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## **STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS**

The Bible is the all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This Statement of Fundamental Truths is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e., that we all speak the same thing 1st Corinthians 1:10; Acts 2:42). The truths set forth herein are held to be essential to a full Gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all biblical truth, only that it covers our fundamental doctrines.

### **1. The Scriptures Inspired**

The Scriptures both the Old and New Testaments, are inspired by God and are the revelation of God to man. These Testaments are the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct and are of no private interpretation (2nd Timothy 3:15-17; 1st Thessalonians 2:13; 2nd Peter 1:20-21).

### **2. The One True God**

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the creator of heaven and earth and the redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as one God embodied in, and revealed as the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost (Deuteronomy 6:4 Isaiah 43:10,11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).

#### **THE ADORABLE GODHEAD**

##### **(a) Terms Defined**

The terms "trinity" and "persons," as related to the Godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, are words in harmony with Scripture, whereby we may convey to others our Immediate understanding of the doctrine of Christ, respecting the being of God, as distinguished from "gods many and lords many." We, therefore, may speak with correctness of the Lord our God, who is one Lord, as a "Trinity" or as one being of three "persons", and still be absolutely scriptural (examples: Matthew 28:19; 2nd Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16,17).

##### **(b) Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead**

Christ taught a distinction of persons in the Godhead which He expressed in specific terms of relationship as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is unfathomable and incomprehensible, because it is unexplained (Luke 1:35; 1st Corinthians 1:24; Matt. 11:25-27; 28:19; 2nd Corinthians 13:14; 1st John 1:3,4).

##### **(c) Unity of the One Being of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost**

Accordingly, therefore, there is that in the Son which constitutes Him the Son and not the Father; and there is that in the Holy Ghost which constitutes Him the Holy Ghost and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore the Father is the begetter; the Son is the begotten; the Holy Ghost is the one proceeding from the Father and Son. Therefore, because these three persons in the Godhead are in a state of unity, there is but one Lord God Almighty and His name is one (John 1:18; 15:26; 17:11; Zechariah 14:9).

##### **(d) Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord**

The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high, angels and principalities and powers having been made subject unto Him. And having been made both Lord and Christ, He sent the Holy Ghost that we, in the name of Jesus, might bow our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the Glory of God the Father until the end, when the Son shall become subject to the Father that God may be all in all (Hebrews 1:3; I Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Romans 14:11; 1st Corinthians 15:24-28).

(e) Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son

Wherefore, since the Father has delivered all judgment unto the Son, it is not only the express duty of all in heaven and on earth to bow the knee, but it is an unspeakable joy in the Holy Ghost to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of deity and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the Godhead and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22-23; 1st Peter 1:8; Revelation 5:6-14; Philippians 2:8-9; Revelation 7:9-10; 4:8-11).

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare:

- (a) His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31, 35).
- (b) His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1st Peter 2:22).
- (c) His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).
- (d) His substitutionary work on the cross (1st Corinthians 15:3; 2nd Corinthians 5:21).
- (e) His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1st Corinthians 15:4).
- (f) His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9, 11; 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:3).

4. The Fall of Man

Man was created good and upright. For God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:17; 3:6; Romans 5:12-19).

5. The Salvation of Man

Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Hebrews 9:14; 1st John 1:7; Revelation 1:5).

(a) Conditions to Salvation

Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).

(b) The Evidence of Salvation

The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24; Titus 2:12).

6. The Ordinances of the Church

(a) Baptism in Water

The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus, they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47-48; Romans 6:4).

(b) Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements – bread and fruit of the vine, is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus (2nd Peter 1:4), a memorial of His suffering and death (1st Corinthians 11:26), and a prophecy of His second coming (1st Corinthians 11:26), and should be observed by all believers "till He come!"

## 7. The Baptism of the Holy Ghost

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 3 24:49; Acts 1:4-8; 1st Corinthians 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Ghost come such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His Word, and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

## 8. The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Ghost

The baptism of believers in the Holy Ghost is witnessed by the initial physical signs of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (1st Corinthians 12:4-10, 28), but different in purpose and use.

## 9. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil and of dedication unto God (Romans 12:1; 1st Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12). The Scriptures teach a life of "Holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). By the power of the Holy Ghost, we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy, for I am holy" (1st Peter 1:15).

Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection and by faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every human faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit (Romans 6:1-II, 13; Romans 8:1-2,13; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:12-13; 1st Peter 1:5).

## 10. The Church and Its Mission

The church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which every believers name is written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23).

Since God's purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshipped by man, and to build a body of believers in the image of His Son; our priority and primary reason-for-being is:

- (a) To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16).
- (b) To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1st Corinthians 12:13).
- (c) To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1st Corinthians 12:28; 14:12).

True Light Ministries International exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason-for-being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching the entire Gospel, encouraging believers to come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, to walk worthy of His calling and for the power to fulfill that calling by the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

This experience:

- (a) Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Hebrews 2:3-4).
- (b) Adds a necessary dimension to a worshipful relationship with God (1st Corinthians 2:10-16; 1st Corinthians 12-14).

(c) Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ (Galatians 5:22-26; 1st Corinthians 12:28; 14:12; Ephesians 4:11-12; 1st Corinthians 1:29).

#### 11. Divine Healing

Divine healing, deliverance from sickness and demonic influences are all an integral part of the Gospel. They are provided for in the atonement and are the privilege of all believers (Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16-17; Mark 16:15-18; James 5:14-16).

#### 12. The Blessed Hope

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep (died) in Christ and their translation from corruption to incorruption, and mortality to immortality, together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord, is the imminent and blessed hope of the church (1st Thessalonians 4:16-17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1st Corinthians 15:51-52).

#### 13. The Millennial Reign of Christ

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27,30; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6). This millennial reign will bring the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalm 72:3-8; Micah 4:3-4).

#### 14. The Final Judgment

There will be a final judgment, in which the wicked will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life – together with the devil and his angels, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8).

#### 15. The New Heaven and the New Earth

“We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness” (2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:22).