

What We Believe

Foundational Beliefs of Ray of Hope Christian Fellowship

God

We believe in one God who exists in three distinct persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

The Bible

We believe the entire Bible is inspired by God, without error and the authority on which we base our faith, conduct and doctrine. (2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

Jesus Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man. We believe that He accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins. We believe that Jesus rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, is now exalted at the right hand of God, and will return to earth to judge both the living and the dead. (John 1:1-2, 14; Luke 1:35; Romans 3:23-24; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 1:3; Acts 10:42)

Salvation

We believe that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life—the one and only way to eternal life, and that the will of God is for every person to receive Christ and be saved. We believe that salvation is the gift of God's grace. It cannot be earned or made secure by our works, but is freely given to all who put their faith in the work Jesus did on the cross. We believe that everyone who trusts in Jesus for salvation is commanded to repent of sins, confess Jesus as Lord, be baptized, and live in a manner that is worthy of the salvation already received. (John 14:6; 2 Peter 3:9; Ephesians 2:8-10, 4:1; Romans 10:9-10)

Assurance

We believe that every true believer in Christ can have assurance of their salvation through faith in Him, giving them full confidence in their Christian walk. By the grace of God through the atoning work of Christ, we receive by faith the forgiveness of our sins, freedom from condemnation, the promise of eternal life and an inheritance in heaven. We also believe that by rejecting the faith, those who have once been enlightened and have received the truth of the gospel no longer rightfully have this assurance. (1 Peter 1:3-9; Colossians 2:13-14; Romans 8:1; Hebrews 6:4-6; 2 Peter 2:20-22)

The Holy Spirit

We believe that those who receive Jesus as Lord and Savior have been born of the Spirit. They have received the gift of the Holy Spirit and He dwells in them. We believe that the Holy Spirit enables us to deny our flesh and live in a way that is pleasing to God. We believe that the Holy Spirit fills and empowers believers, as we purposely fellowship with Him, which becomes evident through many different gifts or manifestations. These gifts of the Spirit lead to the building up of the individual as well as the church, and include: increased boldness, speaking in tongues, healing and many others. (John 3:6-8; Romans 8:9; Galatians 5:16, 24; Acts 4:31; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

Water Baptism

We believe water baptism is for every person who has made a commitment to Jesus in faith, and that baptism symbolizes the work of God in salvation. It represents the washing away of our sins. It represents our spiritual death, burial and resurrection, along with Jesus. It represents the new life we receive from Him as well as receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. It represents our being 'in Christ.' (Acts 2:38 & 22:16; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:27)

Communion

We believe that every believer should participate in the regular taking of Communion (the Lord's Supper) as an act of remembering what the Lord Jesus did for us on the cross. (Luke 22:17-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

The Church

We believe that the church of Jesus Christ is made up of all born-again people everywhere, crossing denominational and theological boundaries. Jesus Himself is the head of the church, which the Scriptures describe as His body and bride. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches, as taught and defined in the New Testament, gives evidence to the growth and cohesion of the whole body. We believe that designated elders have the responsibility to oversee, protect and lead the local congregation to spiritual maturity. (Ephesians 1:22-23 & 4:11-16 & 5:25-27; Romans 16:1; Acts 20:17 & 28; 1 Timothy 3:1-7)

Growing Relationship

We believe every believer should be in a growing relationship with Jesus by obeying God's Word, yielding to the Holy Spirit and by being conformed to the image of Christ. (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Colossians 3:1-10)