

Open Letter from

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As a "baby" Christian, I use to believe that everyone had to speak in tongues to be saved - - until I read in the Scriptures, "Not all speak in tongues, do they!" I loved God very much and felt embarrassed. I was "exposed". I recommend you use the Strongs Exhaustive Concordance to research this Scripture, and all Scripture.

That being said, what is Family Tree Ministries' Statement of Faith?

I'll answer that question with a basic list and, for your benefit and education, will present you with an opportunity to seek the Scriptures on most of the major points of doctrine on the link below.

Basic List:

(I personally like the King James Revised Version of the Bible because it's easier to read. I use the Strongs Exhaustive Concordance to get the real intended meaning and interpretation of specific words.)

We believe in the God of the Bible (Exodus 3:6-14)

We believe the Holy Bible to be the Word of God. We believe in its History, Covenants, and Prophecy (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21).

We believe in the Bible account of Creation (Genesis 1 & 2).

We believe in Jesus Christ as the only begotten Son of God, the Word made flesh (John 1:14).

We believe Christ died for us (Romans 5:8); also, that He was raised from the dead (Romans 6:4; Revelation 1:18).

We believe in the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ on Calvary (Romans 5:11); not only for Israel, but for the sins of the world (I John 2:2).

We believe Jesus Christ ascended into Heaven (Mark 16:19; Hebrews 8:1).

We believe in the literal return of Jesus Christ (Zechariah 14:4; Acts 1:9-14) when He shall take the Throne of David (Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 1:32-33)

I realize that I live on earth, and I'm in the flesh, and as such will never claim to "know it all"! I do appreciate the truth when it's being taught practically though. And, I know that whatever Scriptural teaching I accept and believe in has to be IN THE WORD. I may feel that I don't have the entire Biblical context to balance or complete a truth of God's Word that I hear. In this case, I may agree with a doctrine temporarily - pending clarification and the test of time. I learned my lesson from the tongues belief!

I know three things for sure:

ONE - Christ opened up my ability to be one with the Father through His shed blood. - No more work on my part needed!

TWO - We were created to love God. And,

THREE - He wants our fellowship!

Family Tree Ministry is not linked to any one denomination. We respect gatherings of believers wherever they occur including Baptist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, and Methodist churches. We love home Bible study type churches. I understand and respect the strong historical role of Catholic and Jewish beliefs in protecting the history of Christ's coming. I even value bushmen in deepest Africa who will never see a western style evangelist to hear the word J-E-S-U-S, but I somehow intuitively know that God will receive some of them into heaven someday. There is only one church of God, which is His people, wherever they are.

To give you an opportunity to learn more about your Statement of Faith (which is really more important than mine), I offer the link below. Though I don't agree with 100% of the stated beliefs found on this site, I offer it to you to search out the Scriptures FOR YOURSELF on major doctrinal issues. I just don't know enough about some points offered here to completely believe or understand them, such as the role of past world ages. This can stretch one's faith, but it's in the Word, so there is a story to be told! God knows the truth, and I hope you can research the truth as I continually do!

<http://www.shepherdschapel.com/statement1.htm>