

# WHAT WE BELIEVE

*"AND IF SOMEONE ASKS ABOUT YOUR HOPE AS A BELIEVER, ALWAYS BE READY TO EXPLAIN IT." 1 PETER 3:15*

*"LOVE IS NOT SELF-SEEKING... [BUT] BELIEVES ALL THINGS; HOPES ALL THINGS." 1 CORINTHIANS 13:5, 7*

## OUR BELIEFS

### THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's infallible Word to mankind. Every word has a divine purpose to guide, instruct, comfort, rebuke, and train anyone who believes and adheres to it. The Bible is God's Word, Jesus Christ Himself, and thus is a living and active book that fills our lives with love and adventure as we journey through life with God and one another. Though penned by man, the Bible has been fully authored by God as He inspired men to instruct and document happenings in both the Old and New Testament. The Bible is the final authority on what we teach, what we believe, and how we are to live.

*Our heart is that you would abide in God's Word, so that you would know the truth and be made free in God, who made both you and the world by His Word.*

*John 8:31-32; Psalm 119:45; Romans 8:2; Psalm 39:13; Hebrews 11:33*

*Psalm 119:9, 11, 105, 130; John 1:1-14, 17:17; Col 1:16-17; 2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 2:13*

### JESUS CHRIST

He is the Name above all names, God, The Son of God, our Bridegroom, our Best Friend, the Messiah, the Savior for all mankind, the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David, our Redeemer, Immanuel, the Rock, the Word, *the Resurrection, the Way, the Truth, the Life* and Lord of all. *As foretold in God's word by the prophets*, Jesus lived a pure and sinless life; yet gave Himself on the cross as a Living Sacrifice, *taking the shame and punishment* for our sins before God. This was an act of love to save man from his own destructive self and destroying one another on earth, as well as eternal damnation

in eternity. Jesus conquered death, hell, and the grave through the resurrection three days after He was crucified on the cross at Calvary, and therefore, lives to intercede and live in all who believe in Him and are 'born again.' There is no other way to be saved, enter into Heaven, or know the Father. Jesus Christ is the incarnate God, fully God and fully man, and currently sits at the right hand of the Father.

Our heart is that you would abide in Jesus and He in you, convinced that you can do nothing apart from Jesus and that He is sufficient for all things.

John 15:4-5; 2 Peter 1:3

Philip 2:9, John 1:1, John 3:16, 29, 15:14; Luke 2:11; Rev 5:5, 19:16; Is 9:6; Gal 4:4-5; Matt 1:23; 1 Cor 10:4; Rom 10:9; 1 Cor 12:3; Rom 5:8; 1 John 4:10; Matt 27:52-53, Rev 1:18; 1 Peter 2:21, 3:19; Heb 10:12; Eph 1:20; Romans 8:34, and many more scriptures testify of the above facts.

## THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit has functions that are unique to Himself and specifically for believers. These functions (or purposes) are: comfort, guidance, counsel, and preparation of the Bride (the church) for the Bridegroom (Jesus). The Holy Spirit also exposes and convicts men of sin, righteousness, and judgment. The Holy Spirit indwells the believer upon the salvation experience, sealing them until the day of their redemption. The Holy Spirit also fully fills and empowers the believer when they ask the Father and allow themselves to be Baptized by Jesus Christ.

Our heart is for you to be led by the Spirit in everything, knowing Him as Lord through trust, intimacy, and dependence, bearing the fruit that He produces, especially God's perfect love.

Romans 8:14; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 5:22-23

John 14:16-18, 16:13, Matthew 25:4; John 16:7-11; 2 Cor 1:22; Acts 1:8; Matthew 3:11; 1 John 2:20

## THE FATHER

The Father is Spirit yet When you see Jesus, you see the Father. To know Jesus, it is to know Him.; however, the Father represents several characteristics of God's nature that are vitally important for believers to know and understand. The Father represents both the mothering and fathering heart of God, as he created both male and female in His image and likeness. The Father chooses to represent Himself as a Father instead of a mother for several reasons that can be discussed personally with church leadership in greater context. The Father longs for us to become His sons and daughters. By His plan, the Father sent Jesus to us to reveal His heart, and He sends the Holy Spirit into our hearts when we are born again., and adopts The Father draws us to Jesus, who cleanses us from sin and reconciles us to the Father, and the Father adopts us into God's family.those who look to Christ as their Savior and are born again. God is

all about family, and without the nature and character of the Father, there would be no Kingdom, no one called a “child of God”, and most importantly, no Jesus Christ.

Our heart is for you to know and trust the Father as author of everything seen and unseen, believing that He is good, just and merciful and the giver of every good and perfect gift, knowing what you need even before you ask Him.

Deuteronomy 32:6; I Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:16; Luke 6:36; Matthew 5:45; Psalm 86:15; 2 John 1:4; James 1:17; Matthew 6:8,32

John 14:9-11; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:15, 19; John 3:16; John 16:27; Ephesians 3:14-15; John 6:44

## THE TRIUNE GOD

God is Love! Before the foundations of the earth, God was one-in-three: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. Through three unique beings, they are one in the same. This is a profound mystery, yet similar to the human being as a three-part person (spirit, soul, and body). God is one. Though one, each Person of God has unique functions. The trinity also represents family, love, and how God dreamed of you before the earth was created. God longed to share and celebrate His love with us, and therefore, created us in His image and likeness.

Our heart is that you would be one with God, belonging to Him and growing in His love.

John 14:20; John 17:21; 1 Corinthians 6:17; John 17:6; 1 Corinthians 3:23; Romans 14:8; John 10:14; John 13:34-35; 1 John 15:10-12; 1 Thessalonians 3:12

God is spirit and his words are spirit. Our heart is that you would receive the spiritual life God offers through Jesus and grow in His likeness, speaking spiritual words of life over yourself and others.

John 4:24; John 6:63; 1 John 5:11-12; John 1:4; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 8:29; Galatians 4:19; Proverbs 18:21; Ephesians 4:29;

Genesis 1:2, 26; John 1:1; Hebrews 1:3; Col 1:15-17; Dt 6:4; 1 John 4:8

## THE NATURE OF MAN

Each person is an eternal spirit with a soul in a body. One's soul is made of three parts: mind, will, and emotions (thoughts, desires, and feelings). Thoughts feed emotions and both create desires that drive decisions, what one does and what one says. Each person is born spiritually dead, and in the flesh. In the flesh, we are what we do, we justify ourselves by justifying our actions, and we receive our thoughts from the world. The results are shame, fear, control, hypocrisy, religiosity, politics, injustice, prejudice, pride, envy and strife. To be born again is to be made alive spiritually. In the Spirit, one does who one is, one is

justified by Christ alone, and we receive our thoughts from God. The result is thankfulness, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control to act the same in secret as in public. Only when submitted to the Spirit can one love God with all the heart, soul, mind, and strength. The heart is defined by what one hopes and desires. The righteous trusts God, desires God, and puts his hope in God. The wicked trust in his riches, wits, strength, charm, wisdom, and connections.

Our heart is that you believe Jesus and receive from Him spiritual life, a pure heart, a living hope, a renewed mind, a good conscience, and power to walk in the spirit, loving God and others.

1 Timothy 4:10; Psalms 73:25-26; Psalms 12:3-4; Ephesians 2:5; Romans 8:6; Matthew 8:22; 1 John 3:14; Mark 12:29-31; Colossians 2:8; Romans 12:2; 1 John 2:15-17; Ephesians 4:22-24; 1 John 4:4-6; Colossians 3:2; 1 Corinthians 3:19; Proverbs 4:23; 1 Corinthians 2:12; Galatians 5:16-26; Proverbs 11:28; Jeremiah 17:5; Proverbs 31:30; Proverbs 3:5; Psalms 4:5-7; Deut 30:6

## SATAN

Originally known as Lucifer, Satan was the originator of sin, and ultimately the deceiver that brought man's downfall on the earth in the garden of Eden. Also known as "the god of this world," Satan often influences decisions of all mankind when given the authority and freedom to do so by people. Sickness, confusion, bondage, and all forms of darkness and demonic activity originate from his kingdom. All supernatural power given to him in heaven by the Lord as an angel has been stripped, but Satan gains power from **people** who are deceived by him unaware or consciously side with his ideologies, half-truths, or all-out lies. We know that for Christians, the battle is rarely 'personal.' **His attacks and** persecution come because he hates God and subsequently, His children. Only through salvation in Christ and man being "born again" can we overcome the devil and the deception, accusations, lies, and the fear he breeds. According to scripture, Satan has already been defeated and we have the victory; however, since he knows this (and that his time is short on this earth), his prime goal and **aim** is to hurt the heart of God by deceiving people, **separating them from God and** destroying the beauty of what God has created in humans. Ultimately, we know that we live in a fallen world, and this is not our home. So even when we haven't partnered with the enemy through sin, he is a thief who **wants** to kill, steal, and destroy the plans, purposes, and promises of God. As Christians, we must 'fight right' as spelled out in 2 Corinthians 2:14 and trust that we have the victory in ALL things and that victory will carry over into eternity.

Our heart is that you would receive Christ's victory over Satan as your victory and that you would walk in spiritual authority over Satan by God's word and Spirit without fear -- no longer seeing other people as enemies, but Satan as our true enemy.

2 Timothy 2:25-26; 2 Thess. 3:15; 1 John 3:10; Heb 2:14-15

Is 14:12-14; John 10:10; 2 Thess 2:9-10; Rev 12:10, 13:14; Genesis 3:15; Rev 12:12; 2 Cor 4:4; Colossians 2:14-15; 1 Peter 5:8;

## SALVATION

Everyone is born as a sinner due to “original sin”. This was the sin-nature brought through Adam and Eve’s disobedience in the Garden of Eden. Because of sin (disobedience to God’s commandments), man becomes destructive on earth, separated from God’s character and nature, and cannot enter eternity with Him. Salvation only comes through Jesus Christ. No other god, belief, religion, or spiritual enlightenment can bring about salvation or entrance into Heaven. Salvation is a free gift from God and is attained by grace alone. No works or good deeds on earth can **produce** salvation. Only through the acceptance of Jesus Christ as your Lord can you be born again, and only when we are born again can we enter an intimate relationship with God (on earth and in eternity). Once a believer experiences this transformation, they are sealed with the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption. To be saved is an on- going process of renewal and preparation for the ultimate union with Christ.

Our heart is for you to receive Jesus as your Savior and King through faith in him and to walk in him as you received him -- confident of His presence and power through the Holy Spirit.

Colossians 2:6

1 Cor 15:22; Romans 5:12-21, 6:8-10, 10:8-11; Eph 2:8; John 1:13, 3:3,16, 14:6; 2 Cor 1:22, 5:17; Eph 4:30; Acts 2:21, 3:19; 1 John 5:5

## THE NEW COVENANT

Jesus Christ’s shed blood and death on the cross began the New Covenant. At this time, the veil of the temple **separating God and man** was ripped in two by the Holy Spirit, which in turn now allows all believers to come boldly before the Throne of Grace to obtain mercy. Though filled with many great promises from God, the Old Covenant was incomplete in that man could not **its** requirements. Hence, the Old Covenant **is** called, “the law of sin and death.” Through the life of Christ and the indwelling Holy Spirit, man **can** now **experience** intimate relationship with God, **knowing Him the way He wants to be known, in Spirit and Truth** under a new and better law: the law of “life and liberty.” We believe that Christ is the fulfillment of the Old Testament law, which in turn could inaugurate the New Covenant for anyone who believes in Him. We also believe that God now writes His Word on our hearts and puts a new Spirit in us according to the New Covenant.

Our heart is that you would **experience life, liberty, and peace** through an intimate relationship with God by the Holy Spirit.

Rom 14:17; Rom 8:2; Galatian 5:18; 1 Cor 15:56; Galatians 6:2; Philippians 3:9; James 2:12

Jer 31:31; Ez 36:25-30; 1 John 5:6-8; Luke 22:20; 1 Cor 11:25; 2 Cor 3:2, 6-18; Hebrews 8:8, 9:15, 12:24; Matt 5:17, 26:54; Acts 2:21, 3:18; Rom 3:21; 2 Cor 1:22; John 4:23; Acts 13:27; Rom 8:4

## THE FINISHED WORK OF THE CROSS

When Christ said, “It is finished” on the cross and gave His last breath, that everything we need for true life has been provided **in Him**. This includes mental and physical healing, salvation for all mankind, and complete victory over sickness, death, and all demonic spiritual forces. And finally, it is because of Christ’s life given on the cross that we are made righteous in His sight **by faith in Him**.

Our heart is that you would rest in Christ’s work on Calvary and cease trying to earn God’s favor through your religious works, knowing that no one gets what they deserve, because Jesus took what we each deserved on the cross.

1 Cor 2:5; Heb 4:11; Rom 8:4; Acts 15:10-11; Galatians 2:16

**Matt 27:50-53; John 19:30; Mark 16:17-18; Isa 53; Rom 3:21-24; 2 Cor 5:21**

## SONSHIP

When we are born again, we become children of God. All creation is currently longing for the sons of God to be revealed, and that is the process with which we are in now. Creating disciples to understand who they are as sons and daughters of the Most High and who He is as a loving Father is the most important mission we undertake as a church. Raising up spiritual parents enables us to raise up children of God once they have surrendered their lives to Him. Through Christ we are adopted as sons, can call God our Father, and in turn become heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. **The transformation of every believer is sinner -> saint -> son -> servant. The identity of son must come before servant to empower one to serve in perfect love. Without son as identity first, serving will become based on performance, comparison, fear, and selfishness.** This understanding is the key to complete love, freedom, and the desire to live uprightly before God.

Our heart is that you hear the Father call you His child and learn to imitate Him.

Ephesians 5:1,8; Philippians 2:14-15; 1 Thessalonians 5:5; Hebrews 12:8-10; 1 Peter 1:14-19; 1 John 3:1-3, 10; 1 John 5:2-3;

John 1:12; Rom 8:14-17; Gal 3:26-29, 4:5-6, Hebrews 12:7; **Ephesians 1:3-5**

## BAPTISM BY WATER

Water baptism is commanded by God as a demonstration of our commitment to God. Symbolic of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, water baptism is a physical act that is **carried out** by full-submersion in water **publicly**. Water baptism is an outward reflection of an inward expression. Without a heart commitment of repentance, and being born again, water baptism has no effect on a person. The final purpose of water baptism is to clearly and openly express to God and man that the believer is committed to live for Christ and make them their Lord. Baptism **is** performed by ordained and lay ministers of our church, and is not a prerequisite to salvation.

Our heart is that you would identify with Christ in everything he has given us, including water baptism.

Mark 1:8-11, Acts 19:3; Romans 6:1-4; Ephesians 4:5; 1 Peter 3:21; Hebrews 6:2

## BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT & FIRE

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit and Fire is a second baptismal experience that is fully spiritual in nature. Though physical manifestations in the body can occur in certain individuals, the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a complete filling and empowering of the Holy Spirit. The baptism of the Holy Spirit and Fire has many purposes,; however, the primary ones are spiritual cleansing, renewal, empowerment for good works, impartation of spiritual gifts, and a greater discernment to live a spirit-led life.

Our heart is for Jesus to baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with Fire to deepen your relationship with Him and dependency on Him.

Matt 3:11-12; Mark 1:8, 16:15-20; Acts 1:8, 2, 8:12-17, 18-25-26, 19:1-6; Heb 6:2; Luke 3:16

## THE SPIRIT-LED CHRISTIAN LIFE

Believers should be led by the Holy Spirit in all they do, including: family decisions, education, jobs, finances, church attendance, ministry involvement, etc. Those led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God. By the Spirit's leading, we desire to staff our church with leaders and volunteers who are led by the Spirit and bear spiritual fruit.

Our heart is that you would bear fruit, being Spirit-led in everything.

John 1:1-8; 15:7, Romans 8:14; Gal 6:7-8; Isaiah 63:10-14; Matt 7:15-20

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS

There are nine spiritual gifts that are manifested in man by the Holy Spirit. At any given time, these gifts can operate in a believer as the Spirit wills for the common good of all. The nine gifts are: word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, diversity of tongues, and interpretation of tongues. The purpose of these gifts is to edify and strengthen the Body of Christ, as well as the individual believer in their knowledge and understanding of His love, character, and will for their lives. At Rock City church, we pursue love first and desire all the gifts, especially that we would prophecy, which is the greatest gift to employ corporately.

Our heart is that you would desire, experience, and be built up with us in God's spiritual gifts.

Acts 1:8; 2; 3:6-9, 4:29-31; Mark 16:15-20; Rom 15:19; 1 Cor 1:18, 2:4-5, 4:20; 12; 14:1; Eph 1:19-23, 4:7-8, 6:10; 1 Cor 13; John 13:35

## MINISTRY GIFTS

God gives everyone inherent talents and abilities for service in the Body of Christ. These gifts are: prophecy, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leadership and mercy. They are often renamed to reflect how they are employed or expressed in ministry. God uniquely wires each person to operate in these gifts in a profound way. By understanding how God has wired you in the operation of these gifts, believers can gain a greater understanding of their purpose in the Body of Christ and mission on this earth.

Our heart is for you to discover and develop what God has put in you to give to others.

Romans 12:6-8; 1 Peter 4:10-11; Eph 2:10

## MINISTRY OFFICES

Though not officially called “offices” in scripture, we have chosen to call them offices for a better understanding of their official function in the Body of Christ. The ministry offices are: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. They work together in concert to build up the Body of Christ in the unity of faith and the knowledge of the Son of God. They also produce maturity and growth in understanding the fullness of Christ. Rock City believes each office is necessary to fully train and equip believers to follow Jesus and to show others how to follow Jesus. We look to appoint leaders in these offices who submit to one another and promote harmony among these interdependent functions.

Our heart is for holistic discipleship to help you grow in knowledge of and dependence on Christ Ephesians 4:11-13; 1 Cor 12: 28; Eph 5:21

## MEN IN MINISTRY

Strong men make strong families, which make strong churches and communities. God wrote much of scripture directly to men for them to know it, meditate on it, and do it. A husband’s priorities influence families dramatically. When a husband follows Jesus or attends church, his children are likely to do the same. Satan knows this and strategically targets men. Therefore, building strong men in Christ is a priority at Rock City.

Our heart is to reverse the trend of fatherlessness and see men serve others with Christ as their strength.

1 Cor 11:3; Eph 4:6, 5:23-26; Prov 17:6; 1 Tim 5:8; Deut 17:18-20; Acts 11:14, 16:30-34, 18:8; 1 Cor 1:16; 1 Tim 3:5; Matt 22:32; James 5:19-20; Malachi 4:6; Luke 1:17; 1 Cor 16:13



# WOMEN IN MINISTRY

According to scripture, there is neither male nor female for those who are in Christ Jesus, and both have full access to the Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts. We believe that women can minister as men can, regardless of position or title. Therefore, women are given equal opportunity to serve and lead at Rock City Church.

Our heart is for women to find liberty in intimate relationship with Christ and freedom to bring His life wherever He sends them.

Genesis 1:27; Gal 3:28; Acts 16:15

# TONGUES

There are two types of tongues. 1) The gift of the “diversity of tongues” mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:10, and 2) The personal “prayer language” of tongues mentioned in 1 Corinthians 14:2, 4. The first mentioned tongue comes with an interpretation to strengthen the Body of Christ. The second mentioned tongue is personal prayer language known as “praying in the Spirit.” This means that the Holy Spirit intercedes through us in prayer, enabling us to pray the mysteries of God and to pray for the things we know not how to pray. This prayer language also builds up the individual believer. This personal prayer language is evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit when it is accompanied by spiritual fruit.

Our heart is that God would build you up spiritually through praying in tongues more and more.

Acts 2:4; Romans 8:26-27; 1 Cor 12:10, 14:2,4,14, 18, 19:6, 39; Eph 6:18; Jude 20

# PRAYER

God’s House should be a “House of Prayer,” and that when believers assemble, prayer should be a primary focus. We also believe that teaching people how to pray, and challenging them to live a lifestyle of constant prayer and communion with God is fundamental because each believer is the temple of God. Prayer is one of the most prominent corporate disciplines employed at Rock City Church. It is also one of the most prominent individual disciplines because we must abide in Christ and meet Him in the secret place.

Our heart is that you would pray in secret and without ceasing, communing with God in everything. Psalm 24:3-6, 27:4-5, 37:4, 91:1; Matt 5:44, 6:6-15, 21:13; Mark 9:29, 11:17; Luke 19:46; John 6:15; Acts 1:14 Philip 1:4; 1 Tim

4:5; Col 4:2; Acts 6:4; 1 Cor 6:19; 2 Cor 6:16; 1 Thess 5:17; 1 John 4:14; John 15:7

# TEACHING

All teaching provided by the Senior Pastor will be biblically based according to the beliefs and knowledge of the senior pastor, as well as the leading of the Holy Spirit. If a guest speaker or minister teaches a contradictory principle to what the Bible and the Senior Pastor teaches or believes, correction-is provided privately, and if needed, corporately. It is vain to tell someone the right thing to do and not give them the power to do it. Therefore, teaching is never simply moralizing, but it is sharing revelation by the Holy Spirit to empower hearers to believe, receive, and obey what Jesus has taught us. Teachers must not be puffed up by knowledge, but love, serve, and relate like family. Jesus commanded us not to elevate anyone as “Teacher,” but to rely on His teaching for we are all brothers.

Our heart is for you to mature in your identity in Christ and abide in His word, so that you may be able to instruct others in His love.

2 Tim 3:16-17, 4:3; 2 Peter 1:20-21, 2:1; James 3:1; 1 Cor 8:1; Matt 23:8-12; John 14:26; Heb 5:12, 8:11; 1 Thess 4:2; Rom 2:19-21

# WORSHIP

Releasing sounds through praise and worship to God has a profound effect on the believer’s life and the spiritual atmosphere of our meetings. Praise and worship can also have a profound impact on the spiritual atmosphere over a city. Worship to God positions the heart of the believer for supernatural breakthroughs in understanding God’s heart for them and others. As an act of love back to God, He in turn pours out His love upon us. As we draw close to Him, He draws close to us. Worship is integral to- the Rock City Church experience, and just like prayer, is considered a critical part of what we do when we gather.

Our heart is that you would receive new songs from God to sing to Him as you abide in Him.

2 Chron 16:9; Psalms 40:3, 89:15, 96:1, 98:1, 99:5,9, 100:4, 144:9, 149:1; Isa 42:10, Micah 4:2; Luke 24:52; John 4:24; Heb 10:25; Rev 5:9

# FINANCES

Believers give financially to God through the local church, as the Spirit leads them. The Old Testament promise that God will pour out on those that give is now empowered by the Holy Spirit poured out in our hearts where thankfulness now overflows in generosity. God is generous, and His children will be like Him, giving cheerfully both secretly and publicly. Giving financially is between the believer and God, and pressure from man should never play a factor in how much someone gives. God doesn’t want our

pocketbooks, He wants our hearts; when He has our hearts, He will have our pocketbooks. We also believe that the church has a fiduciary responsibility to manage money well and to be a good steward before God and man. Transparency and accountability are key and made available to active members when requested. All finances given to Rock City Church are used to advance the Kingdom of God in the hearts of man and on the earth.

Our heart is that God will prosper you financially as He becomes your source of contentment and freedom.

Lev 27:30; Numbers 18; 2 Chron 31:5; Dt 14:22-29; Mal 3:8-10 Matt 6:3-4, Luke 6:38, 12:15; Romans 12:8; 1 Cor 16:2; 2 Cor 9:6-7, 12:14; James 1:5; 1 Tim 6:6; Philip 4:16-20

## SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

Spiritual disciplines come from an overflow in a believer's heart. Out of intimacy, love, and relationship, and a desire to conform to His image in a greater way, a believer will want to employ spiritual disciplines in their life. Spiritual disciplines include but are not limited to: prayer, worship, fasting, giving of time and money, study of scripture, intimacy with God, church attendance, answering the call of God in their life, obedience to God's commandments and the Holy Spirit.

Our heart is that your desire for God will bloom, bringing you joy and anticipation in the spiritual disciplines.

1 Cor 9:24-27

## LAYING ON OF HANDS

Praying for people with a personal touch is scriptural. As a "point of contact" between people, laying on of hands can have a profound impact on a person's faith as it expresses vulnerability and admission of need before God. We believe that healing power only comes through God, but that the Holy Spirit can use gifts in a believer to strengthen, encourage, and heal the person receiving prayer. At Rock City Church, only approved ministers on the prayer team are sanctioned to pray and touch another person through prayer. Training and protocol are implemented in a prayer team member's life through education and accountability.

Our heart is for you to receive all God has prepared for you in vulnerability, care, and obedience by laying on of hands.

Acts 8:17-18, 9:12, 13:31, 19:6; Tim 4:14; Hebrews 6:2; James 5:14

# HEALING

Complete physical, mental, and spiritual healing was provided by Christ through His death on the cross. We do believe that a complete physical manifestation of healing only comes from God, and that several factors either enable or inhibit this from happening. It is important that we pursue what God is saying, ask for wisdom concerning the matter, and seek revelation knowledge about healing for each individual. Sometimes, the sickness is sent on demonic assignment to steal, kill, and destroy. Sometimes, it's initiated by natural causes like exposure to toxic chemicals or maybe a genetic predisposition. This is why knowing 'how' to pray is so important. Ultimately, we believe that healing is accomplished even in death with the promise and hope of eternal life with Christ, but because Jesus healed here on earth, because He never said 'no' to someone asking for healing, we will pursue it on earth, as it is in Heaven, as a church.

Our heart is that you would pray for healing with confidence in God's nature and promises.

Psalms 30:2, 103:3,13, 107:20,147:3; Prov 16:24; Is 53; Matt 9:26, 36, 19:2, 21:14; Mark 3:2, 16:18; Luke 9:2; 1 Cor 12:9; James 5:14

# SPIRITUAL WARFARE

There is a war between Satan and his demonic forces against God and His angelic hosts. The devil is already defeated, but seeks to continuously accuse and torment God's people through fear, lies, and deception. We seek to bring light and revelation to people's lives through the truth, love, and understanding of Christ and the righteousness that only comes from Him. Through this belief, we drive back demonic forces in man, the earth, and heavenly places. To do this, one uses "spiritual weapons" that are not carnal, but mighty through God and His word. We also believe that people can be possessed by demons and that casting them out is biblical.

Our heart is for you to receive deliverance from anything that binds, controls, or torments you.

2 Cor 10:3; Eph 6:10-18; 1 Pet 5:8-9; Heb 4:12; Rev 12:11-12, 30:2

# THE BLOOD OF JESUS

The ultimate weapon in our arsenal of "spiritual weapons" is the blood. The shed blood of Christ is continuously available to cleanse, heal, and war against demonic forces.

Our heart is for you to know that Christ shed His blood for you to buy you out of anything to which you have sold yourself.

Matt 26:28; Mark 14:24; John 6:55; Heb 9:18-21; Heb 10; Is 53:5; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Rev 12:11; 1 John 5:8

# COMMUNION

Commanded by Christ in scripture, communion is an ordinance instituted by Him to bring remembrance and proclamation of the Lord's death and return. Observing communion **allows** opportunity for sanctification and healing when the believer's heart and motives are right. Communion should always be observed with the utmost respect and reverence before God. Unbelievers should never observe communion, as this is a spiritual act reserved solely for believers.

**Our heart is for you to remember you are not your own but bought by Christ through His sacrifice.** Matt 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; 1 Cor 11:17-34; 1 Cor 6:19-20, 7:23; Isa 55:1; Rev 22:17; John 20:26-29

# THE CHURCH

All born again believers are part of a general assembly and church of God. Believers are also part of the body of Christ, which in turn make up this church. Though we are part of a grander global church naturally and spiritually, we are also called to assemble-for fellowship, worship, prayer, guidance, and instruction. Also known as a church congregation or meeting, the local church plays a vital role in advancing the Kingdom of God in the hearts of man and on this earth. We believe that it is biblical for believers to attend and be a part of a local congregation of like-minded believers. We also believe that God is going to use the church to fulfill His redemptive purposes on earth, as well as to equip and train saints for the work of the ministry.

**Our heart is that God will place you in a local church where you can receive and give spiritual life to the body of Christ as He has designed you to do.**

Acts 2:42, 46; 1 Cor 12:27; Eph 4:12; Heb 10:25; 12:22-24

# MARRIAGE

**Marriage is sacred.** It is a covenant relationship originally designed by God in the garden of Eden uniting one man and one woman into one-flesh in His presence and by His Spirit. We are confident the Bible and God Himself does not support same-sex marriage; and though we love and care for same-sex couples, (married or not), we do not believe it is God's will or design for their lives. **God designed marriage to be** a union between two believers and followers of Christ, and the couple should be equally yoked in their faith and doctrinal beliefs. We believe that man is called to be the spiritual leader of his home and the head of his wife just as Christ is the head of the church, who died and gave His life for her. In turn, we also believe that the woman is to be submitted to her husband as she is submitted to the Lord. We believe the husband and wife are equal spiritually in God's eyes and are to walk face-to-face in life and make all life decisions together as much as possible. The wife is no way inferior to her husband and can hear equally

from God as her husband can. Just as Christ and the Father are one, and just as the church body is to be one-flesh, so are husbands and wives. This is a great mystery that can only be fulfilled through denying self and fully following the Holy Spirit.

Our heart is for your marriage to be blessed and reflect God's glory as you yield it to Him.

Gen 2:18, 21-24, Matt 19:4-6, Prov 18:22, Is 62:5, Eph 5:21-28, 2 Corin 6:14

## THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The Kingdom of God is a spiritual and natural rule and reign of God over His people. The Kingdom of God starts in the hearts of man, and spreads to natural, cultural, and spiritual environments as true Christians honor and obey His commandments. As people come to know Him, the Kingdom of God becomes a reality in man's personal life, family life, the marketplace, the economy, in government, and in driving out darkness on the earth.

Our heart is for you to live as a citizen of heaven and an ambassador of God's kingdom on earth.

Prov 29:2; Mark 1:15; Luke 9:2, 10:9; John 3:3; Romans 14:17; 1 Cor 6:9-10; Gal 5:19-26; 2 Cor 5:20; Eph 2:19, 6:20; Philip 3:20

## THE GREAT COMMISSION

Believers are biblically mandated to "go" into all the world and preach the gospel, baptize, and make disciples. Everyone plays a part both locally and internationally in performing this function. From the local church and the streets of your hometown, to the nations and ends of the earth, all Christians should reflect His love and life confidently and in such a way that brings about health and healing to all who are ripe for the harvest.

Our heart is for your trust in Jesus to grow so that you will follow Him closer and bring His life to others so they can trust and follow Him also.

Prov 29:2; Matt 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-18; Luke 10:1-2, 17

## THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

Christ will return for a pure and spotless Bride (His church) at the appointed time set by the Father. Scripture alludes to the time and season in which this will happen, but the exact time has not been revealed to mankind. We are commanded to watch, pray, and continuously remain filled with His Spirit

until the day comes. All believers will be raptured (**snatched up**) and resurrected to join Christ in the great end time battle to defeat Satan and his demonic host once and for all (Armageddon).

**Our heart is for you to look up with expectation of your salvation when Christ appears.**

Ps. 2:7–9; 22:27–28; Matt 24, 25:13; Jn. 14:12; 17:20–26; Rom. 11:25–32; 1 Cor. 15:20–28, 50–58; Eph. 4:11–16; Phil. 3:20–21; 1 Thes. 4:13–5:11; 2 Thes. 1:3–12; Rev. 7:9–14, 16:16

## ETERNITY

All believers who accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior will inherit the Kingdom of God and will dwell with God for all eternity. Those who choose to reject Christ as their Savior before they die will have to answer directly to God for their rejection, bow and confess Him, and face the consequences of their own actions while on earth, **including an eternal fiery hell apart from God**. For those who die without having the opportunity to hear about Christ, **God has made His divine nature known to them in the majesty of His creation and provision so that they might feel their way to Him, and God will judge them impartially and righteously**. Only God knows **everyone's** ultimate heart condition prior to death; therefore, it is imperative that **men do not pass a presumption of eternal judgment before God's final judgment is revealed**. God **wants all men to receive Christ so that no one will perish and go to hell- Because people make choices that can have eternal consequences**. Rock City is on a mission to turn the hearts of people to God so they can live an abundant life now and eternally with Him.

**Our heart is for you to be certain of your eternal life in Christ.**

Matt 3:10, 5:22, 29-30, 10:28, 18:9, 23:15, 23:33, Mark 9:43, 45, 47, Luke 12:5; **Luke 16: 22-24, 21:27-28**; John 3:16, 18, 36, 10:28, 17:3; **Rom 6:23**; 2 Cor 5:6-8; Philip 1:23; James 3:6 Rev 20: 11-15; Rev 21 & 22; **Rom 1;19-20, 2:15-16; Acts 17:27**

*Thank you so much for taking the time to read our spiritual beliefs. They are foundational to our culture here at Rock City and our individual walks with Jesus; so, it means a lot to us that you would **ponder** these topics and take them to the Lord in prayer as you **consider** making Rock City your home.*

