

# Faith Baptist Church - Core Beliefs

---

1. We believe the Bible is the Word of God, written by men inspired by God, and that the inspiration was verbal, plenary, infallible, inerrant, unlimited and complete.

> verbal - the actual words, not just the thoughts, are inspired

> plenary - all the words, not just some of **the** words, are inspired

> infallible - all of the words are authoritative

> inerrant - all of the words are accurate

> unlimited – the inspiration applies to all addressed topics, not just theological ones

> complete – the canon is finished, divine revelation is not continuing

2. We believe God is three equally divine persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) who exist as One.

3. We believe God created all that is in six days and that He created man on the sixth day.

4. We believe Satan was an angel who led a host of angels in a revolt against God. As the enemy of both God and man, He will suffer final defeat at the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ.

5. We believe all people are born sinners and commit sin. All people must be saved from sin and its penalty of death and hell. Because of God's will and grace, and the sacrificial death of the Lord Jesus Christ sinful people may be saved. This salvation is accessible through faith, apart from any merit or work on man's part, and is secured forever by God Himself.

6. We believe that every born-again believer in Jesus Christ is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and then gifted by Him to serve the body of Christ.

7. We believe in a literal Heaven and a literal Hell. Our only escape from Hell, and our only hope of Heaven, is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

8. We believe a true local church is an autonomous congregation of baptized believers who assemble to worship God, learn His Word, and carry out the Great Commission.

9. We believe Biblical baptism is the immersing of a believer in water as a public testimony of his or her professed faith in Jesus Christ.

10. We believe the Lord's Supper is a memorial to the broken body, shed blood, and death of the Lord Jesus Christ and that it is to be observed by believers until the day He returns.

11. We believe that we should support our church with our tithes (10% of income) and offerings (anything over 10%), and that we should do so cheerfully, by faith, and in obedience to the promptings of the Lord.

12. We believe the Great Commission necessitates a global missions effort.
13. We believe that every believer is a priest before God and needs no other mediator than the Lord Jesus Christ.
14. We believe the elements of the prophetic plan of God that remain are;
  - a) the rapture of the church, b) the Bema Seat of Christ, c) the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, d) the rise of the Antichrist and the seven-year Great Tribulation, e) the second coming of Jesus Christ with His saints, f) the defeat of the Antichrist, false prophet at Armageddon, g) the binding of Satan and the thousand-year reign of Christ, h) Satan's last revolt and final defeat, i) the Great White Throne, and j) the New Heaven, New Earth and New Jerusalem.

### Salvation

Everyone is a sinner. Romans 3:10,23 As it is written, there is none righteous, no not one... for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: who can know it? James 2:10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. James 4:17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

The penalty for sin is death. Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one-man sin entered the world, and death through sin; and thus, death spread to all men, because all have sinned. Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. James 1:14-15 Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. Revelation 20:14 And death and hell are cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Christ paid our penalty. Romans 5:8 God demonstrates His own love toward us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:6 For when we were still without strength, in due time, Christ died for the ungodly. Isaiah 53:5-6,10,11 He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace is upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed...and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all ... yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief ... He will see the travail of His soul and be satisfied. II Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

We must trust Christ for our salvation. Romans 10:9-10,13 If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation ... For whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Ephesians 2:8-9 for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. John 3:16 For God so loved

the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

### Baptism

Baptism is an identification rite of the local church in which a professing believer is immersed in water, as a public testimony of his/her faith in the saving work of Christ.

(Matt. 3:16, Acts 2:41-47, 8:36, 10:47)

It is an act of obedience, not a sacrament of salvation. It is an outward expression of what has already happened inwardly. The word baptize is a transliteration (rather than a translation) of the Greek word baptizo -- meaning "to dip, plunge, sink or immerse." The KJV translators chose to transliterate baptizo so they could stay true to the Greek text and not provoke the wrath of the King of England, who believed in sprinkling.

### Communion

Communion is a memorial to the death of Christ, not a sacrament of salvation. It is a solemn observance during which the believer is reminded of the price Christ paid for us to have forgiveness and eternal life.

The bread and fruit of the vine serve as symbols of the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The New Testament refers to communion as: The Lord's Supper (I Cor. 11:20), the Lord's Table (I Cor. 10:21), communion (I Cor. 10:16), and an ordinance (I Cor. 11:2). There are two primary passages of Scripture in the New Testament relating to communion. One is an historical account (Matt. 26:17-35) and the other is instructional. (I Cor. 11:23-34).

- 1) Communion has its origin in the Jewish observance of Passover (Ex 12).
- 2) Communion has a fourfold purpose (I Cor. 11:18-32): a) as a memorial to the person of Christ, b) as a testimony of the death of Christ, c) as a means of personal introspection, d) as a reminder of His return.
- 3) Communion can be hindered by divisions and carnality within the church (I Cor. 11:18,22).
- 4) Communion should be observed cautiously and with a clear conscience before God. (I Cor. 11:29-32).

### Church Covenant

(This is what you will read aloud with the congregation when joining the church.)

Having trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior, having been baptized by immersion, and believing in the Articles of Faith, I enter into covenant with the members of Faith Baptist Church. I promise to love as Christ commands and to protect the unity of the church family. I pledge to faithfully support the ministries of this church with my prayers, my attendance, my effort, and my finances. I will live in accordance with the principles of Godly living as taught by this church and strive to please the Lord, always remaining open to His leadership. I will seek to lead other people to Christ and seek to bring them into this church family.