

Full Statement of Faith of Spirit and Life Church in Rustburg, VA

We believe that the Bible is inerrant, infallible, and inspired. The Holy Scriptures are preserved in the received text underlying the King James Version of the Bible (Textus Receptus).

We believe that the Godhead is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. These are co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory – the Triune God.

We believe that Jesus Christ is God the Son and that His work at Calvary completed God's plan for the redemption of man.

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity and that He is the divine Teacher who dwells in and guides believers into all truth.

We believe man was created by God, not through evolutionary processes, and that all men can repent, turn to Christ, and to receive forgiveness from sin.

We believe salvation is obtained by placing faith in the shed blood and accepting the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe that sanctification is both practical and positional, and is a result of the continual work of grace in the life of a believer through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

We believe that Biblical separation from the world is necessary to not bring reproach upon our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We believe that the church is a self-governing body of believers under the authority of the Word of God being led by its pastor.

We believe that there are two biblically mandated ordinances – baptism by immersion and communion.

We believe that it is the church's responsibility to fulfill the Great Commission through the support of missions, both local and abroad.

We believe in a pre-tribulation rapture of the church, a literal seven-year time of tribulation here on earth, the literal return of the Lord Jesus Christ, and a one-thousand-year millennial reign on earth.

We believe in the eternal state of man We believe that God created the angels, and that Satan and demons are fallen beings with a literal existence.

Statement of Faith

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

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Section 1. Holy Scriptures

We Believe:

- The Holy Scriptures of the 39 Old Testament and the 27 New Testament books to be the Word of God.
- The Holy Scriptures are preserved in the received text underlying the King James Version of the Bible (Textus Receptus).
- The Holy Scriptures are the final authority for our faith and lives. (II Timothy 3:16-17)
- The Holy Scriptures are inerrant, infallible and God breathed. (II Peter 1:21)
- The Holy Scriptures are given by inspiration of God, are profitable for establishing all Godly doctrine, provide the authority and power for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished (both physically and spiritually) unto all good works. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Section 2. God

We Believe:

- God the Father is sovereign (Romans 11:36), eternal (Psalm 90:2), incomprehensible (Romans 11:33), invisible (John 1:18), immutable (Malachi 3:6, James 1:17), omnipotent (Jeremiah 32:27, Matthew 19:26), omniscient (I John 3:20), omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-10), holy (Exodus 15:11), righteous (Psalm 7:9), just (I John 1:9).
- God is one triune God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. These are co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, have the same attributes and perfections, and are worthy of precisely the same homage, confidence, and obedience. (Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 28:19, Mark 12:29, John 1:14, Acts 3 & 4, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Hebrews 1:1-3, Revelation 1:4-6)
- The Triune God is proclaimed in Scripture through the Godhead. In this proclamation the

infinite God contains Himself – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Colossians 2:9) within the person of Jesus Christ, Who was manifest in human flesh. (Romans 1:20)

Section 3. Person and Work of Christ

We Believe:

➤ The Lord Jesus Christ as God the Son became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order to reveal God's nature and redeem sinful men. (John 1:1-2, Luke 1:35)

➤ The Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross, and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead.

(Romans 3:24-25, I Peter 2:24, Ephesians 1:7, I Peter 1:3-5)

➤ The Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God as our High Priest, fulfilling the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate.

(Acts 1:9-10, Hebrews 7:25 & 9:24, Romans 8:34, I John 2:1-2)

Section 4. Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

We Believe:

➤ The Holy Spirit is divine and proceeds from the Father and the Son, and is therefore truly God.

➤ The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. (John 16:8-11)

➤ The Holy Spirit is the supernatural agent in regeneration (II Corinthians 3:6, Titus 3:5)

➤ The Holy Spirit baptizes believers into the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:12-14), indwells believers (Romans 8:9, I Corinthians 6:19), seals believers unto the day of redemption (Ephesians 1:13-14).

➤ The Holy Spirit is the divine Teacher who dwells in and guides believers into all truth.

(John 16:13)

- The Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity, though omnipresent from all eternity, took up His abode in the world in man on the day of Pentecost- not by the works of righteousness which we have done but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost; accomplished through Jesus Christ our Savior. (Titus 3:5-6)
- The Holy Spirit bestows spiritual gifts upon all believers (1 Corinthians 12) to prepare the church for service (Ephesians 4:12); gifts such as the ability to speak in unknown languages and the gift of prophecy have now been fulfilled, having therefore ceased (1 Corinthians 13:8) through the receiving of that which is perfect (1 Corinthians 13:10) – the written Word of God. (Psalm 12:6, Psalm 119:140, Proverbs 30:5)

Section 5. Man

We Believe:

- Man was created by God, not evolutionary processes. (Genesis 1:26-27)
- Man was created in a state of innocence (Genesis 1:28-31) but fell from this state by sinning (Genesis 3:6-7) through voluntary and willful disobedience.
- Man is now without excuse (Romans 1:20), spiritually dead (Ephesians 2:1), in bondage to evil (John 8:44), at enmity with God (Romans 8:7), and has a heart that is deceitful (Jeremiah 17:9).
- Man will die in his sins apart from the quickening Grace of God given to those who believe. (Ephesians 2:5)
- Man – every man – is equipped by a loving God with measures of Grace (Titus 2:11), Faith (Romans 12:3), and Truth (John 1:9); to the end that all might embrace the Will of God (2 Peter 3:9) through repentance and salvation in Christ. (Mark 1:15)

Section 6. Salvation

We Believe:

- Salvation is of God and is a free gift. (Ephesians 2:8)
- Salvation is obtained by placing faith in the shed blood and finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 2:8, Hebrews 9:22)
- Salvation cannot be obtained through good works, church membership, baptism, or any other work of man. (Ephesians 2:9)
- Salvation is found entirely in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 4:12)
- Salvation provides the believer with an Eternal Redemption (Hebrews 9:12), Eternal Salvation (Hebrews 5:9), and both Eternal and Everlasting Life (John 3:15-16).
- Salvation is to be kept by God's power (1 Peter 1:3-5) and secure in Christ forever (Ephesians 2:6).
- Salvation does not imply that God will ignore sin in a believer's life, rather God will judge the sinning Christian. (1 Corinthians 3:11-15 & 11:23-32, Hebrews 12:5-8, Romans 14:10-12)
- Salvation is not a cause for a believer to use their liberty as an occasion to the flesh. (Romans 13:13-14, Galatians 5:13, Titus 2:11-15)
- Salvation is complete – justification / past tense (John 5:24, Romans 3:24, Romans 5:1&9, Titus 3:7), sanctification / present tense (Philippians 2:12), glorification / future tense (Romans 8:29-30, Ephesians 2:4-7).
- Salvation is secure in the Godhead; God has taken the personal responsibility for securing salvation for the believer; God the Father (John 10:28-30), God the Son (John 6:38-40), God the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14).

Section 7. Sanctification

We Believe:

- Sanctification that is positional occurs at the moment of regeneration (Colossians 1:13, Hebrews 10:1 & 14) and that practical sanctification is to be progressive throughout the

entire life span of a believer here on earth (II Corinthians 7:1).

➤ Sanctification as a process is God's provision for holy living in the believer's identification with Christ in His death, burial, resurrection and ascension. (John 17:17, Ephesians 4:24 & 5:25-27, Hebrews 10:10 & 14, Hebrews 12:10)

➤ Sanctification does not claim the eradication of the old Adamic sin nature (Romans 7), and we maintain that all such claims are unscriptural.

Section 8. Biblical Separation

We Believe:

➤ Biblical Separation means that all saved persons should live in such a manner as to not bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord. (1 Peter 1:15-17)

➤ Biblical Separation requires departure from all heresy, such as the cults and religious apostasy. (2 Corinthians 6:17)

➤ Biblical Separation teaches us to live separate from all worldly and sinful pleasures and associations- such as: enslaving habits, hindering practices, and entangling unequal yokes. (I John 2:15-17, Romans 12:1-2, I Thessalonians 4:7 & 5:22, II Corinthians 6:14-18, Colossians 3:1-10)

Section 9. The Church

We Believe:

➤ The Church was born at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4 & 47) and will end at the rapture (I Thessalonians 4:13-18).

➤ The Church is a spiritual organism made up of all born again persons who, at the moment of their conversion, are immediately baptized into the Body of Christ. (I Corinthians 12:12-14)

➤ The Church is defined and taught in the New Testament Scriptures as an assembly of

believers.

- The Church has the absolute right of self-government to be completely free from any hierarchy of individuals or organizations. (Also see the Baptist Distinctives)
- The Church is to be under the authority and direction of the Word of God through its own pastor and elected officials as specified in the Holy Scriptures. (Acts 6:2-5 & 20:17 & 28, I Timothy 3: 1-13, Titus 1:5-11, I Peter 5:1-4)

Section 10. Church Ordinances

We Believe:

- Water Baptism is a Scriptural ordinance of the church during the Age of Grace taking place after belief and faith in Christ. (Acts 8:37-38)
- Water Baptism is the outward symbol of the baptism of the Holy Spirit which takes place at the moment of salvation (defined as personal trust in the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus) by making a decisive public testimony; therefore we reject infant baptism.
- Water Baptism is immersion in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19)
- The Lord's Supper is a memorial testimony of the church, instituted by our Lord before His betrayal (Luke 22:15-22), and to be observed until His return as a sacred, symbolic, and Scriptural means of remembering His death for our sins (I Corinthians 11:23-36).
- The Lord's Supper requires a man to examine himself – personal responsibility – before partaking (1 Corinthians 11:27-28); it is the responsibility of the church to communicate 1 Corinthians 11:23-34 to all who are in observance.
- The Lord's Supper will continue to be observed by each saved believer until the Lord's return. (1 Corinthians 11:26)

Section 11. Missions

We Believe:

- Mission obligations are the responsibility of all saved persons to witness by life and word to the truths of the Holy Scriptures. (1 Peter 1:15 & 3:15)
- Mission primary purpose is to proclaim the gospel to all mankind. (Mark 16:15)
- Mission is accomplished locally by the personal witness of each believer and the focus of the local church.
- Mission is accomplished abroad by home and foreign mission ministries which are in agreement with the doctrines, practices and purposes of this church. (Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:19-20, II Corinthians 5:19-20)
- Mission obligations are to all nations – this is to include everyone, regardless of age, race, nationality, or religion (Matthew 28:19-20)

Section 12. Tribulation

We Believe:

- In a pre-tribulation rapture of the church; the Bible clearly teaches that Jesus has delivered us from the wrath to come (1 Thessalonians 1:10), that the wrath that is to come will only come upon sinners (1 Thessalonians 2:16), and that saved believers are not appointed to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thessalonians 5:9).
- The world is day by day ripening for judgment and that the age will end with a fearful apostasy – to which we are now, witness (2 Thessalonians 2:3); therefore we reject amillennialism and post-millennialism.
- We will be caught up together with Christ in the clouds prior to the tribulation. (1 Thessalonians 4:17)
- The rapture of the church will be followed by the fulfillment of Israel's seventieth week (Daniel 9:27, Revelation 6:1-19:21); during this time saved believer's will be with Jesus

Christ in heaven.

- The tribulation period is a literal seven year period of time when judgment will be poured out on the whole earth; the end of this period of time will bring to a close the times of the Gentiles. (Luke 21:24)
- The latter half of the tribulation period will be the time of Jacob's trouble (Jeremiah 30:7), which our Lord called the great tribulation (Matthew 24:15-21)

Section 13. Second Coming of Christ

We Believe:

- In a literal second coming of Christ following the period of great tribulation.
- The Lord Jesus Christ will return to the earth as He went (Acts 1:11), in person on the clouds of heaven and with power and great glory (Matthew 24:30, Mark 13:26, Luke 21:27).
- The Lord Jesus Christ will bring His church with Him to witness His power and majesty as He (Jesus Christ) alone destroys the anti-Christ and his world systems with the brightness of His coming – the glory of God (2 Thessalonians 2:8) and with the Sword of His mouth. (Revelation 19:15 & 21)
- The second coming of Christ will usher in the millennial age – Sabbath of the earth (Revelation 20:1-6)

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- The millennial reign of Christ will be a literal 1,000-year period of time during which Jesus Christ will bind Satan and cast him into the bottomless pit (Revelation 20:2-3), lift the curse that now rests upon the whole creation (Isaiah 11), restore Israel and to give her the realization of God's covenant promises (Hosea 2, Isaiah 65), and to bring the whole world to a knowledge of God and His Laws.

Section 14. The Eternal State

We Believe:

- In the eternal state of man, from creation, being made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27); therefore we reject annihilationism.
- Jesus Christ confirms the eternal state of man. (Matthew 22:32, Mark 12:27, Luke 20:38)
- The unsaved are awaiting judgement in the bottomless pit which is located in the lower parts of the earth. (Ephesians 4:9, Revelation 9:1-2 & 11)
- The eternal state of the unsaved will be hell – fire and brimstone, punishment and torment. (Matthew 25:41, Mark 9:44, Luke 16:24, Revelation ch. 20 & 21)
- The spirits and souls of those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation pass immediately into His presence. (2 Corinthians 5:8)
- Jesus Christ confirms the preparation of a place to receive saved believers. (John 14:3)
- God has declared the eternal state of His people. (Revelation 21:1-7)

Section 15. Angels

We Believe:

- God created an innumerable number of sinless, spiritual beings known as angels.
- Angelic creatures were created for two primary purposes: a) to worship God (Revelation 5:11-14) and b) to be ministering spirits to those who will inherit salvation (Hebrews 1:14).
- We reject any form of angelic worship including prayers to angels or acknowledgements of angelic deliverance from situations (Colossians 2:18-19); we direct all prayers and

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thanks for deliverance to God the Father only, in the name of Jesus. (John 14:13-14 & 16:23)

- Any angel who is sent of God (unfallen) will reject any form of worship. (Revelation 22:9)
- We believe that a great company of angels kept their holy estate and are before the throne of God. (Luke 15:10, Ephesians 1:21, Hebrews 1:14, Revelation 7:12)

Section 16. Satan and Demons

We Believe:

- Satan, who was before called Lucifer, is a real personality as a fallen angelic creature.
- Satan was created perfect but rebelled against God – sinning through pride – and is now the enemy of God and His creation. (Ezekiel 28:12-19, Isaiah 14:12-17)
- Satan is the originator of sin; under permission of God Satan through subtlety led our first parents into transgression causing the cause of the fall of man. (Genesis 3:1-15)
- Satan is the adversary of God’s children, seeking to keep man from the Lord and when he cannot succeed, he seeks to weaken the believer’s testimony. (Revelation 12:10, Job 1:6-12)
- Satan has a host of fallen angels that followed him in his fall thereby becoming demons and are active as his agents and associates in the prosecution of his unholy purposes against God and Creation.
- Satan uses demons to battle for the souls of men. (Ephesians 6:12)
- Satan is not omnipotent and can be overcome by the power of God. (1 John 4:1-4, Revelation 12:11)
- There are a host of demons “reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto judgment of the great day.” (Jude 6)
- Satan’s heart and his will has been revealed in Isaiah 14:13-14; the attempt at exercising Satan’s will has resulted in the counterfeiting of the works of God by fostering religious movements and demonic systems of doctrine contained in many new age Bible translations and the Contemporary Christian movements resulting in a form of godliness

that denies the power of the blood of Christ and / or salvation by Grace alone. (Genesis 3:1-19; Romans 5:12-14; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; 11:13-15; Ephesians 6:10-12; 2 Thessalonians 2:4; 1 Timothy 4:1-3.)

➤ Satan was judged at the cross and hell will be his final resting place (Isaiah 14:15); at the second coming of Christ, Satan will be bound and cast into the abyss for a thousand years, and after the thousand years he will be loosed for a little season and then cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where he shall be tormented day and night forever. (Colossians 2:14-15, Revelation 20:1-3 & 10)

Authority of the Statement of Faith of Spirit and Life Church Incorporated

This Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we teach and believe. We do believe, however, that this Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible; therefore, this Statement of Faith is binding upon all members. All literature and materials used at Spirit and Life Church shall be in agreement

with this Statement of Faith.