

# DOCTRINAL POSITION & STATEMENT OF FAITH

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❧ NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH ❧

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## Articles of Faith

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### SECTION I: OF THE WORD OF GOD

We believe that the Holy Bible, consisting of the Old and the New Testaments were written by men divinely inspired and is perfectly given as a treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author and salvation for its end, and is without error.

**II Timothy 3:16-17** - "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

**Isaiah 8:20** - "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."

**II Peter 1:21** - "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as *they were* moved by the Holy Ghost."

**Luke 1:70** - "As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began."

### SECTION II: THE TRUE GOD

We believe that there is one living and true God who exists in the form of the Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – all equal in every Divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the work of redemption.

**John 4:24** - "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

**Psalms 83:18** - "That *men* may know that thou, whose name alone *is* JEHOVAH, *art* the most high over all the earth."

**Matthew 28:19** - "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

**Exodus 15:11** - "Who *is* like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who *is* like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful *in* praises, doing wonders?"

**I Timothy 3:16** - "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."

### SECTION III: THE FALL OF MAN

We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state, the consequence of which is that now all men are sinners.

**Genesis 2:7; 3:6,7** - "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul...And when the woman saw that the tree was

good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.”

**Romans 1:20** – “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse”

**Romans 5:19** – “For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”

**Ezekiel 18:19-20** – “Yet say ye, Why? doth not the son bear the iniquity of the father? When the son hath done that which is lawful and right, *and* hath kept all my statutes, and hath done them, he shall surely live. The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.”

## SECTION IV: THE WAY OF SALVATION

We believe in salvation by grace plus nothing and minus nothing. We believe that a person is saved by repenting of their sin. The only way to be saved is to call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and to trust Him for salvation. Men are then justified by faith in Christ.

**Romans 5:1-2** – “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

**Romans 4:5** – “But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”

**John 3:3** – “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

**Ephesians 2:8-9** – “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

**Acts 16:31** – “And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”

## SECTION V: FREENESS OF SALVATION

We believe that blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent, and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents anyone from being saved.

**Isaiah 55:1** – “Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.”

**Romans 16:25-26** – “Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began. But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith.”

**Romans 3:24** – “Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”

**John 3:19** – “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”

**Ephesians 2:8,9** – “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

## SECTION VI: OF GRACE IN REGENERATION

We believe that in order to be saved sinners must be regenerated or born-again, and that proper evidence appears in the fruits of repentance, faith and newness of life.

**John 3:3** – “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

**II Corinthians 5:17** – “Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

**John 3:8** – “The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.”

**Ephesians 5:9** – “For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth.”

**Galatians 5:16-23** – “*This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

## SECTION VII: PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

We believe in the eternal security of all believers.

**Romans 8:33-39** – “Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth. Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

**John 8:31** – “Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed.”

**I John 2:19** – “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us: but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.”

**Philippians 1:6** – “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ.”

## SECTION VIII: THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST

We believe in the Virgin Birth of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Isaiah 7:14** – “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

**Matthew 1:16-23** – “And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David *are* fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon *are* fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ *are* fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”

## SECTION IX: HEAVEN AND HELL

We believe that Heaven and Hell are real places where real people will spend eternity.

**John 14:1-6** – “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

**Revelation 20:14-15** – “And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

## SECTION X: SANCTIFICATION

We believe that sanctification is a process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of His holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of the believer by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit of God.

**I Thessalonians 4:3** – “For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication.”

**I John 2:29** – “If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.”

**Romans 8:5** – “For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.”

**Philippians 2:12-13** – “Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.”

## SECTION XI: THE LOCAL CHURCH

We believe that the local church is a body of believers organized under the discipline of the Word of God and Jesus Christ. The functions of the local church are expressed in Matthew 28:19-20. The ordinances of the church are baptism and the Lord's Supper. The ordinances are *symbolic* and *do not* in anyway confer grace to the participant. The offices of the local church are pastor and deacons. The pastor is responsible under God to lead the church in all its ministries and programs.

### Church Ordinances

**I Corinthians 11:23-24** – “For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the *same* night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake *it*, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.”

**Romans 6:4** – “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

**I Corinthians 11:2** – “Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered *them* to you.”

### Church Leadership

**Philippians 1:1** – “Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons.”

**Hebrews 13:17** – “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you.”

**I Timothy 5:17** – “Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

### Church Functionality

**Matthew 28:20** – “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.”

**Matthew 18:17** – “And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell *it* unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.”

**Acts 2:41-42** – “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

## SECTION XII: THE LORD'S DAY

We believe that the first day of the week (Sunday) is the Lord's Day. It is to be kept sacred to religious purposes by abstaining from all secular labor except works of mercy and necessity.

**Acts 20:7** – “And upon the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.”

**Hebrews 10:24-25** – “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*. and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

**Hebrews 4:3-11** – “For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh *day* on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. And in this *place* again, If they shall enter into my rest. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief.”

### SECTION XIII: THINGS TO COME

We believe in the visible, personal and pre-millennial return of Christ. We believe in the rapture of all believers. We believe that the saved will spend eternity in heaven with Jesus, and the unsaved in Hell-forever.

**Matthew 24:31-46** – “And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer *is* nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, *even* at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and hour knoweth no *man*, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.”

**Revelation 22:11** – “He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

**Acts 1:11** – “Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”

**I Thessalonians 4:13-17** – “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

### SECTION XIV: CHURCH FINANCES

We believe that God's sole method of financing His earthly work of spreading the gospel to all nations, the care of the church, and the work of the ministry is by the tithes and offerings of His people. We believe that as New Testament Christians we are stewards of all our resources, including our money. Thus we are responsible before the Lord for how we handle our finances. We believe New Testament giving is grace giving out of a heart of love. The scriptural principles that guide our giving are as follows:

#### A Proportionate Offering

Our example for proportional giving is found throughout the Old Testament in the tithe (Leviticus 27:32; Malachi 3:10), and is seen in the New Testament passage of I Corinthians 16:2 (“as God hath prospered him”). Our example for giving the first portion of our income to the Lord is found in the Old Testament principle of first fruits (Nehemiah 10:35), and the New Testament admonition to “seek ye first the kingdom of God” (Matthew 6:33).

#### **An Abundant Offering**

**II Corinthians 8:2, 3; 9:6** – “How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. For to *their* power, I bear record, yea, and beyond *their* power *they were* willing of themselves...But this *I* say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.”

#### **A Willing Offering**

**I Chronicles 29:9** – Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy.”

**II Corinthians 9:7** – “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”

#### **A Cheerful Offering**

**II Corinthians 9:7** – “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”

#### **An Organized Offering**

**I Corinthians 16:1,2** – “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first *day* of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”

### **SECTION XV: SEPARATION**

We believe that the Bible teaches separation from the world and to Christ. We therefore are to be separate from all forms of apostasy and agree that the Bible teaches separation from such groups as the State, National, and World Council of Churches. The Bible is also very clear that the Charismatic movement is not biblically doctrinal and at the same time divisive therefore we will not as a church fellowship with any church holding those views or be sympathetic to this movement.

**II Corinthians 6:14-15** – “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?”

**Titus 3:10** – “A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject.”

Passages regarding the gift of tongues: **Acts 2:1-12; I Corinthians 12:1ff**



We, the members of New Hope Baptist Church, hold to the above Statement of Faith as being a summary of our Christian beliefs and practices. This statement has its authority from the Word of God and we believe is in agreement with it.