Tree of Life Farms

Articles of Faith and Practice

Introduction

When the church is in a state of weakness, as it has been for the last several decades in America, we believe that our emphatic statements of "what we believe," in the reformation spirit of Martin Luther and his notorious posting the 95th Thesis, the Lord's people should focus on the areas where we are most out of step with the revelation of the divinely inspired and written Word of God. To hear expressly what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

When we uncover the ancient truth, and preach the truth unashamedly to our world, eternal blessings flow to all men. So that when God's heralds are heeded, proper corrections are made to society and the Body of Christ to line mankind up with His Revealed Will. These articles of faith are not written by a bible scholar, but flow out of a struggle to reconcile the separation that exists in Christ's body. Hopefully we will corporately discover God's design for His Redeemed community of sons and daughters of the Living God. To present to our world a community based on agape love, which is tangibly felt in our midst, animated by the presence of Christ, revealing a natural and beautiful response to such a great work of Grace.

We must apply the Word of God to our real problems individually and corporately and this work requires personal experience in the walk of faith with Our God and through diligent study in the words of God. My church experiences have been framed by attending a diverse array of churches over my adult life. They range from strong Bible teaching churches to independent charismatic assemblies full of joy and intense emotion. Through all these experiences I have labored to test my experiences against an honest scriptural backdrop of the things I have observed in the local church and in Christendom.

I believe that the Lord will turn His People back to Himself before His victorious return. He died to present to the Father a holy Bride without spot or wrinkle. If with these emphatic statements, I have spoken correctly, then we gather together in this common cause. Our destiny is found exclusively in the heavens, where we will together enjoy the awesomeness of the great wedding feast of the Lamb (Jn.17:21; Eph.5:27: Col.1:10).

The work of revival is at the heart of these statements of faith, without repentance of our personal and corporate sins there will be no true work of revival in the land we call home. Without the blessing of the Holy Spirit upon our efforts, we carry the message of the Great Commission in weakness and with no real power. In this work we must know, without a doubt, that we are laboring for Christ's will and not our own. Should we accomplish this grand work here our idolatrous America, a land full of cowboys and mavericks, we will have invested to the highest order upon a good cause, and should the Lord tarry, we will rest our souls in His Arms in great peace and leave a beautiful legacy for the rising generations to follow.

In obedience to the great commission, and in the similitude of our first century forefathers, we carry His message to the ends of the known world (Mt.28:18-20). So also, in the manner of the first century apostles, we carry this ministry of reconciliation forward aggressively and publicly to bring lost men and women back to the Savior of their souls. I hope with all my heart that these words will bring repair to the breeches in the walls that surround the city of His redeemed community. These words lay the groundwork for the churches we seek to bless in our America. After meditating on these words, please feel free to share your thoughtful opinion by

emailing me, Jonathan Keener, at treeoflifedairyfarms@gmail.com. You may review our work to reach our world by going to our ministry website at www.impactourcity.com and land vision website treeoflifefarms.org

Our Teaching and Doctrinal Statements

- **Inerrancy of Scripture.** We believe the Bible, written in its original languages and cultural settings, to be the inspired, entirely accurate, infallible, complete, sufficient, and authoritative Word of God. As such, its truths govern all the affairs of this life and the eternal state for the believer, unbeliever, church, and any society. The Bible is relative to all subjects of language, physiology, science, cosmology, math, history, culture, and social order (Acts 17:23-29). The Word of God transcends all such powers found in heaven and in hell for all eternity (Mt.5:18; 1Pet1:25). We believe that The Word of God was written without contradiction by 40 different writers who wrote in the original languages of Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic which spanned a timeframe of 1500 years. We accept and receive the sacred writings as canonized by the early church fathers. The Word of God is the highest level of authority for life and practice in the "ekklesia" of Living God (2Tim.3:16), any other written material, philosophical reasoning, scientific theory, confession of faith, papal edict, religious tradition, legal contract, or governmental decision is but secondary in nature (1Pet.1:23 -25; Heb. 4:12). The Bible is the inspired word of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work (2Tim.3:15-17).

  ● **Literal 6-day Creation.** We believe God existed in eternity before time began. We believe that all things made are under His Throne and that UP and DOWN were established "in the beginning God" when God initiated time and created things, nothing has changed since then regarding the order of time and of the location of Heaven or the earth and all that is UNDER the earth. Just as Adam was created on a specific day and placed in the Garden of Eden which had real coordinates just as God's Throne. Gen 1 - 2; Ex 20:11; Ps 110:1; Prov. 25:3; Ps 57:5,11; Ps 97:9

  ● **Fixed Earth & Fixed Heaven.** We believe the earth is fixed and stationary. We believe that His Throne is currently occupied by the glorified body of the Godman who is, who was born a human being without losing any essence of the Divine nature (God Himself), and who is to come and that His Throne is established in a fixed location above the earth. We believe His Throne is fixed at the highest point of Heaven. We believe Yahshua will return from His Highly Exalted Throne which is located directly above the earth. (Ps 2) We reject the modern scientific theory of heliocentrism. Simply due to the literal rendering of Genesis 1&2. That the sun and moon were made on the 4th day of creation and are located within the firmament (Gen 1:6-19). The firmament is a hardened fixed piece of God's creation and was molded and fashioned by the Hands of the Creator on Day 2 of Creator which is designed to hold up the waters above from the waters below (Gen.1:20; Ps 19:1; Eze. 1:21-26; Dan. 12:3). We believe that the stars are luminaries, not planets to be explored by man nor are they representative of galaxies millions or billions of light years away. Gen 1:1-19; Job 38: 4.5; Jer 31:37; Prov 25:3; Ps 93:1; Ps 96:10; Ps 104:5; Joshua 10:12; ! Ch. 16:30; Ecc 1:5; Is 38:8; Ps 75:3; Is 66:1; Mt 5:35; 2 Sam 22:16; plus many more. The entire narrative of our scriptures plus the books of Enoch, Jasher, and Jubilees establish the reality of a near Heaven and a fixed and established earth. The Day of the Lord will reveal His Throne and will establish His real Throne on the earth in Jerusalem for 1000 years. Every eye will see Him when He returns. We anxiously await that day and we hasten that Day by evangelizing the earth and the nations.

- **Historical Supernatural Events**. We believe all the historical accounts written in the Word of God (Logos) of the supernatural including: the creation account in which all things were made by God in six literal days including a fixed Heavenly Throne located in a literal heaven (above the firmament) and a fixed earth set on foundations upon the waters of the great deep, Noah's worldwide flood, Moses declaration and presentation of the ten plagues and the parting of the Red Sea to set Israel free from the bondage of Egypt, Joshua's stilling of the sun, and all supernatural prophecies of future events found particularly in Isaiah 53 and Daniel 11. Not without exception the four synoptic accounts of the life and teachings of Messiah by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, His eyewitnesses. Most emphatically we believe the four eyewitness accounts of His earthly and bodily resurrection (Mt.27:52; 28:6; Mk.16:6; Lk.23:55; 24:3; Jn.20:1-8).

  Cultural Application of Scripture. We do not hold to the modern day teaching that the writings of the apostles were bound to the culture of their day but that their teaching on leadership in the church of Christ (1Cr.11:3; 14:34; Tim.3:1; Tit.1:6; 1Pet.5:1), work and operation of the Holy Spirit in the early church, marriage, and one's sexual orientation (Mt.19:3-5; Mk.10:7; Acts.19:7; Rom.1:26-28; I Cr.6:9; 7:3; 1Tim.1:10; Heb.13:4; Rev.22:15) to these inspired words all men are eternally bound to God's righteous judgment as set forth in creation and His revealed will, the Holy Bible.

  Words of Prophetic Revelation. We hold that words of the Lord (rama) spoken today by men and women who operate in a prophetic capacity, that these words from the Spirit of God are needful and are intended to edify the body of Christ (Acts.19:6; Rom.12:6; 1Cr.12:10; 13:2; 1Tim.4:14; 2Pet.1:20,21; Rev.1:3; 11:6; **19:10;** 22:7,10,18,19) as well promote the kingdom of Christ. We believe that prophecy includes preaching the Word of God but also includes directional words, words of knowledge and wisdom, divine strategies, warnings of future events, specific words of comfort from the Lord that are most beneficial to the redeemed church of Jesus Christ. These words also bear much value to society (Prophetic Books from Psalms – Revelation). We set forth the New Testament teachings of the apostles (Eph 2:20, Rom 12:6, I Cr.12:10, Acts 20:9-12) that prophecies must not be despised (1Thess5:19) but to be received on the merit of their public witness, tested by prayerful meditation (1Jn.4:1) and ideally verified by two or three witnesses. We believe that prophetic utterances and directive words from the Holy Spirit are a necessary part of the expansion of the kingdom of Christ (Acts.16:9-10; 18:2) and woven into Divine Providence. These words can break demonic strongholds in the lives of sinners and the dark principalities that hinder the work of Christ and control cities, regions, territories and nations. By the pulling down of strongholds (2Cr.10:4; Eph.6:12), we break the demonic strongholds in the life of His people (cast out demonic spirits) and in places where Christ sends His servants to spread His good news of salvation (Acts.19:5-8). We receive joyfully words of encouragement, edification, and exhortation that build up the body of Christ especially in times of uncertainty (I Cr 14:1-6; I Thess.5:20,21).

Doctrine of God

- **The Nature of God.** This topic is the most intimidating of all to present. Instead trying to explain God through typical words of explanation I have decided to just list out few adjectives that the Word of God and experience have revealed about the nature of our God: Spirit, Supreme, Authoritative, Mysterious, Absolute, Atoning, Eternal, Transcendent, All Powerful, All Knowing, Infinite, Self-Existent, Incomparable, Boundless, All Loving, Merciful, Kind, Wonderful, Just, Pure, Living, Creative, Truthful,

Unequaled, Reliable, Brilliant, Intelligent, Omnipresent, Harmonious, Complete, Satisfied, Graceful, Wise, Compassionate, Righteous, Holy, Strong, The Source, Fountain of Living Waters, Peace, Mighty, Perfect, High, Relational, Sensitive, Jealous, Lover, Warring, Timely, Inventive, Beautiful, Majestic, Glorious, Understanding, Infallible, Light, Marvelous, Personal, Wrathful, Supreme, Scientific, Timeless, All Originality, Limitless, Communicative, Endless, Royal, Immense, Overflowing, Loving-kindness, Strategic, Serving, Humble, Lofty, Ubiquitous, Hotly Pure, Fatherly, Motherly, History-Maker, Unequivocal, Diligent, Determined, Total, Awesome, Colorful, Spectacular, Fierce, Unflinching, Emotional, Fiery, Intense, Passionate, Romantic, True, Clear, Patient, Incredible, Distinct, Undefiled, Longsuffering, Joyful, Gentle, Unified, Caring, Intimate, Imminent, Discerning, Scrupulous, Careful, Covenant-keeping, Invariable, Amazing, Irresistible, Unstoppable, Invisible, Infinitely Dimensional, Knowledgeable, Unavoidable, Studious, Perilously High, Uncontainable, Unfathomable, Indescribable, Diverse, Perceptive, Perspicacious, Comprehensive, and on and on and on we could go seeking words to describe (Gen1:1 – Rev.22:21) our indefinable God. The entire creation and the holy writings merely touch the edges of His ways, so we rest ourselves at His feet. God is the beginning of all knowing, we have to take the intelligence and emotion He built in us at creation to attempt to describe Him and His manner. Therefore God cannot be described by our language or is the knowledge of God limited by any human language, in addition to spiritual languages, all terrestrial and heavenly languages, and all that is beyond language or utterance, yes, God is beyond all efforts to describe Him completely and uniformly one and at the same time, and even beyond us, yet our God desires to communicate with us every second of our lives…Amazing!!

One True God. God the Father, God the Spirit, and God the Son, were and are totally satisfied in their distinctness and unified purely and wholly in their eternal existence. Creation of the universe, earth, and firmament did not add any virtue to God's self-existence. We must learn of Him, who is this God that created me (Ps.19, 104,139)? So we see Him in the revelation of Jesus Christ, He is God to us. Jesus of Nazareth represented the fullness of God our Father to us (Mt.3:17; 17:5; Jn.14:10) His Character (Person), His Words, His Eternal Nature. We believe God is composed of three separate and distinct personalities which have been revealed to us in the scriptures; The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit function as one Eternal being yet are perfectly distinct in operation and essence (Mt.3:15-17; 1Jn.5:7,8). Our deliverer, Jesus Christ, God manifested in the flesh, (Jn.8:56-58) as the heavenly-anointed Christ, is the second part of God's Essence, co-equal and co-eternal with The Father and The Holy Spirit.

The Doctrine of Jesus Christ

- **The Doctrine of Jesus Christ.** We believe in every way that Jesus Christ is God in the flesh (Col.2:9; 1Tim.3:16; 1Jn.4:3) as such a sinner is saved by agreeing with the heavenly witness (1Jn.4:2). We believe as God He was without beginning (Jn1:1,2), preexistent with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. We believe in the virgin birth, His miraculous conception of the Holy Spirit (Is.7:14; Mt.1:18), His sinless and perfect life (2Cr.5:18-20), His perfect law keeping of the ceremonial, civil, moral law of God (Col.2, His substitutionary High Priestly death, and His powerful bodily resurrection. In His death, Jesus was in every way illustrated and fulfilled all requirements of an unblemished Passover Lamb of God (Gen.22:14; Jn.1:27; 1Pet.1:19) and as our Great High Priest once and for all offered a complete and perfect sacerdotal offering (Heb.9:11,28; 1Pet.2:24). We do not tolerate any teaching that in anyway reduces the supernatural Three in One illustrated in person of Jesus Christ. The name Jesus (Man born of woman) and Christ (Heaven's anointed Son) reveals His nature as completely God and

completely man without the mingling of the two natures otherwise known as the hypostatic union. So in every way Jesus of Nazareth meets all Messianic requirements (Gen.3:15; Gen.22:14; Ex.12:21; Is.7:14;.9:6,7; 53, Ps.2, 22, 45,109,110;) set forth in the Law of Moses and the prophets. *The aforementioned verses are just a sampling of messianic references of which are hundreds found in sacred books of the old and new testament.*

The Angel of The Lord. References to The angel of the Lord or evidence of supernatural appearances of the will of the Lord of Heaven God in human form or otherwise. Occurring before the time of Christ's Incarnation prove and illustrate the reality of a preexistent Christ who was eternally with God and was of God and in God (Gen 16:10; Ex.3:2; Jud.6:12; 13:16; Dan.10:5-13; Zech.12:8; Jn 1:1-3; Heb 1:1-3) these are but a few references to the correlation of the Angel of the Lord and work of Jesus Christ as Prophet, Priest, and King.

● **The Kingly Return of Jesus Christ.** The Lord Jesus Christ taught us while He was here on earth to pray for His return (Rev.22) to gather His People (The bride of Christ) for the marriage supper of the Lamb. The marriage supper of the Lamb occurs on this earth. Christ urged all to be ready and watchful (Mt.24:44; Lk.12:40), to prepare the earth for His certain, mighty, and victorious return. In light of His return, we should always be about His business of spreading the good news of His Earthly Return when He will come down to set up his Eternal Kingdom on Earth in a remade Jerusalem, the city of Zion. We believe that when we take the Great Commission Message to the ends of the earth and to every tribe and tongue on the earth, the End will Come. The Final moment happens when The King, Jesus Christ, breaks through the firmament on His White Horse after the Abomination of Desolation occurs in Jerusalem on His Holy Mountain. At this time His Heavenly army will come with Him to conquer all His enemies still alive on the earth including those under the Earth, Ps 110 .

When man of sin (perdition) (1Th.2:3) sits in the seat of the holy of holies located in the rebuilt third temple on the Temple mount in Jerusalem. Leading up to this fateful moment the entire world will be deceived and many will take the mark of the Beast. At the same time, the saints of the Most High, those who have laid their lives down, will warn as many as possible to not take the mark and give their life to Jesus Christ. (Dan.12:7-12; 2 Thess.2, Rev.20:1-3). Those who take the mark of the beast will be permanently deceived and under judgment, those who resist Him, the beast will persecute and kill (Dan.12:10; Rev.19:6) these who are martyred and will reign of the Lamb on earth in a special way (Is.65:24; Amos.9:15; Zech.14:11-21; Rev.20:4). We believe that the seventh Trumpet sound mentioned in Revelation fourteen will be in the singular event that will usher in the King of Kings our time and space the final moment in our time, then He will reign with His People from Jerusalem after they are brought before the Bema Seat of His Scrutiny to factor the rewards they will receive for the work on the earth All this takes place after a Great tribulation, some call, "the time of Jacob's trouble" (Jer.30:7; Dan.12:1; Zep.1:18), a third of those dwelling in Israel at the time of the refining will survive and be protected by Jesus in heaven in Bozrah, these are those who cry out to their Jewish Messiah in Heaven whom their ancestors crucified. This act of crying out will be the culmination of the promise of Restoration of the twelve tribes of Israel. (Zech.12:10; Jn.19:37) they will look on Him as their Messiah collectively as the true fulfillment of all the promises made of literal Israel at the time of the dedication of the Temple of Solomon.. Upon the cry of, "Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord," (Mt.21:9; Mk.11:9) He will come to deliverer Zion and destroy all of Israel's enemies with His Sword bathed in blood (Zech.14:2; Joe.3:2,12). Christ's final act of judgment, otherwise known as, "the second death" (Rev.20:14), a great white throne of judgment is set before all of mankind and the angels

of God (Mt.25:31-34) where all those who rejected Messiah and His Lordship (Zech.14:12-19) and His People (Mt.10:42), will be sent to the Lake of Fire and suffer the second death with Satan and His kingdom forever and forever.

Your Personal Walk with Christ

- **Salvation in Christ alone.** Every man is born in sin, (Ps.51:5; Rom.5:6-8) under the law, dead in trespasses and sin (Eph.2:1). Those that came before the law of Moses are also condemned by the law of their conscience and the light of nature (Rom.1:18-22;2:14; I Pet.3:20). The sinner is justified in the righteous court of heaven by faith and faith alone. (Rom.1:17; Gal.2:16;3:11; Heb.10:38). Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb.11:6; James 2:16-21) and rewards those that diligently seek Him. Salvation is by grace and grace alone not of works lest any should boast (Eph.2:8). Salvation from our spiritual death is entirely the work of the entire Three in One by sovereign election and calling, (Rom8:28-30; Eph.1:4,5) justification, regeneration, and glorification to the praise of His grace (Eph.1:6). Salvation by Grace means that no work of our hands can make us right in the court of heaven such as: Being a good person, law keeping, church sacraments, prayers and fasting, abstaining from food and drink, our talents, our family legacy, spiritual gifts and knowledge, title, our traditions etc, (Rom.6:23; Gal.3:13; Col.2:14-23; Heb.9:9,10). As new creatures in Christ (2Cr.5:17: Gal.2:20) we serve Him with a life of gratitude as coheirs with Him (Gal.3:29) being justified freely by His grace (Rom.3:24).

- **The Christian Life**. Our life in Christ is initiated by a pneumatic and powerful surgical operation where the Living God makes a heart transplant and turns the sinner's dead and stony heart into a vibrant living heart that beats eternally in and for Christ, the Head of the Body. The sinner at that moment is translated from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of His marvelous light. The Father draws the sinner (Jn.6:44) as Christ is set before a sinner as the perfect remedy for their personal sin, at that point that sinner is legally accepted into the Kingdom of God (Heb.8:10-12). The next step for the saved individual is to enter the waters of baptism immersed by the preacher or a disciple of Jesus. Thirdly there is an impartation of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands by those who have been filled with the Holy Spirit.

  The response of the redeemed sinner to this incredible salvation is of childlike obedience (Mt.18:3; 2 Pet.3:18) to His revealed will (the sacred writings and words of direction from the Spirit). Happiness (Blessedness) in the Christian life is best served by a life of sacred devotion. Means of Grace such as, diligent study of the Word (2Tim.2:15), meditation on the truth (Ps.119:10), prayer (Mt.21:22), godly living (1Tim.6:6), disciplined lifestyle (ICr.9:27), fasting (Mt.17:21), working with your hands (1Thess.4:11), exercising one's spiritual gifts (Rom.12:7; 1Cr.14:1), and sharing the gospel (1Pet.3:15) will bless the born again believer in this life and the life to come. Those who have been born from above (ICr.5:17; Rom.6:6-8) and delivered from death are to live a life of gratitude and thankfulness (Eph.5:20; 1Tim2:1). The fear of the Lord (living before His eye) established in our hearts (Dt.31:12; 2Kgs.17:39; Ps.19:9; Prov.1:7; Mt.10:28) blesses us and drives us to live a humble and blameless life (Gen.17:1; 2 Sam.22:26; Tit.3:8). Trials and tribulations are designed to make us holy as our heavenly Father is holy (Jam.1:2-12; 1Pet.1:17). Walking in the Spirit allows to inherit unique and special blessings

when we enter the kingdom of heaven (Mt.10:38,39;16:24-27; 2Cor.5:9,10). All those who are being saved will persevere to the end and receive their reward (Jn.17:2; Phil.1:6; Eph.2:10).

- **Salvation by Faith.** Man's salvation is not by works of the flesh, it is a gift from God, lest any should boast (Is.64:6; Rom.4:6; Eph.2:8). We are dead to God in every part of our existence (Eph.2:1). We believe that salvation is exclusively by faith through grace in Jesus Christ alone: Not by works, rituals, traditions, sacraments, church membership, the keeping of the commandments, or any penitent act. We believe that salvation is achieved according to scripture by *"confessing with our mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord and believing in our hearts that God has raised Him from the dead."* (Prov.28:13; Rom.10:9). We believe that only those who have received Jesus into their hearts have obtained eternal salvation (Ps 34:19; Acts 2:41; 2Cr.4:16-18; Jam.1:1-12) .

- **The Work of Sanctification.** There exists a tension between this flesh and the spirit to either obey the lust of the flesh or heed the voice of the Spirit (Rom.7:6, 25; 8:1-14; Gal 5:16-25). Through the confession of sin (1Jn.1:9), the Christian must mortify the deeds of the flesh (Rom8:13; Jm4:4) in order to qualify as a son of God (Rom.8:14; 1Thess.5:5; Heb.12:7; I Jn.2:13,14). Christ supplies all that is necessary to achieve victory over every foe (Mt.6:13; Lk.11:4; Eph.6:10-15; 1Pet5:9; Jam.4:7) to destroy the works of the flesh, the world, and attacks from the evil one. The scriptures clearly teach that a holy Spirit-filled Christ centered life is an essential component of being "born again" (I.Pet1:15-17; Heb.12:14). This view stands in contradiction to the carnal Christian heresy prevalent in the modern day church. This progressive work of Christ in the heart of the believer is completely wrought of grace and supervised by the Father through ministry of the Holy Spirit (Phil. 2:12,13; I Pet.2:5; Eph.4:24).

- **Role of the Holy Spirit in Sanctification.** Without the operation of the Holy Spirit there is no salvation (Jn.3:5-8; Eph. 2:8-10; 1Jn.4:13-16). The primary work of the Holy Spirit is to convict of sin, righteousness, and judgment to come (Jn.16:8). The Holy Spirit operating in our hearts is the means of being saved and assists those who know us (Tit.2:5; 1Thess.5:23; 1Pet.3:15) to see Jesus in our lives. The sanctifying work of Holy Spirit conforms us to the image of Christ (Gal 5:18) from the day we are quickened to new life in Him til we are brought to glory. What some call Progressive Sanctification (2Cr.3:18; 7:1; Heb.14:14) or the "Abiding in Christ" taught in John 15 is a nonnegotiable part of the new birth and absolutely necessary for those who are being saved.

- **The Second Work of Grace** can be understood from the teaching of John the Baptist, Jesus, Peter, and Paul (Mt.1:27; Lk. 3:16). The eleven disciples received the Holy Spirit twice, once in the period of time of Christ's pre-ascension (Jn.20:22), and after His ascension when He poured out His Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4). This work is further illustrated in the book of Acts in Paul's conversion, Cornelius and his house, and Paul's example of laying his hands on the disciples at Ephesus (Acts 9:17; 19:1-7) who were filled with the Spirit (12 disciples in Asia Minor) received the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim (preach) Jesus. This work of the baptism of the Holy Spirit will bring forth utterances from the heart (Jn.7:38) and testimonies of praise and prophecies that magnify God. A work that yields a life that is surrendered to the cause of Christ on the earth (Eph.3:21). ***This is my personal account and witness, any questioning of this teaching is completely expected and not worthy of hair splitting and division in the body of Christ! Boldness in witnessing for Christ is a clear byproduct of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.***

- **Gifts of the Holy Spirit.** Every true son or daughter of God will have gifts derived from the Spirit of God to be used in the work of expanding the kingdom of Christ. The teaching of scripture is that there

are diversities of gifts, ministries, and callings all functioning in the one same body of Christ (Rom.12:3-8; 1Cr.12:1-12). The believer must be in the context of the body of Christ on a regular basis (Heb.10:25) in order for his or her gifts to manifest and to yield spiritual fruit (Mk.4:20; Lk.3:9; 8:15; Jn.15:2-16; Rom.7:4). These gifts differ in nature from the work of healing within the context of the local assembly (Jam.5:15) where confession of sin, application of oil, and prayer of church eldership releases the Lord's blessing and healing.

- **Apostolic Work.** We believe a unique work of grace empowers those called and prepared and equipped to spread the fame of His Name and increase His kingdom (Ex. 3:2; I Sam 16:13; Acts 9:15-22) on earth. The word apostle means "sent one" so there is a heavenly call for a person called to do something unique and powerful in the Kingdom of Christ. These men and women are builders of the true church of Christ. Examples in Church History would be: Ignatius, Clement of Rome, Polycarp, Martin Luther, Jonathan Edwards, Hudson Taylor, Charles Spurgeon, Charles Finney, John & Charles Wesley, D.L. Moody, John G Lake, Smith Wigglesworth, and many other modern day men and women whose work is carried out in many nations outside of the USA. These diverse array of men and women mobilize the extension of the Gospel to the nations and through their work local assemblies and training schools were established in the places where their voices were heard and their writings were recorded for our benefit. Their work of evangelism and discipleship is similar to those who were eyewitnesses of Christ's resurrection. These believed that culture and language barriers are not cause for division, a spiritual picture of an organized holy catholic church made up of a worldwide consortium of sister churches sharing one apostolic tradition bringing unity and order back to the Church of Jesus Christ.

  Without the execution of a fresh work of the Holy Spirit supplying grace to expand His Kingdom in each generation of humanity since the Day Christ Jesus ascended into His heavenly glory, His final words to His disciples was to wait for the Promise of the Holy Spirit, without which there would be no heavenly expansion of the Kingdom of God. So each succeeding generation must have Spirit-wrought apostles to perform apostolic work to gather in the sheep that were foreordained to be sons and daughters of the Most High God. Evangelists, Prophets, Pastors, and Teachers are equipped and sent to support apostalic work, without which there would be no lasting unity or perfection of the Body of Christ that ushers in the Day of Jesus Christ. These apostolic men and women are oftentimes scorned and rejected by the generation. Scorned by men but bless our world by fulfilling the Pauline model set before us in his epistles and church history.

Ecclesiastical Tenets

- **What is the Church.** Christ said that where two or three are gathered in My Name there I am in the midst. Where just two or three born again believers are gathered, whether in a house (Rom.16:5), street corner, park, or a building, Christ is in the midst if they are gathered in His Name. We gather under duly recognized pastoral authority, we come full of faith expecting to meet with Christ and His people. In accordance with His Word we gather to: give thanksgiving (Eph.5:20), speak words of encouragement (Col.3:16; ICr.14:1-5), greet the brotherhood (1Thess5:26; Rom16), worship our God (Acts.24:11 1Cr.14:25; Phil.3:3), minister to each other with songs (Col.3:16; Eph.5:19), pray (Col.2:1-8), preaching (Acts.13:42; Col.1:28), prayers of healing (Mt.12:13; Jn.5:13; Jam5:18), reading and teaching the Word of God (Mk.1:21; Lk.4:16; Rom.10:15; 2Tim.4:2), sharing of missionary work (Acts14:27), send future leaders (Acts 14:23), deliverance from demonic spirits (Mt.10:1; Mk.1:27), alms giving (2Cr.9:5-7; Phil.4:15), mutual exhortation (Heb.3:13), confession of sin (Jam.5:14-16), deal with matters of church

order (Acts.15:20), to perform church discipline (Mt.18; 1Cor.5:4), fellowship (Acts2:42; 2Cr.8:4-6) share our goods (Acts.4:32; 2Cr.8:14), observe the sacraments (Acts.2:42; ICr.11:26). This list is not exhaustive but gives some clarity of the function of the gathering of the Body of Christ.

- **The Purpose of Ekklesia.** Foundational to all tenets regarding the holy Gathering of the Ekklesia Christ is that we bring glory to Him and preserve His Truth (Eph.3:21; 1Tim.3:15). The Ekklesia of Christ is commissioned to spread the fame of Christ through the preaching of His Resurrection (Acts 1:21-22; 4:23) by sending laborers into His field (Mt.9:38; Lk.10:2). The Ekklesia of Christ is founded upon the chief cornerstone of Jesus Christ (Ps.118:2; Mt. 21:42; Acts 4:11; 2 Pet.2:6-7). We are commissioned to extend the work of Christ by going, preaching, teaching, and living out sanctified lives before all men. Exercising His Authority on the earth (Mt. 22:9; 28:18-20; Heb.13:13). We are called to be a family, loving, accepting, and honest with each other (Prov.17:9; 1Jn.2:9). Finally, the work of discipleship must be the ongoing work of all who are members (Rom.12:4,5; 1Cr.6:15; 12:12-22) of the body of Christ (Mt.28:19; Eph.4:10-15). The work of binding and loosing is the work of any assembly where two or three are gathered together in agreement. The power of the Ekklesia is founded in heaven.

- **The Message of Ekklesia.** As the Chief Cornerstone of His temple, the ekklesia, we submit to Christ's authority as the chief architect of the message of His Church (Mt.28:18; Rom.1:18; 1Cr.1:18). We preach the gospel to every creature, upon their conversion; we baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. By taking the bread and the wine we proclaim the righteousness of God until His Return. Him we preach warning every man (Gal.1:8; Col.1:28) to be reconciled to God through Him (2 Cr.5:18; Eph.2:16; Col.1:20). That knowing Him is eternal life (Jn.17:3) and the secret of abundant life (Jn.10:10). We

- **Worship in Ekklesia.** Worship naturally flows from a redeemed heart in the context of their culture and their personality. The community of faith shall worship reverently, soberly, joyfully, enthusiastically the incredible salvation offered to those of us in Christ. All of creation worships Him, so we, with them offer back a response of thanksgiving and gratitude unrelated to our current feelings or circumstances. Worship must include preparation, adoration of His Person and fellowship in the Spirit of God, celebration of the sacraments, laying on of hands, healings, confessions, prayer for all men and governments, singing of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, words of encouragement, demonic deliverance through Christ, preaching and prophecies, these activities and much more shall be offered regularly through the mediation of Christ's blood. Styles of worship are not as important as content of worship that must be offered up from the heart of the redeemed (read the Psalms, Acts, Pauline epistles, etc) for the great deliverance wrought by God the Father through Christ and blessed by His Spirit.

- **The Government of Ekklesia.** The Holy Spirit is Chief Administrator of the Ekklesia (Jn.16:13-15; Acts 13:2-4) not: Roman Catholic pope, denominational authoritarians, apostolic leaders, pastors and / or teachers, or any other manmade structure built from human models in government or corporate enterprise. The entire church of Christ within a region is to recognize those men and women that the Holy Spirit is raising up to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, bishops, elders, and deacons in that region (Phil.2:4). A plurality of eldership and government should be sought. Women minister primarily to the women of the church, though they may fully operate in the gifts of the Spirit, their role is one of subjection to male leadership within the context of the local church. The preserved writings and teachings of men and women can and will influence all of mankind and the culture in which they are located.

- **The Qualifications of the Leaders in Ekklesia.** Qualifications are listed in Titus 1:5-9 and I Timothy 3:1-13. Christ Himself through the Spirit of God gives functioning offices of the Body of Christ as listed in Eph. 4:8. They have been established by Christ to equip His Bride and immobilize the work of His kingdom (Acts 5:3, 13:2, 20:23, Rev.1:10) The functioning of the five-fold ministry in the local church is primarily intended to build up the body of Christ for the work of ministry. The interrelation of apostolic, prophetic, evangelistic, pastoral, and didactic function within Christ's body is necessary for the health and effective and healthy growth of His Ekklesia (Eph. 2:20). Since so few churches are seeking Christ's model of leadership in His Ekklesia we are currently in a state of rebellion to His Word. We believe that the prophetic and apostolic offices are needed to bring His Ekklesia back to conformity to His will. Our view is once all five functions operate together in complementary fashion within the body that the extension of Christ's kingdom will meet with much authority and power. The work will magnify Christ's authority and those being saved will be brought into spiritual health and vitality much more efficiently than what we observe in the current church model (Eph. 2:20; 4:1-15; I Cr.11:1-16; 12:6-10; 14:40; Rom 12).

- **The sacraments of the Ekklesia.** To be administered by those called by Christ to preach the gospel of the kingdom (Mt 28:19). The "sent" or "going" herald of the good news is one who baptizes. Not exclusively but primarily a function of the evangelistic and pastoral office who are men who have preached a saving message to the unbeliever, under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, the truth of the gospel, leading to a personal yet public confession of faith in Christ's righteousness for salvation. Baptism and celebration of the Lord's Supper are acts of obedience for every believer and increase the sense of life and health in the soul of man and animate their confession (I Cr 11:26). Ordination of those "sent" by the church to extend the kingdom is best accomplished when established and proven servants of Christ apply their hands to the head of the "sent ones" to bless and cover the minster and the ministry of the one being sent (Acts 8:18;1Tim.4:14; 2Tim1:5).

- **Covenant Marriages.** In light of the epidemic decline of the family, we believe that the marriage covenant must be reestablished between a believing man and woman (1Cr.6-7; Eph.5:20-25; Heb.13:4; 1Pet.3:1-7). That the marriage should be blessed by the members of the community of faith: godly companions, parents (Dt.7:3), older men and women, and pastors. Older men and women should be involved with the nurture of these marriages (Tit 2:4) along with the nurture of local shepherds (Heb.13:4).

- **Family Life.** Husbands are to live with their wives according to knowledge, to show them affection and love as coheirs of the promise of eternal life. A Christ-like husband lays his life down for his wife (Eph.5:21,28; Col.3:19) in the way that Christ gave Himself for the church (Eph.5:27). Wives, from a grateful heart, offer reference and honor to their husbands, respecting their God-ordained position as head of the home (Eph.5:24; Col.3:18; 1 Pet.3:5). The father raises his children in the fear and admonition of the Lord (Dt.6:7; Eph.4:6; Col.3:21) not provoking them to discouragement. Fathers along with their wives are in charge of the education of their children (Dt.8:3; Prov.22:6; Eph.6:4), this God-ordained activity must be done personally, not blindly handed over to the church or school system, public or private (Dt.4:20; 6:20). Children are called to honor and obey their parents in keeping with the fifth commandment, giving heed to this commandment, children are promised a long and good life (Eph.6:2; Col.3:20).

- **Christian Liberty.** To avoid the error of legalism on the one hand and licentiousness on the other hand, we recognize the source of sin is our wretched hearts (Mk.7:15-23; Jam.1:14-16). The conscience of

man is very sensitive and should be guarded with all diligence (Prov.4:23). With that said, the Word teaches those of us who are members one to another should be selfless in the exercise of our rights as New Testament believers (Acts.15:20; Rom.14; 1Cr.8:9). Christian charity bestows care and love on the weaker brother who may have his conscience smitten with guilt as we partake of a glass of wine or watch a movie he deems sinful with his knowledge (1Cr.8:7), may open a door for besetting sin (1Jn.5:17) to enter into his life and lead him back to worldliness (Mt.18:6; Mk.9:42; Heb.6:4-6), shame, and ruin.

- **Abstaining From Evil.** We are called to a holy life in Christ, deeds done in the body that are not beneficial to our walk with God, hinder us from experiencing the full pleasure of God over our lives. Such activities as looking upon pornographic material, smoking cigarettes and destroying your temple, gluttony, Excessive attachment to sports, drinking to excess, carousing and riotous living, gaming to excess, extensive leisure, all bring us into bondage and eat away at our usefulness in the kingdom of Christ (Eph.4:22; 5:16-21; Col.3:9).

- **The Work of Ministry (Ministerial Calling)** The power of the Holy Spirit is received distinctly by those commissioned to lay their lives at the feet of Jesus Christ (I Tim 1:12); these men in turn give away their wealth, their time, their religious knowledge, their affections, and their bodies to serve the risen Savior (Prophet), Priest, and King . We believe that the work of ministry is the work of the visible church, served by self-denying servants of Christ (Rom 1:1; I Cr. 1:1; Gal. 1:1; Eph. 1:1; Col.1:1) who have laid their lives at the feet of the Lord for the work of ministry and duly recognized by the body of Christ as those gifted to establish the work of Christ in the earth (Acts 1:5,8; Jn 1:33; Eph 4:12-15).

- **Obedience to the Great Commission.** Since the hour is late, we must always be about the business of extending the kingdom of Christ. Our Lord commanded us to, "go into all the world," (Mt.28:18-20; Mk 16:15-20). First Jerusalem, then Judea, then Samaria, and then the uttermost parts of the earth. These words form the framework for the expansion of Christ's kingdom message. As members of the community of grace we are called to extend His Kingdom of Christ starting in our world. Christ conquers our heart with His Love, then we touch the community around us, and our sphere continues on to the uttermost parts of the earth. Ideally we send missionaries two by two or as a married couple of those who have a proven character (Phil.2:22). Their message is Christ crucified (ICor.2:2). Mission work consists of preaching the gospel, gathering those converted and forming local communities of faith, selecting leaders to shepherd the local flock of God (1Pet.5:1-6). All five of Christ's offices are required to see this work to completion (Acts 14:23; 1Tim.1:18; 2Tim.1:6; Titus 1:5). Raising up local indigenous leadership is essential by training and equipping local men and women to spread the word of life to their community (Mt.28:18-20)

A Final Word

1. **Summary Statement.** This work is but a weak attempt to set forth some working doctrines to understand the vision that God has related to us for LLI Fellowship. These working tenets are first intended for me and for my family, with a faith filled assurance that they will extend to our local community, and foster unity within our local ecclesiastical relationships. That the Lord should grant us His pleasure in the establishment of this work. If we conform to His will for America then we will see a turn of events unprecedented in our time. The family will be restored, power will come to the preaching

of the gospel, our economy will prosper righteously, and the government will truly be, of the people, by the people and for the people.

2. **State of American Church.** We believe with great sadness of heart that our native land is operating in a similar fashion as the nation of Israel in her days of decline and rebellion, when they turned away from God and worshiped other gods (Read the prophets). We believe that there is little difference between the idolatry of the nation of Israel and our nation. The worship of material gods, submission to the spirit of Jezebel, the occult and its practices, the papacy, celebrity worship, superstar preachers and evangelists, and many other forms of societal seduction, militate against the Spirit's call for repentance to the American church.

3. **Christ's Word to Us.** What would the seven spirits of Christ write concerning the communities and cities that make up the American church? (Rev.2, 3). Rebellion is not too small a word to describe our national church. Pride is the direct cause of our condition before a three times holy God! Our healing will come when the prophets speak the word of God faithfully without fear of men in the specific areas of our national sins to repair the breaches (Ez.9:9), in turn, apostolic ministry must be established to rebuild the walls of the church according to the blueprint of Holy Scripture. Additionally pastors are commanded by our Lord to shepherd the flock of God as overseers in order to raise up the faithful remnant before the return of Christ (Acts 20:20; Eph.6:4; Col.3:21; I Pet.5:1-4).

4. **Final Admonition.** We who behold the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ must work toward the high standard of living set forth for His Bride, to "be" the born again and refined church of the New Testament. A remnant will come from every sector of Christendom, those who hear God in their heart; they must carry a heavenly burden and declare that burden to the visible church to insight true and lasting change. If you share our burden then with us work tirelessly to present a spiritual legacy of faith to our physical and spiritual children by putting the teachings of the Word of God into practice with much diligence. You saints of God fresh courage take, you will receive a blessing on the day of His appearing.

In Christ's richest blessings,

Jonathan Keener – Overseer/President
Tree of Life Farms Coalition
Pilot Mountain, NC 27041
treeoflifefarms.org
treeoflifedairyfarms@gmail.com
336-710-9591