

Independence Christian Center Tenets Of Faith

1. The Scriptures Inspired

The Scriptures, both Old and New Testament, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible and authoritative rule of faith and conduct (2 Tim 3:15-17; I Thess 2:13; II Peter 1:21).

2. The One True God

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I Am," the Creator of the heaven and earth and Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son and the Holy Spirit (Deut 6:4; Isa 43:10,11; Matt 28:19; Luke 3:22).

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

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

(a) His virgin birth (Matt 1:23; Luke 1:31, 35)

(b) His sinless life (Heb 7:26; I Peter 2:22)

(c) His miracles (Acts 2:22, 10:38)

(d) His Substitutionary work on the cross (I Cor 15:3, II Cor 5:21)

(e) His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matt 28:6; Luke 24:39; I Cor 15:4)

(f) His exaltation to the right hand of God the Father (Acts 1:9,11; 2:33; Phil 2:9-11; Heb 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." Man, however, by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also and primarily spiritual death which is separation from God (Gen 1:26-27; 2:17; 3:6; Rom 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.

(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 Spirit, 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; Rom 10:13-15; Eph 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).

(b) The Evidences of salvation

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

6. The Sacraments of the Church

The early church fathers recognized God's usage of material things to actually transmit His power and grace according to His will. This understanding is affirmed by the scriptures and most succinctly defined by the early church as being "the visible form of an invisible grace." The following are recognized as being biblical sacraments:

(a) Laying on of Hands

God works supernaturally through the hands of men to perform healing (Mark 16:18; Acts 3:7), to baptize men and women in the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:17, 19:6), and to impart gifts as the Spirit wills (Acts 13:3; I Tim 4:14; II Tim 1:6).

(b) Baptism in Water

Baptism in water is commanded by the Lord Himself 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. Though not efficacious in itself, baptism is both a means of grace and an outward and visible sign of our inward experience (Matt 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47,48).

(c) Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements--bread and the fruit of the vine--is, by faith and as defined historically by the church, an actual sharing in the power of the Spirit and the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (II Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (I Cor 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (I Cor 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"

7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit, 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 enduement of power for service, the bestowal of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8; I Cor 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Spirit 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; Heb 12:28), and 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 Evidence of The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign 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 (I Cor 12:4-10, 28), but different in purpose and use.

9. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from sin and other evil, and of personal dedication unto God (Rom 12:1; I Thess 5:23; Heb 13:12). The Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord (Heb 12:14)." By the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy for I am holy" (I Peter 1:15, 16).

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 faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit (Rom 6:1-11, 13; 8:1, 2, 13; Gal 2:20; Phil 2:12, 13; I 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 are written in heaven (Eph 1:22, 23; 2:22; Heb 12:23).

Since God's purpose concerning man is to be worshipped by him, to build these worshipers into a mature body in the image of His Son and to seek and save those which are lost,

Independence Christian Center's three part mission is:

- (a) To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (Jn 4:23; I Cor 12:13; Heb 2:12).
- (b) To be a vessel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Eph 4:11-16; I Cor 12:28; I Cor 14:12).
- (c) To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matt 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15, 16).

Independence Christian Center exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to the New Testament apostolic pattern of teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. This experience:

- (a) Adds a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God (Acts 10:46; I Cor 2:10-16; I Cor 12-14).
- (b) Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ
(I Cor 12:28; Eph 4:11-16; Col 1:29).
- (c) Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Heb 2:3, 4).

11. The Ministry

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the three-fold purpose of leading the Church in

(a) Worship of God (John 4:23, 24),

(b) building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Eph 4:11-16), and

(c) Evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20).

The Ordained Ministry is five-fold in composition, consisting of the offices of Apostle,

Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher. These ministries are gifts to the Church given to her by Christ Himself (Eph 4:7-13) and which function under His authority.

12. Divine Healing

Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Provision for deliverance from sickness is made in the Substitutionary suffering and death of Christ, and is the privilege and right of all believers through faith in that work (Isa 53:4-5; Matt 8:17; I Peter 2:24; James 5:14-16).

13. The Blessed Hope

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the Church (I Thess 4:16, 17; Rom 8:23; Titus 2:13; I Cor 15:51, 52).

14. 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 the Lord with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years (Zech 14:5; Matt 24:27, 30; Rev 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6). This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel (Ezek 37:21, 22; Zeph 3:19, 20; Rom 11:26, 27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isa 11:6-9; Psalm 72:3-8; Micah 4:3, 4)

15. The Final Judgment

There will be a final judgment in which those who reject Christ as Savior will be raised and judged according to their works. Their names will not be found written in the Book of Life and they will be consigned, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Matt 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Rev 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8).