

INTRODUCTION

WELCOME TO CONNECT

We're glad you've chosen to find out more about Fellowship of Praise! This class is the basic Introduction to our church family. Since we have members from many different church backgrounds, this class was designed to clearly explain who we are and what we believe in as a unified church.

FOP Church Mobile App

Stay updated on our church events by downloading our FOP Church App. Search "FOP Church" in the App Store or the Google Play Store. All links are posted on our website: www.fopchurch.net This is also where you can sign up for various events, volunteer positions, access Weekly Devotions and other information.

THE BASIS FOR THIS CLASS:

"...You are a member of God's very own family... and you belong in God's household with every other Christian." Ephesians 2:19

PART ONE:

OUR PURPOSE

"Let there be real harmony among you so there won't be any splits in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose." 1 Corinthians 1:10

Equipping the Saints for the work of ministry
Attaining unity of the Faith
Growing in the Knowledge of the son of God
Ephesians 4:11-14

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: WHY WE EXIST AS A CHURCH

We desire Fellowship of Praise Church to be a place to
REACH the hurting,
REPAIR the broken,
RESTORE the fallen, and
REJOICE in the process.

THE GREAT COMMISSION:

At Fellowship of Praise, we strive to be a part of the fulfillment of the great commission following the commands of Jesus to spread his gospel message to all of creation and making disciples.

"And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

PART TWO: OUR BELIEFS

"Watch your life and your doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers." 1 Timothy 4:16

WHAT WE BELIEVE

I. FOUR ESSENTIAL TRUTHS

1. The BIBLE is the Word of God.

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)

Knowing this first, no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." 2 Peter 1:20-21 (ESV):

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105 (ESV)

"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)

These verses assert that the Scriptures are not merely human writings but are divinely

inspired and authoritative. They reveal God's character, His will for humanity, and provide guidance for believers in their faith and conduct. God's Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, and we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is, "What does the Bible say?" We practice daily Bible reading and Bible study. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

2. Jesus is the Son of God.

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." "Matthew 16:15-16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (ESV)

I and the father are one. John 10:30 (ESV)

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. Hebrews 1:1-3 (ESV)

These scriptures affirm that Jesus is not only the Messiah (the Christ) but also the Son of God. This belief is central to Christian theology, emphasizing Jesus' divine nature, His role in redemption, and his unique relationship with God the Father. It underscores the Christian understanding of the Trinity—God as Father, Son (Jesus Christ), and Holy Spirit—revealing God's love and plan for humanity through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity, lived a sinless life on earth and voluntarily paid for our sin by dying on the cross as our substitute. This accomplished salvation for all who receive grace by trusting in Him alone. He rose from the dead and is the only mediator between God and us. He baptizes believers in the Holy Spirit and will return to earth to fulfill prophecy.

3. You must be BORN AGAIN

Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3 (ESV)

John 3:5-6 (ESV) Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That born of the flesh is flesh, and that born of the Spirit is spirit. John 3:5-6 (ESV)

1 Peter 1:3 (ESV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3 (ESV)

These verses emphasize that being BORN AGAIN involves a spiritual renewal or transformation brought about by God's grace and the work of the Holy Spirit. It signifies a new life and a new relationship with God, marked by faith in Jesus Christ.

4. Believers can be filled with the holy spirit and power.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8 (ESV)

"And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit," Ephesians 5:18 (ESV)

"And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness." Acts 4:31 (ESV):

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)

These verses illustrate that believers can experience the filling of the Holy Spirit, which empowers them for ministry, strengthens their faith, and produces spiritual fruit in their lives. This experience is often understood as a continual process of yielding to and being empowered by the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We believe the only way possible to live the Christian life is by God's power within us. Every believer can be filled with the Holy Spirit by simply asking. We seek to practice a daily dependence on God's Spirit to enable us to do what is right.

UNITY/ LIBERTY/LOVE IN OUR BELIEFS

1. In essential beliefs, we have unity.

“There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” Ephesians 4:4-6 ESV

2. In non-essential beliefs, we have liberty.

“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters...Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls...So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God...So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.”

Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22

3. In all our beliefs, we show love.

“...If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but the very secrets of God, and if I also have the absolute faith which can move mountains - but have no love, I amount to nothing at all.” 1 Corinthians 13:2 (Ph)

FELLOWSHIP OF PRAISE STATEMENT OF FAITH

WE BELIEVE:

1. The Holy Bible, consisting of both Old and New Testaments, is the inspired revelation of God to man. Therefore, the Scriptures are the infallible, authoritative rule for all matters of faith and conduct.

2. In one God eternally existing in three persons; namely, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

3. Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary. That Jesus was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead. That He ascended to heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor.

4. That all have sinned and come short of the glory of God and that repentance is commanded of God for all and necessary for forgiveness of sins.

5. That justification, regeneration, and the new birth are wrought by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ.

6. In sanctification subsequent to the new birth, through faith in the blood of Christ, through the Word and by the Holy Ghost.

7. Holiness to be God’s standard of living for His people.

8. The Holy Spirit baptism, as experienced in the early Christian Church, is promised to all believers in Christ, imparting to them spiritual gifts (charisma), to edify the body of Christ and equip for Christian service. This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the new birth and enables the believer to receive a spiritual language (glossolalia) for personal edification and prayer.

9. The Church of Jesus Christ is the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of the great commission. Each believer, having been born of the Spirit, is a valuable part of the body of Christ. We further believe in a called and ordained five-fold ministry for the purpose of the evangelization of the world and the edifying of the Body of Christ.
10. In water baptism by immersion, and all who repent should be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
11. Divine healing is provided for all in the Atonement.
12. In the Lord's Supper and washing of the saints' feet.
13. We believe in the second coming of Christ to receive the church unto himself and rule and reign forever. The return of Jesus Christ is imminent and will precede his reign upon the earth and the final judgments. Afterward there will be a new heaven and new earth.

PART THREE:

OUR HOPE FOR YOU

"...We hope that your faith will grow and that our work among you will be greatly enlarged." 2 Corinthians 10:15 (NLT)

I. BECOME A PART OF FELLOWSHIP OF PRAISE

WHY DO WE NEED TO BE A PART OF A LOCAL CHURCH?

Worship and Praise: Gathering together allows believers to worship God collectively, as seen in Hebrews 10:24-25, which encourages "not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Fellowship and Community: The church provides a community where believers can build relationships, support one another, and share in each other's joys and burdens (Acts 2:42-47).

Instruction and Teaching: The local church is a place where believers can receive spiritual teaching and grow in their understanding of God's Word. Acts 2:42 mentions that early believers "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching."

Spiritual Gifts and Service: Each believer has been given spiritual gifts to serve the body of Christ. Gathering in a local church allows believers to use these gifts for the edification of others (1 Corinthians 12).

Accountability and Discipleship: Being part of a local church provides accountability and discipleship opportunities, where believers can encourage

one another in their faith and hold each other accountable in their walk with Christ (Matthew 18:15-20).

Mission and Outreach: The church is also a launching point for fulfilling the Great Commission—to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20). By gathering, believers can strategize and mobilize for effective mission and outreach.

II. NEXT STEPS FOR GROWTH IN THE CHURCH

1. Complete Connect 2. The Next Date for Connect 2 is the second Sunday of every month
2. Join a group. A list of our ministries and small groups is available on our website and app.
3. Become a servant leader. Our Next server training date is the 3rd Sunday of every month.

III. NEXT STEPS FOR PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP

1. Read our red-letter gospel plan. The red letters in the Bible are the words spoken by God the father and Jesus, the son of God through the Gospels. This reading plan is a simple introduction into daily devotion with the word of God.

- Day 1 Matthew 3-5
- Day 2 Matthew 6
- Day 3 Matthew 7-9
- Day 4 Matthew 10-12
- Day 5 Matthew 13-15
- Day 6 Matthew 16-18
- Day 7 Matthew 19-21
- Day 8 Matthew 22-24
- Day 9 Matthew 25-26
- Day 10 Matthew 27- Mark 2
- Day 11 Mark 3-5
- Day 12 Mark 6-8
- Day 13 Mark 9-11
- Day 14 Mark 12-14
- Day 15 Mark 15- Luke 2
- Day 16 Luke 3-5
- Day 17 Luke 6-8
- Day 18 Luke 9-11
- Day 19 Luke 12-14
- Day 20 Luke 15-17
- Day 21 Luke 18-20

Day 22 Luke 21-23
Day 23 Luke 24- John 2
Day 24 John 3-5
Day 25 John 6-8
Day 26 John 9-11
Day 27 John 12-14
Day 28 John 15-16
Day 29 John 17-19
Day 30 John 20-21

2. Commit time to personal prayer.
3. Sign Up for our next baptism if you have not been baptized.