

1.	Scripture
2.	Godhead
3.	Jesus Christ
4.	Holy Spirit
5.	Man
6.	Old Nature & New Nature
7.	Sinner's Substitute
8.	Salvation
9.	Lordship of Jesus Christ
10.	Resurrection
11.	Church
12.	Spiritual Gifts
13.	Life of Separation
14.	Evangelization of the World
15.	Personal Bodily Return of Christ
16.	The Soul
17.	At the Resurrection
18.	Satan
19.	Election, Predestination, the Chosen, & Free Will
20.	Repentance

Statement of Faith

of
Philip J. Myers, PhD

Although the Scripture quoted here is often quite abbreviated, great diligence has been taken to ascertain that it is not used out of context; both the context of the clause as well as the paragraph.

I BELIEVE:

1. I BELIEVE that **ALL SCRIPTURE** is given by inspiration of God, by which we understand the whole book called The Bible. We believe that it is inerrant in the original writings and that its teaching and authority are absolute, supreme, and final. That the Holy Spirit guided the holy men of old in all that they wrote.

2 Timothy 3:16 all Scripture is given by inspiration, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction. . . .
2 Peter 1:21 holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

We believe that there are hermeneutic principles which guide men in their understanding of Scripture. We believe that any particular passage is not open to "many interpretations" [although there may be many applications]. Among these interpretive principles are such considerations as: context, literal reading, historical setting, author, as well as literature style [i.e. poetry, narrative, didactic, etc.]. 2 Peter 1:21

There is only one interpretation and that is what God meant when He wrote that verse or paragraph.
see my booklet: [20 Biblical Hermeneutic Principles, c 1985](#)

2. I BELIEVE the **GODHEAD** eternally exists in three persons - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three are one God, having the same nature, attributes, and perfection.

Matthew 28:19 baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. . .
John 10:30 I and My Father are one.
John 5:18 Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because. . . [Jesus said] that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.
II Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost. . . .
Matthew 3:16,17 Jesus, when He was baptized, . . . the Spirit of God descending like a dove, . . . and lo a voice from heaven saying "This is My beloved Son. . . ."
I John 5:7,8 There are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost.

3. I BELIEVE in the personality and deity of **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**, who always existed with the Father And the Spirit but was begotten into a human family by the Holy Spirit, was born as the son of Mary while she was a virgin and Jesus is truly God and truly man.

John 1:1,14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
Matt 1:23 They shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.
Philippians 2:5-7 [Jesus] being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God.
1 Timothy 3:16 God was manifest in the flesh. . . .

4. I BELIEVE in the personality and deity of **THE HOLY SPIRIT**, the source and power of all acceptable worship and service, who indwells every true believer forever from the moment of salvation. The filling of the Holy spirit mentioned in Ephesians 5.18 comes through obedience to the Spirit, i.e. obedience to the Word of God.

John 15:26 the Comforter, even the Spirit of Truth, which proceedeth from the Father. . . .
Acts 5:3, 4 Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, . . . thou hast not lied unto men but unto God.
1 Corinthians 3:16 ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you
1 Corinthians 12:13 by one Spirit are we all baptized into one Body

5. I BELIEVE that **MAN** was created in the image of God, after His likeness, but the whole human race sinned in the fall of Adam. He died spiritually. This is sometimes called the “original sin.” It is also called “The Old Nature.” “The carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then, they that are in the flesh cannot please God” (Romans 8:7, 8). Therefore, man cannot enter the kingdom of God until he is born again by the Holy Spirit. I believe that no degree of reformation however great, no attainment in morality however high, no culture however attractive, no humanitarian and philanthropic schemes and societies however useful, no baptism or other ordinance however administered can help the sinner take even one step toward Heaven; but a new nature imparted from above through faith alone gives new life. I believe that God has created man with the ability to choose to sin or not to sin. We believe that God has created man with the ability to choose or reject Jesus as his savior.

Genesis 1:26, 27 Let Us make man in Our image. . . .
Romans 5:12 As by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin, . . .
Ephesians 2:1-3 you hath He quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins.
John 3:3,6,7 except a man be born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God
Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us. . . .

6. I BELIEVE that all men are born with an **OLD NATURE** and are given a **NEW NATURE** at the moment of salvation. When I trusted Him as the Savior several things happened:

- A. We became God’s children, He becomes our Father
- B. We received the indwelling Holy Spirit to live in us giving strength to defeat the old man [the flesh]. This is spiritual warfare.
- C. “We were” born again. Although we were created in the image of God [similar to Him in many ways which do not characterize animals—emotionally, intellectually, aware of spiritual matters, goal setters, aware of the need to forgive, able to read, choosing to bury our dead, etc.]; however, I was completely unlike Him in holiness. I was totally depraved, having no righteousness of our own. He uses words like ungodly, wicked, and enemies to describe us prior to salvation.

The Old Nature has several names: flesh, carnal man, the natural man, and old man. We could do absolutely nothing to please God. **However**, our new man never sins even once. It is this battle for dominance which causes us as believers to struggle.

The old nature can be controlled and subdued by the Holy Spirit’s strength in our new man.

1 Jn 5:18 We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.
1 Jn 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.
Joh 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
Rom 7:15 That which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. *Rom 7:16* If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. *Rom 7:17* Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. *Rom 7:18* For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. *Rom 7:19* For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. *Rom 7:20* Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. *Rom 7:21* I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. *Rom 7:22* For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:
Ephesians 4:22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 24 And that ye put on the new man.
Rom 8:5 They that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. *Rom 8:6* For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.
Galatians 5:17 The flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Other names for **THE OLD NATURE / SINFUL NATURE** [not biblical terms]

The flesh	Rom 8.13	Gal 5.17
Old man	Eph 4.22	
Carnal mind	Rom 8.6	
Old things	II Cor 5.17	
Old man	Col 3.9	
Natural man	I Cor 2.14	
Born of the flesh	John 3.6	
Sin that dwelleth in me	Rom 7.21	
Law of sin	Rom 7.23	
Old self	Eph 4.22	Col 3.9 Rom 6.6 NASB
Evil	Rom 7.20	NASB
Mind set on the flesh	Rom 8.7	NASB

7. I BELIEVE that Jesus Christ became the **SINNER'S SUBSTITUTE** before the Father, and died as a propitiatory sacrifice for the sins of every person in the whole world. We believe that the only thing we can do to have forgiveness of sins is to place our faith in Jesus' death on our behalf. We believe that He became a curse for the sinner, dying for his sins according to the Scriptures. No feelings of repentance, no good resolutions, no sincere efforts, no submission to rules and church regulations or religion can add in the very least to the value of Jesus precious blood of Jesus' death. He experienced death for every man.

Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the Law, being made a curse for us.
Romans 3:25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins.
Romans 4:4 To him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly. . .his faith.
Rom 5.8,6 God commendeth His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners. . . Christ died for the ungodly.
Colossians 1.21 you that were sometimes alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He hath reconciled.
II Corinthians 5.21 He [the Father] hath made Him [Jesus] to be sin for us. Who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.
Mark 10.45 the Son of Man came. . .to give His life a ransom for many
I Tim 4.10 we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe.

8. I BELIEVE that the words we use to explain **SALVATION** as a result of faith alone are to be carefully chosen. The message is to be clearly presented avoiding such foggy terminology which may confuse the unbeliever. We believe that phrases such as "let Jesus in your heart," or "pray to receive Christ," or "pray a sinner's prayer," or "give your heart to Jesus," or "repent of every sin," or "commit your life to God," are not in the Bible and do not make the message of faith clearer. Rather, they leave people with a feeling that they must do something special to be saved instead of simply relying on Jesus' death. I see that the two most frequently used operative words in the NT to describe the means to salvation are the words "faith" and "believe."

God's two favorite words, "faith" & "believe," are used about 200 x in the NT to speak of the means of salvation. No other word or expression comes close.

[see my blog: PhilMyersBlog.com](http://PhilMyersBlog.com) [211 Salvation verses, by faith alone](#)
[see my other blog: PhilMyersBlog.com](http://PhilMyersBlog.com) [God's Two Favorite Salvation Words](#)

Jesus spoke of small children who savingly believed. [Matt 18.6 "one of these little ones which believe in Me."]
 Nothing can be required of adults to believe or do which cannot also be expected of a child: no doctrine, no behavior, and no depth of sorrow.

[see my children's tract: Am I Going to Heaven?](#)
[see my blog: PhilMyersBlog.com](http://PhilMyersBlog.com) [Age of Accountability](#)

Ephesians 2:8,9 By grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works lest any man should boast.
John 3:16 God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
John 6:47 he that believeth in Me hath everlasting life.
Romans chapters 3,4,5

We believe that the moment we trust Him as our Savior we pass out of death into **EVERLASTING LIFE**. We are justified from all things and made sons of God. At the moment of faith in Christ as Savior He comes to dwell in the believer with the purpose of living out a life of holiness in us.

John 5:24 he that heareth My Word and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death to life.
Romans 3:28 a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the Law
Romans 4:3, 23-25 Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness.
Acts 1:8 Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you. . .

[see my book: PhilMyersBlog.com](http://PhilMyersBlog.com) [Answering 123 Verses about Eternal Security & Conditional Security, c 1985](#)

[see my pamphlet: PhilMyersBlog.com](http://PhilMyersBlog.com) [Once Saved—Always Saved: Is that doctrine taught in the Bible?](#)
 This pamphlet shows that those who are depending even just a little bit on their good works as a means to earn salvation will find my list of 22 commandments in the New Testament alone, which they must keep perfectly!

9. I BELIEVE that there is great joy in serving Jesus as our master, **CHRIST AS LORD**. Making Jesus Christ the absolute Lord of our lives and pursuing godliness with our whole heart is our purpose for living. Holy living is a command for the believer, not an option. Growth only comes as we log time in following hard after God. Be patient, **be holy**.

Immediate **CONFESSION** of our sins directly to the Father is a crucial part of holy living. It provides daily cleansing.

Romans 12:1,2 I beseech ye therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that present your bodies a living sacrifice. . . .
Romans 6:13 Yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead. . . sin shall not have dominion over you. . . .
I Corinthians 6:19,20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.
Colossians 4:17 Say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it."
1John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

MATURITY only comes after logging a lot of time following hard after God. Although we never become sinless in this life on the planet, we certainly should be sinning less and less as we mature in our walk with the Lord. Becoming a spiritually minded person may begin simultaneously with our moment of salvation, or it may begin to ripen as we sit under the teaching of the Word; however, maturity is not instantaneous but will only develop over a period time with diligent works. Bible studying, church family life, memorization of Scripture, much prayer, talking to the lost about their salvation, bathing each day in a litany of prayer, and pursuing godliness with our whole heart.

see my blog, PhilMyersBlog.com 9 Habits of Deeply Committed Believers
see my blog, PhilMyersBlog.com Predetermined Dedication

10. I BELIEVE in the **RESURRECTION** of the crucified body of Jesus Christ. We believe that His body was raised from the dead according to the Scriptures and that He ascended into Heaven and sits on the right hand of God as the believer's high priest and advocate.

Luke 24:39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.
Acts 1:10 While they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; 11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.
Hebrews 1:3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.

11. I BELIEVE that **THE CHURCH** is a Body, a Building, and the Bride of Christ, composed of all those who individually believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. We believe that every believer, whether Jew or Gentile, is baptized into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit at the split second of faith [*no prayer necessary, just faith*], and having thus become members of one another we are responsible to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. I must rise above all sectarian prejudices and denominational bigotry by loving one another with a pure heart fervently.

Elders are to be chosen from among godly men in the congregation. Though Paul seems to have "left" or appointed several of his traveling companions at various churches. They all are required to meet the qualifications listed in both *1 Timothy 3.1-7* & *Titus 1.1-10*. Their two chief responsibilities are to pray for their flocks and to teach the Word of God [*Acts 6,4*].

Church discipline is to be administered by the elders according to biblical guidelines.

Deacons are responsible for serving the congregation as a whole as well as its staff, particularly, it seems, the widows [*Acts 6.1-4* & *1 Tim 3.8-13*].

Ephesians 1:22 [He] hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.
Ephesians 2:19 Ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.
1 Corinthians 12:22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: 23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honorable, upon these we bestow more abundant honor; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. 25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. 27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

I Tim 3.1-13 This is a true saying. If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach; 3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; 4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

ITi 3:6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. 8 Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; 9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

ITi 3:10 Let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. 11 Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. 12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. 13 For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Titus 1.5-10 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: 6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. 7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; 8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; 9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. 10 For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:

Acts 6.1-4 In those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. 2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. 3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. 4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the Word.

see my blog, PhilMyersBlog.com [Elder, Please Step Down, Now, c 2006](#)

A very practical duty of the elders concerns healing. We believe that physical healing is nowhere in Scripture clearly indicated to be automatic for godly Christians. One of the duties of the elders is to anoint the sinful sick saints.

There are several reasons for illness. Among them are a] disobedience, b] a gift from God to strengthen a believer, c] a ministry to reach unbelievers [*medical staff, pharmacists, neighbors, physical therapists, et al.*]

I believe the elders should always ask about sin when they are called to pray for the sick.

James 5.14,15 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. . .if he hath committed sins. . .

see my blog: PhilMyersBlog.com, [18 Biblical Reasons for Suffering](#)

12. I BELIEVE that every believer is selected by the Holy Spirit to be endowed with at least one “**SPIRITUAL GIFT** [*yes, even children*].” We believe that there is no satisfaction for the Christian who is not actively using his spiritual gift. . .that the church cannot function properly without the participation of every member. . .that it is sin not to be involved in the ministry. . .that there is no definitive list of spiritual gifts, and that there were certain sign gifts present in the “transition” period at the birth of the church and these gifts are absent in church history for the last two thousand years.

Rom 12:4 As we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; 7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; 8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness.

I Corinthians 12:28 God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

The three primary purposes the holy Spirit gives gifts are stated here in Eph 4.12

Ephesians 4.12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13. I BELIEVE that all believers in our Lord Jesus are called to a **LIFE OF SEPARATION** from worldly and sinful practices and should abstain from such amusements and habits as will cause others to stumble or bring reproach upon the cross of Christ. Believers are created in Christ Jesus unto good works. "As we therefore have opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

Galatians 6:10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

1 John 2:15,16 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Romans 13:14 Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

Romans 14:13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

Ephesians 2:10 We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

14. I BELIEVE in **THE EVANGELIZATION OF THE WORLD**. We believe that the supreme mission of the people of God in this age is to get the Gospel to every person in our own generation. We believe that special emphasis should be placed upon the evangelization of children. World evangelism begins with believers' responsibility to explain the Gospel one-on-one.

Mark 16:15 He said unto them, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

2 Corinthians 5:18 All things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Matthew 18:14 Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.

see my blog: PhilMyersBlog.com [The Age of Accountability](#)

15. I BELIEVE in the **PERSONAL BODILY RETURN** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ [the Rapture before the Great Tribulation]. We believe that someday we may look up and see Him appear in the sky coming out of heaven and that we should every day be looking expectantly for His return.

Philippians 3:20 Our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ:

Acts 1:11 Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17 The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

16. I BELIEVE that the **SOULS** of those who have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation do at death immediately pass into heaven, and remain there in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the body at the Rapture, when soul and body will be re-united.

Luke 23:43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.

2Co 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

17. I BELIEVE that the souls of the lost remain after death in misery until the final judgment of the Great White Throne, when unbelievers' souls and bodies are **REUNITED AT THE RESURRECTION** and all those at the Throne will be cast into "the lake of fire" which is "the second death," to be conscious while being "punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power."

2 Thessalonians 1:8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his Power.

1 Thes 4.14 Them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. . .and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Luke 16:22 It came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: 28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

Hebrews 9:27 As it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Revelation 20:14,15 Death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

18. I BELIEVE in the reality and personality of **SATAN**, "that old Serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world." We believe that there is a whole host of demons whose dominion is united only by its opposition to God and whose job is to derail believers from a moment by moment life of faith in Christ.

Revelation 12:9 The great dragon was cast out, that old Serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Revelation 20:10 The devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

19. I BELIEVE God uses the terms "**ELECTION, PREDESTINATION, & CHOSEN**" to describe the security we have as children of God. All who believe are called the elect. All elect have eternal life. However, the words "chosen" and "elect" are usually used in the context of service. Chosen for a particular task.

1. God is sovereign which means He is independent and not answerable to anyone.
2. God doesn't always get His way. Puny many can prevent God's will from happening. Man can defy God's will in his own life when he willfully sins.
3. Every verse in the Bible which speaks of God's involvement in election or choosing, is consistent with the following statement:

In His ***sovereign** way, God chose to give eternal life to all who trust Jesus for their salvation. He identifies this group with the word "elect" [*selected by choice, their own choice*]. Did God know ahead of time who would be in this group? Yes. Did He provided every man a **FREE CHOICE** to accept or reject the salvation that He has provided? Yes. Is there any clear Scripture to indicate that some were unable to believe? No. Would some have chosen to believe if they had opportunity? Yes.

* The definition of sovereign is "independent" not "all controlling." It does not mean, for example, that the sovereign leader of any nation always gets his own way. It means the "king" or ruler has no one above him who can give him commands. Sometimes His commands are disobeyed by his/her subjects. Even God doesn't always get His own way. If He did, it would mean that I could never break His laws and never sin again.

It is God's will that all would be saved and that none should perish. God permits man's destiny to depend upon man's choice. Many instances of God's choosing are found in the OT not referring to salvation: Israel was chosen but nations are not granted eternal life, Moses was chosen to lead, Jeremiah was chosen to preach, David was chosen to rule, Pharaoh was chosen to give glory to God but not saved, and so on, and on.

The "Chosen People" were "elected" to provide the Messiah, receive the Bible, and live in the Promised Land where the Messiah will physically reign in His Kingdom. This "election" does not mean they were all saved by faith in JHVH. The whole nation was "elect" but not necessarily saved by faith. They were chosen for a specific purpose.

The Scriptures specifically speaks of those in Tyre & Sidon who "would have repented" [*and been saved*] yet were lost because the miracles [*which had been done in Luke 10—Chorazin & Bethsaida*] hadn't been done in their presence. God knows what would have happened even though it doesn't happen.

see my blog: [Corporate Election: the third view in the Calvin/Arminian debate, c 1978](#)

In His sovereignty, independence] God chose to give *man the freedom to trust in Jesus' payment for sin, or to trust in his own good works. He may choose to accept or reject salvation. From the beginning of time God knew that I would place my trust in Jesus. The choice was truly mine—would I accept or reject? Similarly, if I offer my 9 year old grandson a plate of spinach and a plate of ice cream—I already "know" which he'll choose. But the decision is his.

1 Timothy 2:4 *Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*
 2 Thessalonians 2:13 *We are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:*
 1 Peter 1:2 *Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.*
 2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*
 Acts 10:34 *Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:*
 Ephesians 1:5-14 *Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,*
 Romans 8:29,30 *Whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

*Evidently all angels had a free will at one distinct point in the past. They made the decision to follow Lucifer or reject him. [Scripture is noticeably silent or unclear on this point. I will admit I have drawn this conclusion by the method of extrapolation, but many others have come to the same conclusion.]

20. I BELIEVE that **REPENTANCE** is necessary for the unbeliever to be saved. A different kind of Repentance applies to the believer. The Greek work for “repent” is *metaneo, μετανοεο*, which translated into English means “to change one’s mind.” The word repentance is often connected with salvation in the book of Acts and the Gospels without mentioning the necessity of faith. Interestingly, repentance is only mentioned twice by Paul: 2 Cor 7.10 & Heb 6.1. The word, however, does not intrinsically mean “to stop sinning.”

REPENTANCE & SALVATION The unbeliever who has been trusting in idols, or good works, or religion to save himself must “change his mind” and now trust in Jesus Christ as the one Who has completely paid for sin [see above, Point #7 THE SINNER’S SUBSTITUTE.] It may or may not be accompanied with great turmoil of soul, anguish over sin, forsaking of past misdeeds, or a dramatic and immediate change of lifestyle—180°. [I was but five years of age when my dad explained why Jesus had to die for me. I repented. I was given eternal life, yet my repentance was simply thankfulness for Jesus’ love for me and I expressed it with a great big smile! No tears or anguish. I simply believed what I had been told.]

Luke 15.7 *I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.*
 Acts 2.38 *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*
 Acts 17.30 *The times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:*
 Acts 26.20 *But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.*

REPENTANCE & THE BELIEVER On another hand, every believer is expected to “change his mind” about sins he commits. For the Christian, to repent is to turn one’s back on sin—to stop sinning. There are several lists of sins we are expected to “turn from” even though even though our instruction manual doesn’t specifically use the word repentance in conjunction with them. Rom 1, 1 Peter 4, Romans 13, 2 Corinthians 12, etc.

Hebrews 6.1 *Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,*

[see my blog, PhilMyersBlog.com](http://PhilMyersBlog.com) [Two Kinds of Repentance: for believer and for unbeliever](#)

c 1974, expanded 2005, revised 2020

STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. The Scriptures are inspired and infallible.
2. There is one God who exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ is fully God, fully man, born of a virgin, crucified and risen again. The Holy Spirit indwells every believer and empowers him to live a holy life.
3. Salvation is by faith alone in Jesus Christ. It cannot be earned by good works. All men are lost. Without faith in Jesus Christ they cannot be saved. All believers are part of the universal church. All believers will live eternally in heaven, the unbelievers will suffer in everlasting punishment. Genuine salvation cannot be lost.
4. The Church is God's primary tool for teaching believers and reaching the world with the Gospel. The Spirit gives gifts to all believers.