

Some Basic Christian Teachings from the Bible

- Abraham:** One of the three founding patriarchs of the nation of Israel, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The friend of God (James 2:23). The father of all who believe (Rom. 4:11). God made an unconditional, eternal covenant with Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3; 13:14-17; 15:1-21). This agreement included Descendants (Israel); Blessing; and Land (Canaan). God would bless all nations through Abraham's ultimate descendant, Jesus.
- Atonement:** God and people made "at one" by covering up sin before God. In the Old Covenant, animal sacrifices temporarily covered Israel's sins (Lev. 17:11) . They had to be repeated. Under the New Covenant, Jesus' perfect sacrifice once and for all covered the sins of those who trust in Him (Rom. 3:25; Rom. 8:1).
- Church:** The people of God whom He has called to be His special group, also known as the Body of Christ (Eph. 5:23). This is the Church Universal and consists of Jews and Gentiles who have trusted in Jesus as their Messiah / Savior. It began on the Day of Pentecost with the descent of the Holy Spirit. It will be completed when Christ returns to gather His own to Himself (Rapture – 1 Thess. 4:13-18).
- Covenant:** An agreement that God makes with certain individuals and groups. Some agreements are conditional (obedience is required); others are unconditional (God guarantees it). God made unconditional covenants with Noah, Abraham, and David. The Old Covenant (with Israel) was conditional. The New Covenant (Jer. 31:31-34) (with Israel and with Gentiles) is unconditional,
- Creation:** God is the Creator of all that exists in the universe and on the earth (Gen. 1:1; John 1:3). He created it in seven days, just as it is stated (Genesis 1). This rules out any possibility of the Big Bang or Evolution over millions of years.
- David** The greatest king of Israel. God made an eternal, unconditional covenant with David. God promised an eternal dynasty, eternal kingdom, and throne (2 Sam. 7:13, 16). This covenant will be fulfilled in Jesus' eternal reign, who will sit on the throne of his father David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will never end (Luke 1:31-33).
- Death:** The consequence of human sin is Death . There are 3 kinds of death: (1) Spiritual Death (Man separated from God); (2) Physical Death (Soul separated from Body); (3) Second Death (Rev. 20:14) – the Lake of Fire (Man separated from God forever in torment). You overcome Spiritual Death by trusting in Jesus and being Born Again. If you don't cure Spiritual Death before Physical Death, there is no hope! If you are Born Again you will never experience Second Death. Jesus' resurrection assures us believers of a resurrected body in which we will live

forever in Spiritual Life in New Jerusalem.

- Depravity: Since Adam, all are born with a Sin Nature (Rom. 3:10-12; 1 John 1:8). We are sinners who are separated from God. Because we have a sin nature, we find it easy to sin in thought, word, and deed. We are doomed to die physically and go to the Lake of Fire unless we are born again (John 3:1-16).
- Election: God has the right to choose whomever He wishes (Rom. 8:33) to save out of sin and its consequence of Death. But God's choice is not automatic. Those who are chosen must respond by actively trusting in Jesus, who died for their sins.
- Faith: Trust in God and trust in His Son, Jesus, the only way to God (John 14:6). It is a belief in God's promises that is demonstrated in a way of life that obeys God. It is a life that relies on the power of God. It is commitment to Jesus Christ, trusting Him for salvation. Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6).
- Forgiveness: Because of God's loving mercy He sent His Son Jesus to die as the due punishment for all sin. If we trust in Jesus, God forgives us, and we are to forgive others just as He has forgiven us (Matt. 6:12, 14-15).
- God There is one God who reveals Himself in three persons: Father – Over all, Through all, In all (Eph. 4:6); Son – Creator (John 1:3) and Redeemer (Gal. 3:13); Spirit – Sanctifier and Empowerer. God is One, Spirit, Eternal, All-Powerful, All-knowing, Everywhere Present, Sovereign, Holy, Love, Just, and True.
- Gospel Good News. Specifically the Good News that God provided redemption and forgiveness for our sins through the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-6)
- Grace God in love giving us untold gifts which we do not deserve. God's greatest grace to us is providing, through Jesus' death and resurrection, a way for us to be brought back into friendship and fellowship with Himself. An Acronym is GRACE – God's Riches at Christ's Expense. Perhaps the most famous passage about grace is Ephesians 2:8-10. We are saved by grace through faith without works (Eph. 2:8-9). Good works are the result, not the cause of our salvation (Eph. 2:10).
- Heaven The present dwelling place of God, also known as the Third Heaven. There exists in Heaven the heavenly Mount Zion, a temple, and a throne from which God rules. New Jerusalem presently exists in heaven, but will descend from heaven to New Earth (Rev. 21:2, 10).
- Hell The temporary place of the dead was called Sheol ([7585](#)) (OT) and Hades ([86](#)) (NT). Hades ([86](#)), in particular, in Jesus' day seemed to be divided into two

compartments, one air-conditioned, and the other not (Luke 16:19-31). Hell seems to be equivalent to Gehenna ([1067](#)), and the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:11-15), from which there is no escape. It is a place of eternal torment. Death and Hades will be thrown into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:13-14).

- Holiness God's moral perfection; His separation from evil and devotion to what is right and true. We humans are to be as holy as God is holy (Lev. 19:2).
- Holy Spirit The Third Person of the Godhead, He is one with the Father and the Son. He was active in creation (Gen. 1:2), restrains evil in the world, lives within the present day believer (Rom. 8:9) as one who motivates and empowers. He baptizes believers into the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13). Christians are commanded to be full of (controlled by) the Spirit (Eph. 5:18).
- Incarnation The Second Person of the Godhead becoming permanently also Man (John 1:14), i.e., Jesus Christ.
- Jesus Christ The Second Person of the Godhead, known as the Word of God (John 1:1-3) before He became Man. He became man through the virgin birth. He is true God and true man. He died on the cross as full punishment for sin, and was raised on the third day. His resurrection is the guarantee of resurrection for all who believe in Him (John 11:25-27).
- Justification A legal term – acquittal. The NT declares that God can acquit man of breaking His law because the penalty has been paid in the death of Jesus. This acquittal is not automatic. It is available to all, but effective only for those who place their trust in Jesus apart from any works of their own (Rom. 3:24-25).
- Kingdom The rule of God. This rule exists on two levels. First God is and always has been King over all His Creation (Psa. 10:16; 29:10; 44:4; 47:2; 95:3). But God commanded man to rule the earth (Gen. 1:26; Psalm 8:4-8). But man has never done a good job of ruling the earth. Second, God sent Jesus to be a man, to redeem us humans and to do a marvelous job of ruling the earth as the Messiah. When He returns His kingdom will last 1000 years initially (Rev. 20:1-6). In the New Heavens and New Earth, God and Christ will reign together for eternity from their throne in New Jerusalem. All the redeemed will reign with them forever (Rev. 22:1-5).
- Man The term used for both male and female. Man is the crown of God's creation, created in His image and likeness (Gen. 1:26-28). Part of being like God is to rule over God's creation. God created man to have friendship and fellowship with him. But in Adam, mankind rebelled against God. Now all men (except Jesus) have been born estranged from God, and in rebellion against Him. Jesus, the God-Man, perfectly obeyed God. He was sinless and died a perfect death to pay for man's

sin. Man can be eternally redeemed by trusting in Jesus.

- Mercy God's withholding from people the punishment and judgment they deserve. God extends mercy toward anyone whom He wishes (Rom. 9:15-18). In Jesus God has extended mercy to all (Rom. 11:32). But mercy must be accepted by an individual in order for it to benefit him. Mercy spurned is judgment earned (John 3:36).
- Messiah The Christ – God's chosen Deliver. "Christ" means "The Anointed One." God anointed Jesus to be His ultimate Prophet, Priest, and especially King. The Messiah came the first time to die as the Suffering Savior (Isa. 53:1-12). He will come the second time to reign as the Supreme Sovereign (2 Thess. 1:6-10).
- New Covenant Unlike the Old Covenant, the Mosaic Law, which could never make a person righteous, the New Covenant is unconditional and eternal. God took the initiative to make sure people under the New Covenant have their sins forgiven, and are given a soft heart that wants to obey God and live in righteousness. This New Covenant was promised in Jeremiah 31:31-34. Its beneficiaries are the Nation of Israel and all Gentiles who trust in Jesus. Jesus ratified the New Covenant with His death. It is symbolized by Communion (Matt. 26:26-29). It will be fully implemented for all believers in the New Heaven and New Earth (Rev. 21:1-22:5).
- Peace Peace with God means that, once I have trusted in Jesus, God's complete sacrifice for sin, I am justified (declared righteous) through faith, and I am no longer an enemy of God (Rom. 5:1). The peace of God is what I receive when I am obeying Him, confessing my sins, asking Him to take care of my needs, and trusting that He will (Php. 4:6-7).
- Prayer Conversation with God, that is, speaking to Him, and listening to Him. Prayer at various times includes Praise, Thanksgiving, Confession (1 John 1:9), and Petition (Php. 4:6-7). We should talk to God throughout the day. We should always rejoice, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in everything (1 Thess. 5:16-18).
- Reconciliation The removal of the barrier of sin that separates man from God. When we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son (Rom. 5:10). The removal of the barrier of enmity or dissension that prevents people from having fellowship with one another (Eph. 4:29-32).
- Redemption Payment of a price to buy deliverance and freedom. Christ's life is the price for delivering us from sin and its due punishment. Christ's blood provides redemption, which provides forgiveness for our sins (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14).
- Regeneration Being re-born (born again), re-created, made alive to God through faith in Jesus

Christ. It is the Holy Spirit who regenerates us (Tit. 3:5). The concept is discussed in other language in John 1:12; 3:3-8.

- Repentance** A change of mind about sin and Jesus Christ that leads to a holy life, lived for God. The baptism of repentance proclaimed by John the Baptist (Matt. 3:2) and Jesus (Matt. 4:17) was a call to repent of sin and to live a holy life to prepare for the near Kingdom of the Messiah, called “the Kingdom of the Heavens.” The specific sin about which the Jews gathered at Pentecost were to change their minds was the sin of having killed their Messiah (Acts 2:38). That repentance involved a change of mind about their sin and a change of mind about who Jesus really was.
- Resurrection** Being raised from death to new life as Christ was raised from the dead. For the believer in Christ, this resurrection involves receiving a spiritual body that is immortal, impervious to death, disease, sin, pain, and sorrow (1 Cor. 15:50-58; Rev. 21:1-4).
- Righteousness** The right action and justice which characterizes God and which He requires of us. God is righteous (Rom. 1:17); Jesus Christ is righteous (Rev. 19:11); and the Holy Spirit is righteous (John 16:8). For humans there is imputed righteousness (Rom. 4:3) and personal righteousness (Matt. 6:1). In the New Universe, only righteousness will exist (2 Pet. 3:13).
- Sacrifice** In the OT animals were offered as a price to cover over (atone for) sins. These offerings provided a temporary covering, because they had to be repeated time and time again. In the NT Jesus offered one perfect sacrifice to pay for all sins once and for all. His payment does not need to be repeated (Heb. 10:11-12). Humans receive forgiveness by trusting in the work Jesus did. We Christians are to offer the sacrifices of praise, doing good, and sharing with others (Heb. 13:15-16).
- Salvation** God’s rescue of man from sin and death to eternal life, a new quality and dimension of existence through faith in Christ (Acts 4:12). Salvation includes rescue of the person from eternal separation from God and a rescue of the body from aging, death, and decay through resurrection (Heb. 9:28). Salvation includes the rescue of the entire universe and earth from the deadly decay from sin – New Heaven and New Earth with New Jerusalem as its capital city (2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1-4, 22-27).
- Sanctification** For the believer, the process of being gradually transformed into a Christ-like person. This involves surrendering our bodies to God’s purposes (Rom. 12:1), and refusing to be conformed to this world (Rom. 12:2) by having our minds renewed with Godly, Biblical input (Rom. 12:2).

- Sin Wrong-doing; disobedience; rebellion against God. Satan is the personification of evil. We all sin and suffer its effects. God will ultimately gain total victory over sin by destroying the present universe and creating a New Heaven, a New Earth, and New Jerusalem in which only righteousness and righteous people exist (2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1-8, 22-27; 22:1-5, 14).
- Temptation Trial or testing. To give in to it is to sin. See “[The Three Avenues of Temptation.](#)”