

ICALM STATEMENT OF FAITH



WHAT WE BELIEVE...

1. **We Believe the Bible to be The Inspired Word of God;** the infallible Word of God. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is the only God-given authority which man possesses; therefore, all doctrine, faith, hope, and all instruction for the church must be based upon, and harmonize with, the Bible. It is to be read and studied by all men everywhere, and can only be clearly understood by those who are anointed by the Holy Spirit (1 John 2:27)."... no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 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" (2 Peter 1:20, 21).
2. **We Believe in the One Ever Living, Eternal God** infinite in power, Holy in nature, attributes and purpose; and possessing absolute, indivisible deity. This one true God has revealed Himself as Father, through His Son, in redemption; and as the Holy Spirit, by emanation. (1 Cor. 8:6; Eph. 4:6; 2 Cor. 5:19; Joel 2:28). The Holy Scripture prove the existence of God; it asserts, assumes and declares that the knowledge of God is universal. (Romans 1:19, 21, 28, 32; 2:15). God is invisible, incorporeal, without parts, without body, and therefore free from all limitations. The first of all the commandments is, hear, O Israel; the Lord our God is one Lord" (Mark 12:29; Deut. 6:4). "One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Eph. 4:6). This one true God manifested Himself in the Old Testament in divers ways; in the Son while He walked among men; as the Holy Spirit after the ascension.
3. **We Believe in Jesus Christ, the Jehovah of the Old Testament, took upon Himself the form of man, and as the Son of man in the New Testament, was Born of the Virgin Mary.** As Paul says "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" (1 Timothy 3:16). "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not" (John 1:11).

This one true God was manifest in the flesh, that is, in His Son Jesus Christ. ". . . God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them. . ." (2 Cor. 5:19).

4. **We Believe that in Jesus Christ Dwells all the Fullness of the Godhead Bodily.** "For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell" (Col. 1:19 & 2:9). Therefore, Jesus in His humanity was man; in His deity was and is God. His flesh was the lamb, or the sacrifice of God. He is the only mediator between God and man. "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5). Jesus on His Father's side was divine, on His mother's side, human; Thus, He was known as the Son of God and also the son of man, or the God-man. "For He hath put all things under His feet. But when He saith all things are put under Him, it is manifest that He is excepted, which did put all things under Him" (1 Cor. 15:27). "And when all things shall be subdued unto Him, then shall the Son also Himself be subject unto Him that put all things under Him, that God may be all in all" (1 Cor. 15:28). "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty" (Rev. 1:8).
5. **We Believe in the Name of Jesus.** God used different titles, such as "God Elohim", "El Shaddai", "Jehovah", and especially "Jehovah Lord", the redemptive name in the Old Testament. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: ... and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). This prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled when the Son of God was named, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His People from their sins" (Matt. 1:21). "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).
6. **We Believe in The Creation of Man and His Fall.** In the beginning God created man innocent, pure and holy; but through the sin of disobedience, Adam and Eve, the first of the human race, fell from their holy state, and God banished them from Eden. Hence by one man's disobedience, sin entered into the world. (Gen. 1:27; Rom. 3:23, 5:12).
7. **We Believe in Repentance and Conversion.** Pardon and forgiveness of sins is obtained by genuine repentance, a confessing and forsaking of sins. We are justified by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1). John the Baptist preached repentance, Jesus proclaimed it, and the Apostles emphasized it to both Jews and Gentiles. (Acts 2:38, 11:18, 17:30). The word "repentance" comes from several Greek words which mean, change of views and purpose, change of heart, change of mind, change of life, to transform, etc. Jesus said, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3).

Luke 24:47 says, "And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

8. **We Believe in Water Baptism by Immersion.** Water baptism is only for those who have fully repented, having turned from their sins and the love of the world (their old life). Baptism is in obedience to the Word of God after salvation, and in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to the Acts of the Apostles 2:38, 8:16, 10:48, 19:5; thus obeying and fulfilling Matthew 28:19 that says, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"
9. **We Believe in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.** John the Baptist, in Matthew 3:11, said, "...He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire." Jesus, in Acts 1:5, said, "...ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." Luke tells us in Acts 2:4, they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues (languages), as the Spirit gave them utterance." The terms "baptize with the Holy Ghost and fire," "filled with the Holy Spirit," and the "gift of the Holy Ghost" are synonymous terms used interchangeably in the Bible. It is scriptural to expect all who receive the gift, filling, or baptism of the Holy Spirit to receive the same physical, initial sign of speaking with other tongues. The speaking with other tongues, as recorded in Acts 2:4, 10:46, and 19:6, and the gift of tongues, as explained in 1 Corinthians, chapters 12 and 14, are the same in essence, but different in use and purpose. The Lord, through the Prophet Joel, said, I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; ..." (Joel 2:28). Peter, in explaining this phenomenal experience, said, having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, He (Jesus) hath shed forth this which ye now see and hear." (Acts 2:33). Further, "...The promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." (Acts 2:39).
10. **We Believe in the Gifts of the Spirit.** We believe that it is possible for Christians today to receive special gifts of the Spirit. In regard to the spiritual gifts as they are listed in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will." It is important to note especially verse 11 where we find that the Holy Spirit gives the gifts according to His own will.

He (the Holy Spirit) chooses who gets which gifts, and He dispenses them at His good pleasure. The Gifts of the Spirit are special abilities provided by the Holy Spirit to Christians for the purpose of building up the body of Christ. The list of spiritual gifts in I Cor. 12:8-10 includes wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, speaking in tongues, and interpretation of tongues. Similar lists appear in Eph. 4:7-13 and Rom. 12:3-8. The gifts of the Spirit are simply God enabling believers to do what He has called us to do. 2 Peter 1:3 says, "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness." The gifts of the Holy Spirit are part of the "everything we need" to fulfill His purposes for our lives.

Gifts of the Spirit - Simple Definitions

There is some controversy as to the precise nature of each of the gifts of the Spirit, but ICALM adheres to this simple list of spiritual gifts and their basic definitions:

- **The gift of wisdom** is the special ability to make wise decisions and to give others spiritual guidance and wise counsel according to the leading of the Spirit concerning God's perfect will for their lives.
- **The gift of knowledge** is the special ability to have an in-depth understanding from the Spirit of God concerning spiritual or natural issues that they or others are facing in any given circumstance or situation.
- **The gift of faith** is the special ability in the Spirit to trust God and encourage others in the Spirit to trust God, no matter what their circumstances, situation, or lot. A special ability to believe for the miraculous.
- **The gift of healing** is the special and miraculous ability in the Spirit to use God's healing power to restore a person who is sick, injured, diseased, or suffering.
- **The gift of miracles** is the special ability to work with the Holy Spirit to perform signs and wonders that give authenticity to God's Power, God's Word and the Gospel message.
- **The gift of prophecy** is the special ability to deliver and proclaim through the leading and empowering of the Spirit a direct personal message from God himself to an individual person, a city, a nation, or the world.
- **The gift of discerning spirits** is the special ability from the Holy Spirit to determine whether or not a message, a person, a spirit, or an event is truly from God or from a fleshly or demonic source in direct opposition to God's redemptive plan and purpose.

- **The gift of tongues** is the ability to speak in a divine heavenly language that you do not have knowledge of, in order to communicate corporately to the body of Christ prophetically. This is typically followed up by another who has been given a divine interpretation from the Spirit of such messages in tongues in a language that others will easily understand (like English) in order to hear the divine mystery of such a prophetic message.
- **The gift of interpreting tongues** is the special ability from the Spirit to translate the tongues speaking and prophetically communicate it back simply to others in an understandable language (like English).
- **The gift of administration** is the special ability in the Spirit to be able to keep things properly organized, managed, maintained, and one who is empowered to recognize and administer heavenly strategies in accordance with God's divine kingdom principles and purposes.
- **The gift of helps** is always having the desire and special ability in the Spirit to help and to serve others, to do whatever it takes to get a task accomplished.

The Holy Spirit distributes all these gifts in such a way that every believer has at least one gift which is uniquely his own. You may have been given a certain gift by God, but it would be a mistake for you to say everyone else should have that same gift. We must keep in mind that the spiritual gifts are given by the Holy Spirit and must not be considered unimportant. The use of them is to exalt the Lord and to equip and build up the body of believers. The possession of a spiritual gift is not to be thought of as making one believer more holy or more spiritually advanced than another. It is important to note that the apostle Paul admonishes that these gifts must be governed by love and that all things should "be done decently and in order" (1 Corinthians 14:40). A good test of any spiritual ministry or experience is whether or not it honors God and exalts the Lord Jesus Christ in all humility.

11. **We Believe in Divine Healing.** The first covenant that the Lord (Jehovah) made with the children of Israel after they were brought out of Egypt was a covenant of healing. The Lord said, ". . . if thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord (Jehovah-Rapha, the Lord that healeth) thy God, and wilt do that which is right in His sight, and wilt give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians; for I am the Lord that healeth thee." (Exodus 15:26). He (Jesus) being our physician or doctor, we have the most capable in the whole world. Our Lord Jesus Christ went about Galilee, preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and disease among the people. (Matthew 4:23, 24).

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). The vicarious suffering of the Lord Jesus Christ paid for the healing of our bodies, the same as for the salvation of our souls, for with His stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). Matthew 8:17 reads, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses" (See also I Peter 2:24). We see from this that divine healing for the body is in the atonement. That being true, then it is for all who believe. Jesus said of believers, ". . . they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." Later, James wrote in his Epistle to all the churches: "Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:14-16). All of these promises are for the church today.

12. **We Believe in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.** On the night of our Lord's betrayal, He ate the Passover supper with His Apostles, after which He instituted the sacrament. "And He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, this is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper saying, this cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you." (Luke 22:19-20). Paul instructed the church how to observe it (I Cor. 11:23-34). Thus was instituted the use of bread and the fruit of the vine, which are partaken of literally, as emblems (symbols) of His broken body and shed blood. There is spiritual significance and supernatural blessings that come to all believers who partake of this sacred and holy sacrament.
13. **We Believe in Holiness and Godly Living.** Godly living should characterize the life of every child of the Lord, and we should live according to the pattern and example given in the Word of God. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and Godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:11,12). "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps: who did no sin, neither was 'guile found in His mouth: who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed himself to Him that judgeth righteously" (1 Peter 2:21-23). "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Heb. 12:14). "But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, be ye holy; for I am holy.

14. **We Believe in The Grace of God.** "For the grace of God that brings salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and Godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:11,12). "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" (John 1:17). A Christian must walk with God and keep himself in the love of God (Jude 21) and in the grace of God. The word "grace" means "favor." When a person transgresses and sins against God, he loses his favor. If he continues to commit sin and does not repent, he will eventually be lost and cast into the lake of fire. (Read John 15:2, 6; 2 Peter 2:20-21). Jude speaks of the backsliders of his day, and their reward. (Also, read Hebrews 6:4-6). "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8).
15. **We Believe in the Literal Second Coming of Jesus Christ and the Eternal Kingdom of God.** The Second Coming is when Jesus Christ will return to earth in fulfillment of His promises and to fulfill the prophecies made about Him. Jesus Himself promised, "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory" (Matthew 24:30) . Revelation 19:11-12 proclaims this about the Second Coming, "I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself." Those who witnessed Christ's ascension into heaven after his death and resurrection heard the angels declare in Acts 1:11, "Men of Galilee...why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." The Second Coming is the literal return of Jesus Christ to earth as King of Kings and Lord of Lords reigning in power and glory to rule for a thousand years (Revelation 20:1-6). The Second Coming of Christ is when He (Jesus Christ) will fulfill all the Old Testament and New Testament prophecies about the Messiah's second coming. Christ's first coming was to stand in our place and receive the penalty exacted for sin. His Second Coming will defeat sin for all eternity. The Second Coming is undisputed. The Second Coming is the event when Jesus Christ returns to the earth to defeat evil and establish His reign of justice and peace.
16. **We Believe in the Prophesied Restitution of All Things.** We understand the scripture to teach the restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. The apostle Peter spoke of the coming "times of restoration of all things" (Acts 3:21). The word restoration implies "a return ... to a former, original, normal, or unimpaired condition, or the restitution of something taken away or lost." Just what is this prediction about?

Peter was speaking of a future time when things would be restored to their original state. The apostle explained that God had spoken this prophecy “by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began” and that Jesus would remain in heaven until it was time for this event to unfold. Christ’s return and the times of restoration are thus linked together, and many Bible passages point to these events happening in various stages, right here on earth. Numerous Bible verses describe the coming Day of The Lord as a prerequisite to the first phase of the “restoration of all things.” God warns that a dreadful time of punishment will come upon the inhabitants of the earth because of disobedience to God’s laws (Isaiah 13:11; Malachi 4:1-3; Joel 2:11; Revelation 6:15-17). This short, agonizing period will climax with Christ’s return to earth in great glory, to be witnessed by the whole earth (Matthew 24:29-30). Then, as people humble themselves and repent of their sins, an era of global peace will begin. As God told the ancient Israelites, “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon” (Isaiah 55:7). Once Christ returns and establishes His Kingdom on earth, the times of restoration can begin. The Bible often uses terms like “in those days” and “in those days, and at that time” to introduce explanations of what will occur during the reign of Christ on earth for 1,000 years and beyond (Joel 2:29; 3:1; Jeremiah 33:15). The “restoration of all things” includes changes to the earth, the way it is governed and the relationship God will have with humanity. Regarding this last change, God desires to have a close relationship with all humans similar to what He had with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden before they sinned. Describing this wonderful event, Paul wrote, “For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the [entire physical] creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption [decay and destruction] into the glorious liberty of the children of God” (Romans 8:19-22). In addition to the saints of this first resurrection being changed to spirit to meet Jesus Christ at His return (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17) and rule with Him for a thousand years (Revelation 20:6), Satan’s kingdom will be banished! The ruler of the world will be “cast out” of his position and “bound for a thousand years” (John 12:31; Revelation 20:1-3). Christ will then begin ruling over the whole earth with justice and fairness (Psalm 98:9; Isaiah 11:3-5; Revelation 11:15). One of the key components of restoration during the thousand-year reign of Christ on earth (a period of time also called the Millennium) will be a massive rehabilitation of the land and its cities. Once the sins of Israel are forgiven, God will cause this nation’s land to be restored to beauty like the Garden of Eden. “On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will also enable you to dwell in the cities, and the ruins shall be rebuilt. ... So they will say, ‘This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited’” (Ezekiel 36:33, 35).