses intellect, sensibilities, and will.³³ God makes conscious choices according to his will.³⁴ Yet, unlike mankind, he is morally perfect in character.³⁵ Indeed, the Father of Light is holy and

¹⁹ Psalms 100:3

²⁰ 2Chronicles 16:9, Psalms 11:4, 14:2, 33:13-15, 53:2, 80:14, 102:19, Proverbs 15:2-3, Isaiah 63:18, Hebrews 4:13

²¹ Psalms 139:7-18, Jeremiah 23:23-24

²² 1Samuel 16:7, 1Chronicles 28:9, 2Chronicles 6:30, Psalms 7:9, 44:21, 94:9-11, 102:19, 139:1-4, Proverbs 15:11, 17:3, 21:2, Jeremiah 17:10, Acts 1:24, Hebrews 4:13

²³ Proverbs 15:2-3, 16:2, Ephesians 4:6

²⁴ Psalms 9:7-8, 104:21, Jeremiah 17:10, 32:19, Ephesians 4:6, Revelation 4:11

²⁵ Deuteronomy 6:4, Mark 12:28-29, 32, Romans 3:30, 1Corinthians 8:4-6, Galatians 3:20, Ephesians 4:6, 1Timothy 2:5

²⁶ Deuteronomy 4:35, 39, 32:39, 2Samuel 7:22, 1Kings 8:60, 2Kings 19:15, 19, 1Chronicles 17:20, Isaiah 43:10-11, 44:6-8, 45:5-6, 21-22, 46:8-11, Jeremiah 10:10, Joel 2:27, Malachi 2:10, John 17:3, 1Corinthians 8:4-6, Ephesians 4:6, 1Timothy 1:17, 2:5, 6:15, James 2:19, Jude 4, 25

²⁷ 1Corinthians 8:5

²⁸ 1Samuel 2:2, 1Chronicles 17:20, Psalms 104:1, 1Timothy 6:15, Isaiah 40:25, 44:8, 24, 45:5, 46:9

²⁹ Deuteronomy 6:4, Zechariah 14:9, Mark 10:18, 12:29, 1Corinthians 8:6, Galatians 3:20, Ephesians 4:6

³⁰ Deuteronomy 6:4, Mark 12:29, Roman 3:30

³¹ Deuteronomy 6:4-5, 10:12, Joshua 22:5, Isaiah 44:8, Mark 12:29-30, John 4:23-24, 1Timothy 1:17

³² Exodus 3:14, Acts 14:15

³³ Genesis 1:26

³⁴ Exodus 3:14, Matthew 16:16, Acts 14:15

³⁵ Numbers 23:19, Joshua 24:19-20, Psalms 19:9, 119:68,137

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righteous, having a purely good nature.³⁶ He is perfectly righteous and perfectly loving.³⁷ Righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.³⁸ Although perfect, God is not just an ideal, principle, or moral law - rather he is a living Father who jealously desires loving relation with his children.³⁹ His identity as a personal being is profoundly demonstrated through the loving sensibilities he has shown in acts of mercy, loving kindness, and grace.⁴⁰ He who is faithful and true has expressed his good will toward creation.⁴¹

Our all-present Father knows all things about us, yet we are limited in knowledge of the “invisible” God.⁴² God is spirit, not of a body of flesh and blood, but is imperishable.⁴³ No man has ever beheld the immortal Father directly.⁴⁴ He dwells in unapproachable light in the realm of heaven with his angels looking down from on high.⁴⁵ In fact, it is insufferable for man to see God in all his glory lest he die in the presence of the Holy One.⁴⁶ Likewise no man can grasp the fullness of God since finite mortals cannot search the one who is infinite nor attain the wisdom of him who is eternal.⁴⁷ Yet he is everywhere and his eyes are at every place and he could be known if we would just grope for him.⁴⁸ God can be found, if he is sought in righteousness with clean hands and a pure heart.⁴⁹ The Father delights in the welfare of his servants showing his face and giving salvation to all who fear him and follow after truth.⁵⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.⁵¹ However, God turns his face and hides himself from the unrighteous.⁵² There is however no excuse for unbelief since God can be clearly seen through the things that have been made.⁵³

³⁶ Psalms 33:4-5, Habakkuk 1:13, James 1:17

³⁷ Exodus 34:6, Deuteronomy 7:9 1Kings 8:23, 2Chronicles 6:14, Psalms 108:4, 117:1, 118:29, 1John 3:10, 4:7-11, 16, 5:2

³⁸ Deuteronomy 32:4, Psalms 19:7-9, 36:6, Hebrews 6:18

³⁹ 1John 4:8

⁴⁰ Exodus 34:6, 1Kings 8:23, Psalms 36:5-9, Luke 6:36, 2Corinthians 1:3

⁴¹ Lament. 3:22, Psalms 86:15, 103:2, 8, 17, 145:8-9, Ephesians 2:1-10, James 1:17

⁴² Deuteronomy 29:29

⁴³ Isaiah 31:3, Luke 24:39

⁴⁴ Exodus 33:23, John 1:18, 5:37

⁴⁵ 2Chronicles 6:21, 25, 27, 30, 33, 35, 39, Psalms 2:4 80:14, 113:5-6, 115:3, James 1:17

⁴⁶ Exodus 33:23, 1Samuel 6:20

⁴⁷ Psalms 139:17-18, 145:3, 147:5, Isaiah 55:8-9

⁴⁸ Jeremiah 23:23, Acts 17:27

⁴⁹ Deuteronomy 4:29, Jeremiah 29:13, 1Chronicles 28:9, 2Chronicles 15:2, Psalms 24:3-5, 43:3

⁵⁰ Psalms 11:7, 19:9, 25:14, 39:4, 41:12, 43:3, 50:23, 115:13, 118:4, Proverbs 9:10, 10:27, 14:26, 16:6, 19:23, 22:4

⁵¹ Job 28:28, Psalms 111:10, Proverbs 1:6, 15:33

⁵² Genesis 4:13, 16, Deuteronomy 31:17-18, 1Chronicles 28:9, 2Chronicles 15:2, Psalms 138:6, Micah 3:4

⁵³ Romans 1:18-20, Isaiah 6:3

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The splendor, order, and vastness of the universe, including the created things within it, point toward the existence of God.⁵⁴ The moral laws, written within the hearts of man, also testify that God is true.⁵⁵ While evident in the presence of law, order, and morality, the “invisible” God further reveals himself in the experiences of man and is known by various testimonies he has left upon creation and through many witnesses and signs, the Father has demonstrated himself over the ages.⁵⁶ It is he who was revealed to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, by angelic visitation and vision, and to Moses, David, and to many other prophets. In the fulfillment of time, God principally manifested his wisdom and love through his Son Christ Jesus (Yeshua, the Messiah) having perfectly represented the Father in expressing his character, declaring his truth, and doing his will.⁵⁷ Scripture is the principal record of God, his law, his dealings with man, and the testimony to his son.⁵⁸

The Father furthermore demonstrates himself through his Holy Spirit given through Jesus in fulfillment of the Gospel.⁵⁹ The Holy Spirit is the breath of God - his transmissible virtue and power that affects the world and life within it.⁶⁰ Deriving from God’s infinite power and wisdom, the Spirit is divine substance transmitted from above. Being the supernatural extension of God by which the Father involves himself in our physical world, it can be said that the Spirit is the “finger” of God.⁶¹ When believers are filled with the Spirit of God, they do the work of God in accordance with his will.⁶² The Holy Spirit gives truth, wisdom, life, and power.⁶³ The Spirit transforms, purifies, and comforts.⁶⁴ Through his Spirit, God created the heavens and the earth.⁶⁵ And by the Spirit, God has spoken through the prophets.⁶⁶ Since God is spirit revealing himself through spirit, those who worship him must do so in spirit and truth; The Father seeks such to be his worshipers.⁶⁷ To see the kingdom of God, one must be born again by his

⁵⁴ Job 12:7-10, Psalms 19:1, 104:24, Romans 1:19-20

⁵⁵ Romans 2:14-15

⁵⁶ Deuteronomy 4:32-39, Acts 14:17

⁵⁷ John 6:45-47, 7:28, 8:27-28, 12:49-50, Romans 1:4, 1John 5:20, 1Timothy 2:5

⁵⁸ 2Timothy 3:16, 2Peter 1:19-21

⁵⁹ Acts 2:33,38

⁶⁰ Genesis 6:3, Numbers 11:17, 25,

⁶¹ Luke 11:20

⁶² Nehemiah 9:20, Psalms 51:11-12, 143:10, Isaiah 42:1, 61:1, Micah 3:8, Luke 2:25, 4:18, Acts 1:2, 10:38, 1Thessalonians 4:8, Hebrews 9:14

⁶³ Judges 14:6,19, 15:14, 1Samuel 10:6, Isaiah 11:2, Micah 3:8

⁶⁴ Romans 1:4

⁶⁵ Genesis 1:1-2, Job 26:13, 27:3, 33:4, Ezekiel 37:14

⁶⁶ Numbers 11:26-29, 1Samuel 10:6, 2Samuel 23:2, Nehemiah 9:30, Ezekiel 11:5, Mark 12:36, Acts 1:16, 2Peter 1:21

⁶⁷ John 4:23-24, 2Corinthians 3:17

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Spirit.⁶⁸ The gift of his Spirit is our adoption as his sons by which the Father takes charge of our lives.⁶⁹

Before the ages began, foreknowing all things, God purposed through his eternal word (logos) a Gospel by which man's destiny would not necessarily be death, but that through the righteousness of faith man could hold an inheritance of eternal life.⁷⁰ This provision is for all who would choose to entrust themselves to his Christ in faithfulness to his will.⁷¹ We are saved by God's wisdom manifested in the Gospel, whereas truth and love are brought together in such way that his perfect law is upheld so that through faith we have the forgiveness of sins.⁷² God is no respecter of persons, and desires that all come to repentance in knowledge of the truth.⁷³ God is love. Yet in his love, he cannot violate his own law and principles.⁷⁴ Although the Holy Father wishes that none should perish and that all would be saved, he will eventually cast his judgment on all wickedness and rebelliousness.⁷⁵

Ultimate judgment comes from him who is sovereign over the universe.⁷⁶ No standing wrong will go unpunished.⁷⁷ The heavens and the earth will be shaken once more.⁷⁸ Only that which is imperishable will remain.⁷⁹ The world will be judged in fire.⁸⁰ And, as God is a consuming fire, all the enemies of God and of his Christ will be destroyed.⁸¹ The righteous will be separated from the wicked and the wicked will be as chaff destroyed in the fire.⁸² Through Jesus, whom he has chosen, God will judge the world in righteousness.⁸³ In the end, after the destruction of every opposing rule and

⁶⁸ John 3:3-7, 1Peter 4:6

⁶⁹ Luke 11:13, Galatians: 3:26, 4:6, 1Corinthians 1:9, 10:13, 2Corinthians 6:18, Romans 8:14-15, 23, 9:26

⁷⁰ Titus 1:2, 1Peter 4:6; 2Timothy 1:9

⁷¹ John 5: 26, 17:3, 2Timothy 1:8-9

⁷² Psalms 130:3-4

⁷³ 1Timothy 2:4, 2Peter 3:9

⁷⁴ Psalms 67:4

⁷⁵ Romans 11:22, 2Peter 3:9-10, Jude 1:25

⁷⁶ Psalms 9:7-8

⁷⁷ Jeremiah 17:10, Hebrews 4:13, Revelation 6:10

⁷⁸ Hebrews 12:26-27

⁷⁹ Hebrews 12:28

⁸⁰ Deuteronomy 4:24, Isaiah 66:16, 1Corinthians 3:13, Hebrews 12:29, 2Peter 2:12

⁸¹ 2Peter 2:4-6, 3:4-7

⁸² Luke 3:7-9, 16-17, 12:49, 17:26-30, John 15:6, 2Thessalonians 1:8-9, Revelation 20:14, 21:8

⁸³ Psalms 110, Isaiah 42:1, 49:7, Luke 9:35, Acts 10:42, 1Corinthians 15:25-27

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power through Christ, God will be all in all.⁸⁴ Regardless of all opposition, his eternal word will certainly come to pass.⁸⁵

The fool has said in his heart that there is no God.⁸⁶ The uncircumcised in heart and ears resist the Holy Spirit.⁸⁷ In the pride of his anger the wicked says, “God will not call to account”.⁸⁸ Yet, while this world suffers injustice now, God has already initiated his plan and purpose to judge the world.⁸⁹ The good God is allowing evil and iniquity to continue for a time so that more may gain eternal life as children of his kingdom.⁹⁰ His wisdom will thus be shown in the delaying of judgment until the appointed time. Therefore, we preach, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe the gospel!”⁹¹ At the end of the age, God will fulfill all justice.⁹²

⁸⁴ 1Corinthians 15:24-28.

⁸⁵ Job 42:2, Isaiah 46:9-11, 1Peter 1:24-25

⁸⁶ Psalms 10:4, 14:1, 53:1

⁸⁷ Isaiah 63:10

⁸⁸ Psalms 10:4,13

⁸⁹ Acts 3:21

⁹⁰ 1Corinthians 13:12, 1Peter 4:6

⁹¹ Mark 1:15, Acts 14:15-16, 17:30-31

⁹² Numbers 23:19, Psalms 1:5-6, 9:7-8, 58:10-11, 75:2-3, 9-10, 96:10-13, 98:9, Proverbs 17:3, Jeremiah 17:10, Hebrews 4:13, Revelation 6:10

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II. Jesus the Messiah

At the proper time, God raised up his servant Jesus (Yeshua) to turn the people from their wickedness,⁹³ as Moses said, “The LORD your God will raise up for you from your own people a prophet like me. You must listen to whatever he tells you.⁹⁴ And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.”⁹⁵ He is God’s chosen one, the son to whom God commands us to listen.⁹⁶ He came to open our eyes, so that we may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that we may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in him.⁹⁷ And he commanded his witnesses to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.⁹⁸

Jesus did nothing on his own authority, but did those things as the Father taught him,⁹⁹ saying, “I do not seek my own will but the will of him who sent me”¹⁰⁰ Being the man whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, he committed no blaspheme to say that he was one with the Father.¹⁰¹ For he did not speak on his own initiative, but spoke and did exactly as the Father commanded him.¹⁰² And he has accomplished the work that the Father gave him to do.¹⁰³ Likewise we are to be one with God, perfected in unity, even as Christ was one with the Father and not of this world.¹⁰⁴

Jesus is this man attested by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him.¹⁰⁵ For God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and he went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.¹⁰⁶ He was put to death, but God raised him on the third day

⁹³ Acts 3:26, 2Samuel 7:14, Acts 13:32-33, Galatians 4:4, Titus 1:1-3
Luke 2:26, 7:16, 9:35, John 5:36-38, 7:16-18,28-29

⁹⁴ Acts 3:22, Deuteronomy 18:15,18

⁹⁵ Acts 3:23, Deuteronomy 18:19

⁹⁶ Luke 9:35, John 5:38, 6:29, 8:42, 10:34-36, 42:1-5, 49:7

⁹⁷ Acts 26:18, Colossians 1:13, Isaiah 50:10

⁹⁸ Acts 10:42, 1Corinthians 15:25-27, Romans 14:9

⁹⁹ John 5:19-20, 7:16, 8:28, 54, 14:10, 15:15, 2Samuel 7:14

¹⁰⁰ John 5:30, John 4:34, 5:36-37, 6:3, 38, 10:37-38

¹⁰¹ John 10:30,35-36, John 14:10-11, Psalms 82:6-7

¹⁰² John 5:30, 7:16, 29, 8:28-29, 10:17-18, 12:49-50, 14:10, 24, 31, 15:10, 17:4, Isaiah 11:3, 50:4-6

¹⁰³ John 17:4, Luke 22:37

¹⁰⁴ John 17:11, 14-16, 20-23, John 3:31, 15:8-10, 20:21

¹⁰⁵ Acts 2:22, John 5:20,36, 10:25,32,37, 14:10-11

¹⁰⁶ Acts 10:38 Luke 4:18-21, John 3:2,34, Isaiah 11:1-5, 61:1-2

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and allowed him to appear.¹⁰⁷ Having been delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God,¹⁰⁸ he is now exalted at God's right hand¹⁰⁹ wherefore the Father has made him both Lord and Christ.¹¹⁰ Heaven has received him until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from ancient time.¹¹¹

This is eternal life, that we may know the only true God, and Christ Jesus whom he has sent.¹¹² The Son of Man was lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.¹¹³ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.¹¹⁴ He is the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through him.¹¹⁵ And there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we might be saved.¹¹⁶ On the Son of Man, God has set his seal.¹¹⁷ To him all the prophets testify that everyone who believes in him receives the forgiveness of sins.¹¹⁸

God our savior, desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all.¹¹⁹ In that a mediator involves more than one party, and whereas God is one,¹²⁰ Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "You are my son, today I have begotten you".¹²¹ For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.¹²² Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, has freed us from our sins by his own blood.¹²³

¹⁰⁷ Acts 10:10, Acts 1:3, 2:32, 1Corinthians 15:3-8

¹⁰⁸ Acts 2:23, Acts 4:27-28, 1Peter 1:20

¹⁰⁹ Acts 2:33-34, 5:31, Mark 14:62, Luke 22:69, Colossians 3:1, Hebrews 1:3, Hebrews 12:2, 1Peter 3:22

¹¹⁰ Acts 2:36, 5:31, Luke 2:11, Hebrews 5:5, 7:21, Daniel 7:13-14

¹¹¹ Acts 3:21, 2:34, Luke 17:22-30, Hebrews 10:12-13, Daniel 12:1-4

¹¹² John 17:3, John 5:24, 6:57, 20:31, 1John 1:1-3, Revelation 7:9-10, Isaiah 50:10

¹¹³ John 3:15 Galatians 3:13, Colossians 1:20, Ephesians 2:16

¹¹⁴ John 3:16, Psalms 16:9-11

¹¹⁵ John 6:33-34, 53, 14:6

¹¹⁶ Acts 4:12, 1Timothy 2:5-7, 1Corinthians 8:6-7

¹¹⁷ John 6:29, John 8:54, Hebrews 5:1-10

¹¹⁸ Acts 10:43 Psalms 16:9-11, Isaiah 52:13-53:12

¹¹⁹ 1Timothy 2:4-7, John 17:3, 1Corinthians 8:6, 1Thessalonians 5:9

¹²⁰ Galatians 3:20, Hebrews 5:1

¹²¹ Hebrews 5:5, Luke 3:22, Acts 13:32-33, Psalms 2:7, 100:4

¹²² Hebrews 5:1, Hebrews 8:1-3

¹²³ Hebrews 12:24, Revelation 1:5, 5:6-12, Isaiah 52:13-53, John 1:29, 1:36, 1Peter 1:18-19

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As the Father lives, Jesus lives because of the Father, so that he who comes to him will live and be raised up on the last day.¹²⁴ The hour is coming when the dead will hear the voice of the son of God, and those who hear will live.¹²⁵ As God gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist, so he has granted the son also to have life in himself to bring with him those who have fallen asleep.¹²⁶ The Father has given his son authority over all flesh, to give eternal life.¹²⁷ And he has been given authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.¹²⁸

The first man, Adam, became a living soul. The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.¹²⁹ Sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin, so death spread to all - even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who was a type of him who was to come.¹³⁰ As through one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the one the many will be made righteous.¹³¹ Since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die so also in Christ all will be made alive.¹³² At the appointed time the dead in Christ will be raised imperishable; mortals will put on immortality.¹³³ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.¹³⁴

The heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed by the word of God.¹³⁵ From the foundation of the world, reason was with the Father and all things were made through it.¹³⁶ In the fullness of time, through God's Word, life was made manifest, and this life was the light of man.¹³⁷ According to the eternal purpose that God has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, we proclaim the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, as a plan for the fullness of time to unite all things to himself.¹³⁸ By the divine Word, the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being

¹²⁴ John 6:44, 57, Daniel 12:2

¹²⁵ John 5:25, Daniel 12:2

¹²⁶ John 5:26, Romans 4:17, 1Thessalonians 4:14

¹²⁷ John 17:2, John 5:21

¹²⁸ John 5:27, Mark 14:62, Luke 22:69, Hebrews 5:1-10

¹²⁹ 1Corinthians 15:45, Romans 8:2-4, Psalms 103:15-16

¹³⁰ Romans 5:12, 14, 6:23, Psalms 90:4-11, 144:3-4, Isaiah 2:22, 40:6-8, Ezekiel 18:4

¹³¹ Romans 5: 17,19

¹³² 1Corinthians 15:21-22, Romans 5:18,21

¹³³ 1Corinthians 15:53-54

¹³⁴ 1Corinthians 15:49, Romans 8:11,21,29

¹³⁵ 2Peter 3:5, John 1:1-3, Jeremiah 51:15, Psalms 104:24-30

¹³⁶ John 1:1-3, 1John 1:1-2, 1Peter 1:20

¹³⁷ John 1:3, 14, Ephesians 1:9-10

¹³⁸ Ephesians 3:9-11, Ephesians 1:9-10, 2Timothy 1:9-10

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kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.¹³⁹ The LORD is patient to fulfill his promise, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.¹⁴⁰

The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.¹⁴¹ He who is called faithful and true, in righteousness will judge and make war.¹⁴² The name by which he is called is the Word of God¹⁴³ and the armies of heaven will follow him.¹⁴⁴ From his mouth will come a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them.¹⁴⁵ He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.¹⁴⁶ He must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet; including death itself.¹⁴⁷ Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.¹⁴⁸ Finally, when all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.¹⁴⁹ The day of the LORD will come and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved.¹⁵⁰ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.¹⁵¹

Jesus is the firstborn over all creation.¹⁵² It is the Father's good pleasure to reconcile all things to himself through him.¹⁵³ Now through Christ Jesus we exist.¹⁵⁴ For God has put all things in subjection under his feet.¹⁵⁵ He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he himself will come to have first place in everything.¹⁵⁶ He died and behold he is alive forevermore, and has the keys of Death and Hades.¹⁵⁷ The lion of

¹³⁹ 2Peter 3:7, Psalms 58:10-11, Isaiah 24, 34, 66:15-16

¹⁴⁰ 2Peter 3:9, 1Thessalonians 5:9 1Timothy 2:4, Isaiah 65:1-7, Daniel 12:1

¹⁴¹ Revelation 19:10, Genesis 22:18, 2Samuel 7:12-16, Isaiah 49:5-7, Daniel 7:13-14

¹⁴² Revelation 19:11, Revelation 17:14, Psalms 2; 45:1-7; 110

¹⁴³ Revelation 19:13, John 1:14, 1John 1:1-2

¹⁴⁴ Revelation 19:14, Mark 8:38, 13:26-27, 2Thessalonians 1:2, Hebrews 1:6-7

¹⁴⁵ Revelation 19:15-16, 17:14, Psalms 2:8-9, 45:1-9, 110:1-3, Isaiah 9:6-7, 11:4, 49:5-7

¹⁴⁶ Revelation 19:15, Psalms 2:4-6 2:12, Isaiah 13:4-13, 63:3-6

¹⁴⁷ 1Corinthians 15:25-26, Psalms 110:1-7, Isaiah 25:8, Daniel 12:2, Acts 2:35, Hebrews 10:12-13

¹⁴⁸ 1Corinthians 15:24, Isaiah 24

¹⁴⁹ 1Corinthians 15:28, 1Corinthians 11:3, John 14:28, 20:17, Acts 1:6

¹⁵⁰ 2Peter 3:10, 12, Isaiah 34:1-7, 66:15-16, Daniel 12:1

¹⁵¹ 2Peter 3:13, Isaiah 25:8-9, 65:17-25, 66:22-23

¹⁵² Colossians 1:15

¹⁵³ Colossians 1:19-20, Isaiah 61

¹⁵⁴ 1Corinthians 8:6, 1Corinthians 15:27

¹⁵⁵ 1Corinthians 15:27

¹⁵⁶ Colossians 1:18, Revelation 1:5, 3:14, 1Corinthians 15:20, Psalms 45:2-7

¹⁵⁷ Revelation 1:17-18, Romans 6:9, Acts 2:24-31, Acts 13:34-37

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the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has conquered.¹⁵⁸ To him who has made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, be glory and dominion forever.¹⁵⁹ Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!¹⁶⁰

There is one God, the Father from whom are all things and for whom we exist¹⁶¹ And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom we exist.¹⁶² The Father loves the son and has given all things into his hand.¹⁶³ Whoever believes in the son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.¹⁶⁴ Even now, the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bare good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.¹⁶⁵ To be saved from this condemned age and receive the promise of the Holy Spirit, we must repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of our sins.¹⁶⁶ He is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit and with fire.¹⁶⁷ Through him we have adoption as sons¹⁶⁸ and an inheritance in the coming kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ wherefore we preach, “The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe the gospel.”¹⁶⁹

¹⁵⁸ Revelation 5:5, Isaiah 11:1-5, 12:10, Romans 15:12

¹⁵⁹ Revelation 1:6, 1Corinthians 3:23, Isaiah 61:4-6, Daniel 7:27

¹⁶⁰ Luke 19:38, John 1:49, John 12:13-15

¹⁶¹ 1Corinthians 8:6, Jeremiah 51:15, Revelation 4:11, Acts 17:25-26

¹⁶² 1Corinthians 8:6, 1Corinthians 15:27

¹⁶³ John 3:35, Luke 10:22, Psalms 45:2-7, Isaiah 9:6-7

¹⁶⁴ John 3:36, Psalms 2:7-8, 45:2, 110:1-4

¹⁶⁵ Luke 3:9,17, 13:6-9, John 15:6, 2Corinthians 5:10,

¹⁶⁶ Acts 2:38 ,40, John 3:3-7, Luke 13:3, 5, Revelation 2:5, John 8:23-24

¹⁶⁷ Luke 3:16, 24-49, Acts 1:5-8, 2:17, 2:33, 11:16, Luke 24:49, John 14:26, 15:26

¹⁶⁸ Galatians 4:5-7, Romans 8:14-17, 23

¹⁶⁹ Mark 1:15, Romans 13:11, Revelation 11:15

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III. Life, Death and the Hope of Salvation

In the day the God made the earth and the heavens, the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living soul.¹⁷⁰ And from the flesh of Adam, God formed a woman, which the man named Eve because she was the mother of all living.¹⁷¹ Although Adam lived in paradise in close fellowship with God, the first man was deceived with his wife into sin for which God warned, “you shall surely die”.¹⁷² So the woman and the man condemned themselves to death, according to the curse which God spoke to Adam, “By the sweat of your face you shall eat, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”¹⁷³ So the Lord God sent the man and his wife out from paradise and prohibited mortals from partaking of the tree of life.¹⁷⁴

Sin therefore came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men.¹⁷⁵ According to God’s righteous law, the soul who sins shall die.¹⁷⁶ Having been alienated from God through sin, mankind is already condemned.¹⁷⁷ And by works no man is justified in the sight of God.¹⁷⁸ Humanity has already been charged that all are under sin, as it is written: “None is righteous, no not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”¹⁷⁹ Lacking the repentance that leads to life, man is dead in trespasses and sin, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience. The children of man have fallen away, they have all become corrupt as Jesus said, “no one is good except God alone.”¹⁸⁰ So death has reigned from Adam, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam.¹⁸¹

¹⁷⁰ Genesis 2:4,7

¹⁷¹ Genesis 2:21-23, 3:20

¹⁷² Genesis 2:17, 3:11

¹⁷³ Genesis 3:19

¹⁷⁴ Genesis 3:22-24

¹⁷⁵ Romans 5:12, 14

¹⁷⁶ Ezekiel 18:4,20

¹⁷⁷ John 3:18, Ephesians 2:19

¹⁷⁸ Romans 3:20

¹⁷⁹ Romans 3:9-12, Psalms 14:1-3, 53:1-3

¹⁸⁰ Psalms 51:1-3, Mark 10:18, Luke 18:19

¹⁸¹ Romans 5:14

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Of first importance is that Jesus has died for our sins, he was buried, and he was raised on the third day.¹⁸² Our hope and faith in the Gospel rests on the promise that we shall likewise attain the resurrection from the dead at the end of the age.¹⁸³ Although the first man Adam became a living being, the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.¹⁸⁴ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.¹⁸⁵ At the last trumpet the dead will be raised imperishable and be changed.¹⁸⁶ For the perishable body must put on the imperishable, and the mortal body must put on immortality so that it comes to pass, as it is written, “Death is swallowed up in victory”.¹⁸⁷ We believe that Jesus died and rose again - likewise God will bring with Christ those who have fallen asleep.¹⁸⁸ For the Lord himself will return and descend from heaven with a cry of command and the dead in Christ will rise.¹⁸⁹

Despite death’s curse through one man’s trespass, the gift of righteousness following many trespasses now reigns in life through the one man Jesus Christ.¹⁹⁰ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.¹⁹¹ As by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.¹⁹² For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the death.¹⁹³ As in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.¹⁹⁴ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish.¹⁹⁵ Thanks be to God in showing his love for us that, while we were under the law of sin and death, Christ died for the ungodly to justify us by his blood in saving us from the wrath of God.¹⁹⁶

¹⁸² 1Corinthians 15:3-4

¹⁸³ John 11:24, 1Corinthians 15:12-19, Psalms 16:10-11, 1Peter 1:3, Acts 4:2, 17:18, 23:6, 24:21, Titus 1:2, 3:7, 1John 2:25

¹⁸⁴ 1Corinthians 15:45

¹⁸⁵ 1Corinthians 15:49

¹⁸⁶ 1Corinthians 15:51

¹⁸⁷ 1Corinthians 15:54-56

¹⁸⁸ 1Thessalonians 4:14

¹⁸⁹ 1Thessalonians 4:16

¹⁹⁰ Romans 5:15-17, John 6:50-51

¹⁹¹ Romans 5:18

¹⁹² Romans 5:18-19

¹⁹³ 1Corinthians 15:21

¹⁹⁴ 1Corinthians 15:22

¹⁹⁵ John 3:16

¹⁹⁶ Romans 5:8-9, Revelation 7:10, John 1:29

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The place of the dead is known as Sheol in Hebrew and Hades in Greek.¹⁹⁷ There the wicked are punished and the righteous are comforted until the day of judgement.¹⁹⁸ Jesus saw it as having locations where the wicked are in agony separated by a wide gulf where the righteous reside beside Abraham.¹⁹⁹ Jesus used the word Gehenna as an illustration of hell. Gehenna, translated “Valley of Hinnom” is known to be a cursed place, and in the Hebrew Bible is where some of the kings of Judah sacrificed their children by fire.²⁰⁰ Gehenna continued to a place of burning sewage, burning flesh, and garbage where maggots and worms crawled through the waste and the smoke smelled strong and was sickening.²⁰¹ The depiction of Gehenna is hell; the place of eternal torment where the fires never cease from burning and the worms never stop crawling.²⁰² This is the place of fallen angles (demons), where they are being kept until the day of judgement.²⁰³

Jesus made it clear that we should fear hell more than death - and we should fear the one that has authority to cast into hell more than those who are able to kill the body.²⁰⁴ We should avoid being condemned to hell at all costs.²⁰⁵ It is better to lose one of the members our body that make us sin than our whole body be thrown into hell.²⁰⁶ It is better to enter life crippled or lose a hand than to be cast into hell.²⁰⁷ It is better to enter life lame than with two feet be thrown into hell.²⁰⁸ It is better to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes be thrown into hell.²⁰⁹

When Jesus was put to death, God raised him the dead and his soul of was not abandoned to Hades.²¹⁰ He has been exalted at the right hand of God as leader and savior²¹¹ He died and now is alive forever more and now has the keys to Death and

¹⁹⁷ Genesis 37:35, 1Samuel 2:6, Psalms 16:10, 30:3

¹⁹⁸ Luke 16:22-26

¹⁹⁹ Luke 16-19-26

²⁰⁰ 2Chronicles 28:3, 33:6, Jeremiah 7:31, 19:2-6

²⁰¹ Isaiah 30:33

²⁰² Matthew 10:28, Mark 9:47-48

²⁰³ 2Peter 4-5

²⁰⁴ Matthew 10:28, Luke 12:4-5, 17:33

²⁰⁵ Matthew 23:33

²⁰⁶ Matthew: 5:29-30, 23:15, Mark 9:43-47

²⁰⁷ Matthew 5:30, Mark 9:43

²⁰⁸ Mark 9:45

²⁰⁹ Matthew 5:29, 18:9, 9:47

²¹⁰ Acts 2:24-32, Revelation 1:18

²¹¹ Acts 2:33, 5:31 7:55-56, Romans 8:34, Ephesians 1:20, Colossians 3:1, Hebrews 1:3, 8:1, 10:12, 12:2, 1Peter 12:2

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Hades.²¹² And the gates of Hades shall not prevail against his Church.²¹³ For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.²¹⁴ For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgement to the Son.²¹⁵ Whoever hears his words and believes does not come into judgement, but has passed from death to life.²¹⁶ The hour is coming, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God , and those who hear will live.²¹⁷ For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also he has granted the son also give life to whom he will.²¹⁸ God has given Jesus authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to whom he will.²¹⁹ And he has given him all authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.²²⁰

The hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear the voice of the Son of Man and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.²²¹ There will be a first resurrection of the righteous and a second resurrection of judgement.²²² On the day of judgement, the dead great and small will stand before the throne and records will be opened including the book of life.²²³ Death and Hades will give up the dead and they will be judged, each of the dead, according to what they had done.²²⁴ Whoever's name is not found written in the book of life will be thrown into the lake of fire which is the second death.²²⁵ Death and Hades will be thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur - this is where the devil will reside.²²⁶ Blessed are the holy ones who will share in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power; they will be priests of God and of Christ and they will reign with him.²²⁷ But as for the timid – and faithless - and murders – and sexually immoral - and those practicing witchcraft - and the worshipers of false gods - and all the

²¹² Revelation 1:18

²¹³ Matthew 16:18

²¹⁴ John 5:21

²¹⁵ John 5:22-27

²¹⁶ John 5:24

²¹⁷ John 5:25

²¹⁸ John 5:21,26

²¹⁹ John 17:2, John 3:14-15

²²⁰ John 5:22,27

²²¹ John 5:28-29, Daniel 12:2, Acts 24:15

²²² Revelation 20:4-6 20:13-15

²²³ Revelation 20:12

²²⁴ Revelation 20:13

²²⁵ Revelation 20:14-15

²²⁶ Revelation 20:10, 20:14

²²⁷ Revelation 20:6

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deceitful; their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.²²⁸

Sin is death, but now grace reigns through righteousness leading to eternal life.²²⁹ The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life.²³⁰ This is the will of the Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and Christ will raise him up.²³¹ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.²³² The Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.²³³ To those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.²³⁴

According to the promise of our God, we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.²³⁵ Those worthy to attain to the coming age and to attain to the resurrection from the dead cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.²³⁶ For all who are led by the spirit of God are sons of God and have received the spirit of adoption as sons.²³⁷ We are sealed with the Holy Spirit, which is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it.²³⁸ Creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God so as to be set free from our bondage to decay.²³⁹ The children of God groan inwardly eagerly waiting for adoption as sons – the hope of the resurrection.²⁴⁰

²²⁸ Revelation 21:8

²²⁹ Romans 5:21

²³⁰ Romans 6:23, John 3:17

²³¹ John 6:40, 11:24, 17:2-3, 1John 5:11-12

²³² John 3:36, John 3:18

²³³ Galatians 3:22

²³⁴ Romans 2:7-8, Romans 7:6; ch8, John 3:3

²³⁵ 2Peter 3:13, John 11:51-52, Mark 1:15

²³⁶ Luke 20:35-36, Galatians 3:26, John 1:12, Acts 2:38

²³⁷ Romans 8:14-15, 2Corinthians 1:22, 5:5, Ephesians 1:5, Galatians 4:5

²³⁸ Ephesians 1:13-14, Ephesians 1:9-12

²³⁹ Romans 8:19,21, Galatians 3:26, John 1:12

²⁴⁰ Romans 8:21, 23

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IV. What Salvation Requires

The most elementary doctrine of Christ is the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God.²⁴¹ John, son of Zechariah and forerunner of Christ, proclaimed a baptism of repentance.²⁴² Jesus came proclaiming the gospel of God saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe in the Gospel"²⁴³. He sent his disciples to proclaim the kingdom of God and to preach that all people should repent.²⁴⁴ And when he had been exalted to God's right hand, the Apostles proclaimed the same Gospel saying, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."²⁴⁵ To the Gentiles as well as the Jews, God has granted the repentance that leads to life.²⁴⁶ For in the name of Jesus, repentance and forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.²⁴⁷ God's kindness is meant to lead us to repentance.²⁴⁸ The Lord is patient toward us, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.²⁴⁹ Yet the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.²⁵⁰ The heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.²⁵¹

God commands all people everywhere to repent because he has fixed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.²⁵² Unless we repent, regardless of severity of our sins, we will likewise perish with the wicked.²⁵³ To escape the wrath to come we must bear fruits in keeping with repentance.²⁵⁴ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut

²⁴¹ Hebrews 6:1, Acts 20:21

²⁴² Mark 1:4, Luke 3:3, Acts 13:24, 19:4

²⁴³ Mark 1:15, 9:42-43,45,47, Luke 4:43, 5:32, 8:10, 9:60, Acts 3:26

²⁴⁴ Mark 6:7,12, Luke 9:1-2, 10:11, 24:47

²⁴⁵ Acts 2:38

²⁴⁶ Acts 11:18

²⁴⁷ Luke 24:47

²⁴⁸ Romans 2:4

²⁴⁹ 2Peter 3:9

²⁵⁰ 2Peter 3:10

²⁵¹ 2Peter 3:7

²⁵² Acts 17:30-31

²⁵³ Luke 13:1-5

²⁵⁴ Luke 3:7-8

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down and thrown into the fire.²⁵⁵ Jesus, is the one who baptizes in the Holy Spirit and with fire, holds the winnowing fork to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.²⁵⁶ Those of a hard and unrepentant heart are storing up wrath for themselves on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.²⁵⁷ He will render to each one according to his works; to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but to those who are contentious and do not obey the truth, but unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.²⁵⁸

That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies.²⁵⁹ In repentance we consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.²⁶⁰ For all of us who die with Christ and are baptized into the name of Jesus are baptized into his death.²⁶¹ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.²⁶² Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.²⁶³ Therefore, we are not to let sin reign in our mortal bodies.²⁶⁴ And we are not to present ourselves to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and our members to righteousness.²⁶⁵

God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.²⁶⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.²⁶⁷ If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin.²⁶⁸ We are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness.²⁶⁹ But thanks be to God, for those who were once slaves of sin now have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which they were committed, and, having been set free from

²⁵⁵ Luke 3:9, 13:6-9, John 15:1-8, Revelation 20:15

²⁵⁶ Luke 3:15-17

²⁵⁷ Romans 2:5

²⁵⁸ Romans 2:7-8

²⁵⁹ Romans 15:36

²⁶⁰ Romans 6:2,10

²⁶¹ Romans 6:3

²⁶² Romans 6:4, Colossians 2:12, 2Corinthians 4:10-12

²⁶³ Romans 6:8

²⁶⁴ Romans 6:12

²⁶⁵ Romans 6:13

²⁶⁶ 1John 1:5

²⁶⁷ 1John 1:6

²⁶⁸ 1John 1:7

²⁶⁹ Romans 6:16

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sin, have become slaves of righteousness.²⁷⁰ As servants of God, the fruit we get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.²⁷¹

God gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey him.²⁷² By believing, we are sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, which is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it.²⁷³ Christ has fulfilled the promise, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’²⁷⁴ It is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit and with fire.²⁷⁵ Truly, the Spirit we receive is our declaration of adoption as children of God, to whom we cry “Abba! Father!”²⁷⁶ For if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.²⁷⁷ We are washed, we are sanctified, we are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.²⁷⁸ Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. It is the Spirit that gives life. Unless one is born of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.²⁷⁹ The true worshipers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth.²⁸⁰

In sanctification of the Spirit, God has purposed us for obedience to Jesus Christ and for the sprinkling of his blood. We are to cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God, working out our own salvation with fear and trembling.²⁸¹ Like newborn infants we are to grow up to salvation pursuing righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness in fighting the good fight of the faith and taking hold of the eternal life to which we were called.²⁸² We should not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.²⁸³ Heed the call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.²⁸⁴ For we share in Christ, if

²⁷⁰ Romans 6:17

²⁷¹ Romans 6:22

²⁷² Acts 5:32

²⁷³ Ephesians 1:13-14

²⁷⁴ Acts 11:16-17

²⁷⁵ Luke 3:16

²⁷⁶ Romans 8:15-16

²⁷⁷ Romans 8:10

²⁷⁸ 1Corinthians 6:11

²⁷⁹ John 3:3-8

²⁸⁰ John 4:23-24

²⁸¹ 2Corinthians 7:1, Philippians 2:12

²⁸² 1Timothy 6:11-12

²⁸³ Hebrews 6:12

²⁸⁴ Revelation 14:12, John 14:15,21,23

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indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.²⁸⁵ Many will be hated for his name's sake, but the one who endures to the end will be saved.²⁸⁶

Jesus learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.²⁸⁷ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.²⁸⁸ In flaming fire, vengeance shall be inflicted on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.²⁸⁹ God has called his people to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations.²⁹⁰ A person is justified by works and not by faith alone.²⁹¹ Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.²⁹² As the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.²⁹³ If we have abandoned the love we had at first, Jesus will come and remove our place, unless we repent.²⁹⁴ Many are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, therefore he will spit them out of his mouth. They say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that they are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Be zealous and repent.²⁹⁵

The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God. Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.²⁹⁶ The works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. Those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.²⁹⁷ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous has no inheritance in the kingdom.²⁹⁸ Let no one deceive

²⁸⁵ Hebrews 3:14

²⁸⁶ Mark 13:13, Revelation 2:26, James 1:12

²⁸⁷ Hebrews 5:8-9

²⁸⁸ John 3:36

²⁸⁹ 2Thessaloians 1:8

²⁹⁰ Romans 1:5

²⁹¹ James 2:20,24

²⁹² James 2:17,20,24

²⁹³ James 2:26

²⁹⁴ Revelation 2:4-5

²⁹⁵ Revelation 3:15-19

²⁹⁶ 1Corinthians 6:9-10

²⁹⁷ Galatians 5:19-21

²⁹⁸ Ephesians 5:4-5

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you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore, do not associate with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord - Walk as children of light.²⁹⁹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.³⁰⁰ By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.³⁰¹ If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.³⁰² The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.³⁰³

There is no other commandment greater than these: 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'³⁰⁴ Indeed, we are to love our enemies and do good to those who hate us and our reward will be great, and we will be sons of the Most High.³⁰⁵ Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law for the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."³⁰⁶ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.³⁰⁷ If we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.³⁰⁸ This is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another.³⁰⁹ The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.³¹⁰ We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love. Whoever does not love abides in death.³¹¹

We must no longer walk as those who walk in the futility of their minds and are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given

²⁹⁹ Ephesians 5:6-8

³⁰⁰ Ephesians 5:11

³⁰¹ 1John 3:10, 5:2

³⁰² Galatians 5:25

³⁰³ Galatians 5:22-23, 2Corinthians 6:6, 1Timothy. 6:11

³⁰⁴ Deuteronomy 6:5, 11:13, Mark 12:30-31, Luke 10:27, Colossians 3:14

³⁰⁵ Luke 6:27,35

³⁰⁶ Romans 13:8, James 2:8, 1Peter 1:22, Galatians 5:14

³⁰⁷ 1John 4:8-9

³⁰⁸ 1John 4:12

³⁰⁹ 1John 3:23, 13:34-35, 15:9-10,12,17, 1John 3:10-11

³¹⁰ 1Timothy 1:5

³¹¹ 1John 3:14

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themselves up to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not truly the way of Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.³¹² According to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and has been made known to all nations; the command of our eternal God to bring about the obedience of faith.³¹³ Jesus came to open our eyes, so that we may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that we may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in him.³¹⁴ For by grace we are saved through faith. And this is not our own doing; it is the gift of God.³¹⁵ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.³¹⁶ In Christ Jesus we are sons of God, through faith.³¹⁷ In faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.³¹⁸ Nothing counts for anything in Christ Jesus, but only faith working through love.³¹⁹

One's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.³²⁰ The righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."³²¹ The righteousness of God is through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.³²² For it is impossible to please God without faith as it says, "but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him."³²³ Those who shrink back are destroyed, but those who have faith preserve their souls.³²⁴ By rejecting a good conscience, some have made shipwreck of their faith and so incur condemnation for having abandoned their former faith.³²⁵ Many hear the good news,

³¹² Ephesians 4:17-24

³¹³ Romans 16:25-26, 1John 5:2

³¹⁴ Acts 26:18

³¹⁵ Ephesians 2:8

³¹⁶ Romans 5:1-2

³¹⁷ Galatians 3:26

³¹⁸ Galatians 5:5

³¹⁹ Galatians 5:6

³²⁰ Luke 12:15

³²¹ Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11

³²² Romans 3:22

³²³ Hebrews 10:38

³²⁴ Hebrews 10:39

³²⁵ 1Timothy 1:19, 5:12

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but unless the message is united by faith with those who listen, it is of no benefit.³²⁶ If anyone comes to Christ and does not hate even his own life, he cannot be his.³²⁷ Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will save it.³²⁸

Since Jesus has been exalted at the right hand of God and has received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, we are given the commandment, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”³²⁹ The promise is for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.³³⁰ Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.³³¹

³²⁶ Hebrews 4:2

³²⁷ Luke 14:26

³²⁸ Luke 17:33

³²⁹ Acts 2:33, 36-38

³³⁰ Acts 2:39

³³¹ Acts 19-21

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V. In Love, In Truth and In the Spirit

In love

The love of God that has been delivered to humanity through his Christ is the basis for all our actions. On account of love, God raised up Jesus to be salvation to the world.³³² And having the Father's heart, Jesus sacrificed his own life for love.³³³ Through this love we now have the forgiveness of sins,³³⁴ with new life in the Spirit,³³⁵ as sons of God.³³⁶ And it is this love that gives us the great hope to partake in resurrection of life,³³⁷ with the promise that we may enter into the kingdom of our God.³³⁸ Indeed our ministry is the exceeding grace and mercy of God's love given to us through Christ Jesus;³³⁹ namely, the Gospel.³⁴⁰

God is love.³⁴¹ Thus our faithfulness to him is dependent on our commitment to love.³⁴² The whole Law of God is fulfilled in this principal virtue.³⁴³ Truly, when questioned about the greatest commandment, Jesus said, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall *love* the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall *love* your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."³⁴⁴ Seeing that love is the purpose of all of God's people, it is the central purpose of this church.³⁴⁵ Love redeems, binds together and builds up.³⁴⁶ Love bears all things, hopes all things and believes all things.³⁴⁷ The perfect love of God destroys all fear bringing the peace that surpasses

³³² John 3:16, Romans 5:8, 1John 4:9-10

³³³ Corinthians 5:14, John 15:17, Ephesians 5:2

³³⁴ Luke 24:46-47, Acts 2:38, 10:43, 13:38, 26:18, Ephesians 1:7, Hebrews 2:17, 1Peter 2:24, 3:18, 1John 4:10, Revelation 1:5

³³⁵ Romans 5:5, Galatians 3:14, 4:6, Ephesians 1:13

³³⁶ Luke 6:35, 20:34-36, Romans 8:14-16, 23, Galatians 3:26, 4:4-7, 1John 3:1

³³⁷ Luke 1:78, John 3:16, Romans 6:23, 1John 4:9, Jude 1:21

³³⁸ Luke 4:43, 12:31-33, Mark 12:32-34, Romans 8:16-17, Ephesians 2:4, 2Corinthians 4:1, Jude 1:21, James 2:5

³³⁹ Romans 3:24, 5:15, 1Corinthians 2:9, Ephesians 1:6-7, 2:5, 8, Hebrews 4:16

³⁴⁰ Mark 1:14-15, 16:15, Acts 20:24, Romans 1:16, 1Corinthians 9:23, Revelation 14:16

³⁴¹ 1John 4:7-8, Psalms 100:5, 103:8,

³⁴² John 15:9-10, 1John 3:10-11, 4:7-8, 16, 19-21

³⁴³ Deuteronomy 6:5, Luke 10:27, Romans 15:8-10, Galatians 5:13-14, James 2:8

³⁴⁴ Mark 12:29-31

³⁴⁵ John 15:9-10, Romans 13:8-10, Galatians 5:6, Ephesians 1:4, John 15:9-10, Romans 13:8-10, Galatians 5:6, Ephesians 1:4

³⁴⁶ 1Corinthians 8:1, Col.3:14

³⁴⁷ 1Corinthians 13:7

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understanding.³⁴⁸ Truly, all things must be done for love and in love.³⁴⁹ May the love of God be perfected in us as to truly be followers of Christ!³⁵⁰

In Truth

Love is perfected in truth, as God's love is inseparable from his truth and his justice. For it is through faith in the truth by which we are justified and receive the grace and salvation of the Most High.³⁵¹ The ministry of God's love must thus be accomplished in accordance with the understanding of his Word. God's Word is fundamental to the ministry as we receive the promise on his terms under his conditions. Divine promise and revelation were given through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, through Moses and the Law, and through the Prophets. Other Scripture records God's dealings with his people demonstrating his word with many signs and testimonies. In accord with the word spoken through the Law and the Prophets, we testify to God's plan and purpose for the world.³⁵² Truly, God's redemption for humanity centers upon his Christ, as his grace and truth are realized in Jesus. Thus, our apostolic ministry of love shall be in accord with the word of truth.³⁵³ In confidence we believe that the Gospel is the accomplished word of God, and not the invention of any man.³⁵⁴

The church body is to be sanctified in truth.³⁵⁵ In all our efforts we are to minister in the truth of the Bible. Our worship of God, our faith in the Lord Jesus, the function of the church body - all things must be guided by the truth of God's Word.³⁵⁶ Scripture is of foremost authority in all matters of faith being that light which guides us. We are to be led not by tradition but rather by the Word of God in the spirit of truth.³⁵⁷

We shall strive to maintain sound teaching rather than humanistic teachings that suit the passions of individuals.³⁵⁸ We must resist being carried about by every wind of doctrine by human cunning or crafty teaching and deceitful schemes.³⁵⁹ We must not embrace the teaching of any doctrine that undermines the aim of love that

³⁴⁸ John 16:33, Romans 5:1, 14:7, Philip 4:7, 1John 4:18,

³⁴⁹ 1Corinthians 13:1-3, 13, 16:14

³⁵⁰ John 13:34-35, 14:21-24, 15:9-13, 17:20-26, Ephesians 3:19, 4:15-16, 1John 3:23

³⁵¹ Ephesians 1:13, Colossians 1:5, 2John 1:3

³⁵² Ephesians 3:4-12

³⁵³ John 14:6, Colossians.1:5, Ephesians 1:13, 4:21

³⁵⁴ Galatians 1:11-12

³⁵⁵ John 17:17-9

³⁵⁶ 2Corinthians 13:5-8

³⁵⁷ 2Corinthians 4:2

³⁵⁸ 2Timothy 4:2-4

³⁵⁹ Ephesians 4:14

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originates from a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith³⁶⁰ We should not swerve from these things by wandering away into vain discussions about the law.³⁶¹ The law is laid down not for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for the immoral - whatever is contrary to sound doctrine.³⁶² We must avoid empty and profane teachings that are contradictory and are falsely called knowledge.³⁶³ Those professing doctrines of men have swerved from the faith.³⁶⁴ Consider the witnesses of the Bible who spoke the Word of God – consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.³⁶⁵

In the Spirit

While the truth of the Word of God is our solid food, the Spirit of God is our drink.³⁶⁶ As the result of his love made manifest in Jesus Christ, we now receive the Holy Spirit.³⁶⁷ Jesus received from the Father the promise to baptize in the Holy Spirit as he is now exalted to the right hand of God.³⁶⁸ The promise of the Spirit shall be realized in our ministry of the Gospel.³⁶⁹ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.³⁷⁰ In Christ, we are to be filled with God receiving his Holy Breath.³⁷¹ By the Spirit deposited in us, we become temples of the living God.³⁷² Indeed, his indwelling spirit establishes us as sons of God.³⁷³ The new life of the Spirit purifies us and compels us in all righteousness.³⁷⁴ Through Christ, God pours into us the living water of the Spirit, filling our hearts with love, giving us extraordinary peace with joy unspeakable.³⁷⁵ The Spirit is our comforter providing intimacy with God bearing witness within us to the truth of our salvation.³⁷⁶ All who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God for we come to know God and accomplish his will through the Spirit.³⁷⁷

³⁶⁰ 1Timothy 1:3-5, 6:3, 6:12-14, Titus 2:1-10

³⁶¹ 1Timothy 1:6-7, 4:1-5, Colossians 2:12-23, Hebrews 13:9

³⁶² 1Timothy 1:8-10, 6:3-5

³⁶³ 1Timothy 6:20, 1Corinthians 1:18-30

³⁶⁴ 1Timothy 6:21

³⁶⁵ Hebrews 13:9, 2Thessalonians 2:15, 1Corinthians 11:1-2, Ephesians 5:1-21

³⁶⁶ John 4:10-14, 1Corinthians 12:13, Ephesians 5:18

³⁶⁷ Acts 2:32-33, Romans 5:5

³⁶⁸ Acts 2:32-33, John 1:32-34, 7:39, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, 24:49, Acts 1:4-5, 2:38, Romans 8:34

³⁶⁹ Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4-6 2:38-39, 8:14-17

³⁷⁰ John 4:23-24

³⁷¹ John 6:63, Acts 2:32-33, Acts 8:14-17, Galatians 3:14, 1John 4:13

³⁷² 1Corinthians 3:16, 6:19, Ephesians 2:22

³⁷³ John 3:3-8, Romans 8:15-16, Galatians 4:6, Ephesians 4:30

³⁷⁴ John 6:63, Acts 15:8-9, Romans 8:10-14, 1Corinthians 6:11, 2Thessalonians 2:13, Galatians 5:5, Titus 3:5

³⁷⁵ Romans 5:5, 8:6, 14:17, 15:13, Galatians 5:22-23

³⁷⁶ Acts 5:30-32, 2Corinthians 1:22, 5:4-5, Galatians 5:5, Ephesians 1:13-14, 2:18

³⁷⁷ a: Romans 8:14 – b: Luke 3:21-22 4:18-19, Acts 10:37-38, Luke 3:16, Acts 2:1-4, 17-18, 38-39, John 3:3-8, 6:63

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Ministering the Gospel in fullness involves operating in the Spirit under the anointing. We are not to serve under an old written code, but in the new life of the Spirit.³⁷⁸ Nor shall we teach eloquent words of wisdom without the Spirit, lest the cross of Christ be diminished.³⁷⁹ Rather, if necessary, we shall tarry and wait to be given power from on High.³⁸⁰ The Holy Spirit shall be our driving force - transforming, interceding, and empowering us according to the will of God.³⁸¹ The ministry of miraculous healing deliverance from demonic strongholds is carried out in the power of the Spirit.³⁸² We should pursue spiritual gifts, but especially that we may prophesy.³⁸³ Prophecy comes not from a man's will, but when one speaks from God as the Holy Spirit provides divine unction and carries him along.³⁸⁴ Signs and wonders are made manifest by the power of the Spirit.³⁸⁵ Our boldness and inspiration is to be vitalized by this breath of God.³⁸⁶ We are to manifest the divine giving witness to God's truth by his power.³⁸⁷ We are not to be of dry religion, but rather a living faith - partaking of the Spirit of God that comes through Christ.³⁸⁸

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood. And made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 1:4-6 (ESV)

³⁷⁸ Acts 7:51, Romans 7:6, 2Corinthians 3:3-6, Galatians 3:2-3, 5:22

³⁷⁹ 1Corinthians 1:17, 2:1-5, 1Thessalonians 1:5-6, 5:19

³⁸⁰ Luke 11:13, 24:47-49, John 14:12-13, Acts 2:4-5, 4:29-31, Jude 1:19-20

³⁸¹ Romans 8: 26-27, 2Corinthians 3:17-18, Ephesians 3:16

³⁸² Acts 4:29-31, 10:37-39

³⁸³ 1Corinthians 14:1-6

³⁸⁴ 2Peter 1:21, Revelation 1:10

³⁸⁵ Acts 4:29-31, Romans 15:19, Galatians 3:5, Hebrews 2:4

³⁸⁶ Acts 4:29-31, Romans 12:11, Luke 12:11-12, Matthew 10:19

³⁸⁷ Acts 4:29-31, 1Corinthians 2:1-5, 1Thessalonians 1:5-6

³⁸⁸ 1Corinthians 10:1-4, Acts 2:1-39