

WHAT WE BELIEVE

I. The Inspiration of the Scriptures

The Bible is the revealed Word of God, written by men, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and is the answer to human need. It is a light upon our path to point us to God and tell us how to live the kind of rich, full, abundant life intended for us by God through Christ Jesus our Lord. (See *Psalm 119:105, John 10:10, I Thessalonians 2:13, II Timothy 3:15-17, II Peter 1:20,21.*)

II. The Personality of the Threefold God-head—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

There is one true God, but He has three expressions of Himself: God the Father, invisible; God the Son, the Word made flesh; and God the Holy Spirit, moving and dealing with man. (See *Matthew 28:19, Mark 12:29, Luke 3:22, John 1:14-18, I Corinthians 2:9,10, I John 5:7*)

III. The Deity of Jesus Christ—His Virgin Birth, Sinless Life, Miracles, Vicarious Atoning Death, Bodily Resurrection, and Ascension to the Right Hand of the Father

A. His Virgin Birth

Jesus was virgin-born. If He had been conceived by normal human processes, the seed of sin would have been transmitted into His spirit. As He grew up He would have needed a Savior like all other human beings. For this reason, He could not have a human father. God was Jesus' father, and the holy seed planted in Mary's womb by a miraculous visitation of the Holy Spirit was without sin. Jesus received His humanity from Mary and His divine nature from God, thus He became both Son of man and Son of God. (See *Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31-35.*)

B. Sinless Life

God made Jesus Christ, who knew no sin, to become sin for us so that we might be made righteous through Him. Jesus is God humanized. He came to earth in the form of a human being to enter into our needs and feel what we feel. He sat amidst the hurts and problems that invade our lives. So now there is no distance between us and Him or between our needs and His power to meet them through faith. Jesus is touched with our infirmities as He was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin. (See *II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 2:21-23; Hebrews 4:15.*)

C. Miracles

God approved His own Son's ministry by signs and wonders and miracles. If you take the signs and wonders and miracles from Jesus, you don't have the real Jesus. For it is the signs and wonders ministry of Jesus that makes Him what He is. When John the Baptist sent messengers to Jesus, questioning His deity, Jesus told them to go back and tell John

about the miracles they had seen Him perform. Miracles settled the issue of Christ's deity. (See *Matthew 11:2-5; Luke 4:14-21; 7:20-22; Acts 2:22.*)

D. Atonement on the Cross

The Cross did not just happen. It was planned from eternity past because God knew that man, whom He created in His own image, would exercise his freedom of choice and commit sin. Therefore, man needed a Redeemer. When Jesus' blood was shed on the Cross, He was making atonement for our sins. He who knew no sin became sin for us and took our place. For the first time God dealt completely with the problem of sin by giving His Son to break down the barriers between sinful man and sinless God. Through faith in Christ's blood we are made righteous before God. (See *Isaiah 53:5-8, I Corinthians 15:3, II Corinthians 5:21, I John 4:9,10, Hebrews 9:22.*)

E. Resurrection

Christ's resurrection is a guarantee that every Christian will be raised from the dead. Because He lives, we shall live also. Our expectation for miracles is based upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The resurrection is continuous; it didn't end when Jesus was raised from the dead. His resurrection is just the beginning of a continuous resurrection in our lives. We not only have the hope of being resurrected from the dead in the end-time, but we can also experience the miracle power of the resurrection in being raised from the death of sins and trespasses into newness of life. The same Holy Spirit who raised Christ from the dead is present in the world today, making miracles available to meet the needs in our everyday lives. (See *Matthew 28:6, Luke 24:39, I Corinthians 15.*)

F. Ascension to the Right Hand of God

Jesus Christ's body is no longer in the tomb; He has risen from the dead and ascended into heaven, where He is seated at the right hand of God making intercession for us. The Ascension of Christ is important to the victorious daily life of the Christian, for this event marks the beginning of a new access to God in prayer. Christ's work is not finished. He continues to work at the throne of God as our Mediator, Intercessor, and Advocate. (See *Acts 1:9,11; 2:33, Romans 8:34, Philippians 2:9-11, Hebrews 1:3; 7:25.*)

IV. The Fall of Man

Man was tempted by the devil in the Garden of Eden and ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Man listened to the devil, rebelled against God, and lost his relationship with Him. Thus sin entered the world by one man.

Because that one man is part of the whole, sin was passed on to all of us. Through Adam, sin was transmitted into his offspring, so every person is born with the seed of sin in his heart. The process of death set in, and the sentence of destruction was upon humanity. Man's spirit died or ceased to function in the image of God, and spiritual and physical death began. (See *Genesis 1-3, Romans 5:12-19.*)

V. The New Birth

God created man in His own spiritual and moral likeness. But when man disobeyed God, his spirit died. That's why Jesus said we must be born again. He was telling us to repent, to renounce taking our own way, and ask God to restore His divine nature in us. When we are reborn, the human spirit with which we were created is renewed. It's no longer dead in trespasses and sins. It's no longer dead in the sense of its relating to God. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross to forgive the sins that are repented of, to change our lifestyle, to break the pattern of sin. (See *Mark 1:15, Luke 13:3, John 3:3-7, Acts 2:21; 10:43, Romans 10:9,10, Ephesians 2:1.*)

VI. The Holy Spirit

A. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

The gift of the Holy Spirit was bestowed upon the church in the form of a baptism and is the infilling of the Holy Spirit which God promised to give His children through His Son Jesus Christ. Through salvation, a believer receives the person of the Holy Spirit, but there is a deeper dimension of the Spirit called a baptism—an immersion. The baptism with the Holy Spirit is the power which releases the living waters of God inside the believer. (See *Matthew 3:11, Luke 24:49, John 7:38,39; 14:15-17,26, Acts 1:5; 2:14-18.*)

B. Speaking in Tongues—the Prayer Language

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is accompanied by speaking in tongues, a prayer language given through the infilling of the Holy Spirit, by which the believer may communicate directly to God through prayer and praise as the Spirit gives utterance. (See *Acts 2:4; 10:46; 19:6, Romans 8:26,27, I Corinthians 14:4.*)

VII. Healing for the Whole Person

Healing is for soul, mind, and body — wholeness. In healing, Jesus deals with every phase of our being, every area of our lives, with the full intention of bringing wholeness. Being made whole means healing and restoration for whatever part of the person is ill or in bad health. When a person is spiritually sick or out of tune with God and himself, it affects his body and mind. When he's mentally or emotionally sick, it has a tendency to negatively

affect his soul and body. And when sickness and disease strike the body, everything about the person is affected. WHOLENESS is the highest form of healing. (See *Matthew 8:17; 9:22; 14:36, Mark 5:34; 6:56; 10:52, Luke 8:48,50, Acts 10:38, Hebrews 7:25, I Peter 2:24, III John 2.*)

VIII. Signs and Wonders

Signs and wonders, divers miracles, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are for the confirmation of the preaching of the Word and as a sign to the unbeliever. They act to bring forth the supernatural impact of God himself so that the Word becomes a living Word and produces miracles of deliverance. The nine gifts of the Spirit are divided as the Spirit wills through individual believers for the edification and building up of the body of Christ. (See *Mark 16:20, Romans 15:18,19, I Corinthians 12:4-11; 14:12, Hebrews 2:4.*)

IX. Seed-Faith

Seed-Faith is both an act and a process: Seed-Faith giving and Seed-Faith living. Jesus likened having faith to the act of planting seed for a desired result. Seed-Faith is based on the seedtime and harvest principle in which everything starts as a seed. Seed-Faith becomes a lifestyle, a way of living — sowing and reaping, and giving and receiving. These are the three miracle keys of Seed-Faith: (1) Make God the Source of your total supply, (2) plant seed for a desired result, and (3) expect a miracle. (See *Genesis 8:22, Malachi 3:10,11, Matthew 13:23; 17:20, Mark 4:8; 11:24, Luke 6:38, II Corinthians 9:10, Galatians 6:7-9, Philippians 4:15,19, Hebrews 1:11.*)

X. Water Baptism

Jesus submitted to water baptism for our example to do likewise. Water baptism is by immersion in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is something Jesus personally commanded all believers to do to testify to the world that the old life of sin had been forsaken and that one was now living for God. It is the outward symbol of an inward experience — the believer's identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. (See *Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19, Luke 3:21,22, Acts 10:47,48, Romans 6:4, Hebrews 10:22.*)

XI. The Holy Communion

The Holy Communion is not a mere ritual but an integral part of our relationship with Jesus whereby our needs can be met. There are three definite things we are to do to properly receive the Holy Communion: Remember Jesus Christ, the living, triumphant Son of God; commemorate His death and resurrection; and discern His strong, healthy body so that as the elements enter our mouths, we take His health into our bodies. In the Communion we have access instantly to everything that Christ is in time and in eternity. (See *Matthew 26:26-28, Luke 22:17-20, I Corinthians 11:23-26.*)

XII. The Second Coming of Christ

A. The Rapture

There are two stages of Christ's return to the earth. The first stage is called the Rapture. In this stage the Lord does not descend to the earth. He appears in the air and "in the twinkling of an eye," the Bible says, the dead in Christ shall rise to meet Him in the air. They will be followed by those saints who are alive at that time. In other words, He gathers up the saints in one miraculous moment of time to meet Him in the air and remain with Him forever. (See *Luke 17:34-37; John 14:3; I Corinthians 15:51-54; I Thessalonians 4:15-18; Revelation 3:3.*)

B. The Revelation

The second stage of Christ's coming is called the Revelation. Jesus Christ and all His saints will return to the earth to begin His reign upon the earth, and every eye will see Him coming. This will be the grand climax to the end-time. (See *Revelation 20:1-6.*)

XIII. The Millennium

Jesus will establish a millennial reign upon the earth. During this thousand-year period, the devil will be bound in the bottomless pit. This is the first resurrection, and all the people of God who have lived and died are raised from the dead to be priests of God to reign with Him a thousand years. (See *Revelation 20:1-6.*)

XIV. The Final Judgement

All humanity will appear before the judgment seat of Christ. People who die without Christ will experience their first death. They remain in hell until the end of Christ's thousand-year reign and then are brought forth to the judgment seat of Christ. After the judgment they are cast into the lake of fire and brimstone with the Antichrist, the false prophet, and the devil. This is the second death. (See *Revelation 20.*)

XV. A New Heaven and a New Earth

The day of the Lord is coming when Christ will release fires from the elements to renovate and renew the heavens and the earth, where the saints will rule and reign with Him forever. Only righteousness will dwell in the new heavens and new earth. (See *II Peter 3:7-13; Revelation 20:11; Revelation 21: 22:1-6.*)

Oral Roberts, circa 1948 FOUNDATIONAL CONCEPTS

I. The Fivefold Ministry

God gave the five callings of the ministry for the upbuilding and edifying of the body of Christ, to instruct the people of God on this earth until we all come to unity and we all get to heaven. This fivefold ministry includes the apostle, a person who has been given a specific mission, a divine calling, that is usually worldwide and certainly church-wide; the prophet, one who gives revelation knowledge based on the written Word of God;

the evangelist, who usually speaks to people who do not know Christ; the pastor, who is the shepherd with a heart that goes out to the flock, the church, day after day and week after week; and the teacher, one who deals with the truth of the Word of God, putting the church together philosophically and theologically so that we have a body of truth. Each of these five callings is absolutely sacred, divine, unalterable, and eternally ordained of God. (See *I Corinthians 12:27-31, Ephesians 4:11-15.*)

II. God is a Good God

God is a loving God who desires that His children be well and whole spiritually, mentally, and physically. God is the author of blessings, miracles, and divine healing. He is not the author of sickness, disease, sin, or curses which are the oppression of the devil. He did not come to afflict His people but to heal them, not to beat them down but to lift them up, not to destroy them but to save them. (See *John 10:10, Acts 10:38, III John 2.*)

III. Point of Contact

A point of contact is a something you do to release your faith to God. Whatever the action may be, the point of contact enables you to release the faith you already possess and claim the promises of God by allowing you to focus your attention on God, set the time and the place for your miracle to begin, make your believing a definite act of faith, and hold on in faith while expecting a miracle. (See *Exodus 14:21, I Samuel 17:49, II Kings 2:8, Matthew 9:21; 14:36, Luke 22:17-20, Romans 12:3, Acts 5:26,27; 19:12, I Corinthians 11:23-26.*)

IV. Expect a Miracle

A miracle is a supernatural effect in the physical world. It is beyond the power of nature. It is wonderful, unaccountable, astonishing, mysterious, and unusual. Jesus never called the things He did miracles. He called them "the works of my Father." And He said, "Greater works than these shall ye do." Jesus was telling us that miracles are the continuous action of the Father's love, concern, and power for us. And because they're the works of the Father, they will never cease because God does not change. Miracles do not stop with our salvation. The Christian life is an unending experience of miracles. We are to expect them every day. (See *John 10:37; 14:12, I Corinthians 12:10, James 1:17.*)

