

WHAT WE BELIEVE



"What We Believe" is a biblically-based assessment of the Scriptures. These topics have been lifted from the Scriptures with a prayerful and Spirit-led explanation for each. The Scripture states, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life:..." – St. John 5:39. We endeavor to be that link between earth and Heaven to assist you in obeying God's Word. Come worship with us at the COJC.

Holiness

We believe that holiness is God's prescribed standard of living for His people of all ages (Leviticus 19:2; Luke 1:74,75). We further believe that a wholly sanctified life is the only true standard of a Christian life (Hebrews 12:14; I Peter 1:15-17). We must present ourselves Holy unto God (Romans 12:1), cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit (II Corinthians 7:1), and separate ourselves from all worldliness (James 4:4). No one can live holy by his own power, "But ye shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you . . . (Acts 1:8)."

New Birth

Just as the natural birth consists of the contribution of two parents--the father begets and the mother conceives, so is the spiritual birth. It consists of two elements coming from two spiritual parents--Jesus Christ the father begets by the Word (I Corinthians 4:15) and the Church is the mother which conceives and brings forth the child of God. The New Birth consists of repentance, water baptism by immersion, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and receiving the Holy Ghost with the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues as the Spirit of God gives utterance (Acts 2:1-41; 4:12; 8:5-40; 10:44-48; 19:1-7).

Salvation

We believe that Salvation is deliverance from all sin and unrighteousness through the atonement of Jesus Christ. A person receives Salvation by repentance of sin, water baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and the continuance of living a godly life (Acts 2:36-41).

Water Baptism

We believe that water baptism is an essential part of New Testament salvation. Without the proper mode of baptism it is impossible to enter the kingdom of God (St. John 3:5). Water baptism can only be administered by immersion (Mark 1:10; Acts 8:38,39; Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12). The name in which baptism is administered is in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ commissioned his disciples to go into all nations and baptize in the Name (singular) of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 28:19). The disciples executed this commission on the Day of Pentecost by baptizing converts in the Name (singular) of Jesus Christ. All case histories of New Testament baptism were administered in the name of the Lord Jesus. Without the Name, water baptism is void.

Baptism of the Holy Ghost

We believe that the receiving of the baptism of the Holy Ghost, being born of the Spirit, is an essential part of New Testament salvation. The baptism of the Holy Ghost is evidenced by speaking in other tongues (other languages) as the Spirit of God gives utterance. If this supernatural manifestation does not take place, one has not received the Holy Ghost (Acts 2:1-41; 4:12; 8:5-40; 10:44-48; 19:1-7).

The Gifts of the Spirit vs. the Gift of the Spirit (Holy Ghost)

Many in the Church world are confused about the difference between the gifts of the Spirit and the gift of the Spirit. In the Apostle Paul's first letter to the Corinthian church Paul was not expounding on the subject of the New Birth and being filled with the Holy Ghost, he was expounding on the subject of "spiritual gifts" (I Corinthians 12:1). To receive the gift of the Holy Ghost is to receive life; to receive the gifts of the Holy Ghost is to receive the functions that demonstrate that this life is within you.

Holiness - Pentecostals - Apostolics - What's the Difference?

Those who profess to be Pentecostals believe in Holiness in addition to receiving the Holy Ghost with the initial evidence of speaking in tongues. Those who profess to be Apostolic believe and teach Holiness, having the Pentecostal experience of receiving the Holy Ghost in addition to being baptized in water in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. There are many who profess Holiness who do not believe in receiving the Holy Ghost with the initial evidence of speaking in tongues nor being baptized in water in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. There are many who call themselves Pentecostals that do not believe in being baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, even though they believe in Holiness. The Apostolics believes in Holiness, the Pentecostal experience of the baptism of the Holy Ghost speaking in tongues as the Spirit gives them utterance, and the baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ.

For more information about "What We Believe," please contact the Church of Jesus Christ – 202-584-8488.

