

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Many religious and non-religious people have tried to be good people who loved, served, and taught others. But, for me, no one else has come close to duplicating the love, goodness, wisdom, and power that God has shown us in the following ways...

- God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is all-knowing, all-powerful, and ever-present.
- God created the heavens and the earth and all that is within them (Genesis 1 and 2). He is why we are here!
- God provided us with His holy Word (the Bible) as a guide for our lives. The Bible is without error, is historically accurate, has been verified by Bible scholars and historians, and has proven life-changing for billions of people across time.
- God knew us before we were in our mother's womb (Jeremiah 1:5). He has plans for our lives, "plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).
- As foretold in the Old Testament (Isaiah 7:14), Jesus was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born to a virgin (Matthew 1:18-25). In this way, Jesus is both Son of God and Son of Man.
- Jesus was sinless and perfect. He loved and served others through His teaching and miracles. Yet, he was persecuted, nailed to a cross, and murdered for my sins and yours (Matthew 27:1-54; John 1:29).
- God allowed his only begotten Son to die for our sins (John 3:16) because God is holy and loves us (Romans 5:8). Our sin separates us from God and keeps us from being able to live with Him in Heaven after our death here on Earth. "...The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).
- You and I may be "good" people, but we cannot work our way to Heaven. "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

- Jesus died for ALL of us, no matter who we are, no matter what we've done. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).
- Eternal life is a free gift. All you and I have to do is accept the gift. We should then live as if we have been changed, not carrying on in our sinful ways. As Ephesians 4:20-24 instructs, we should lay aside our old self and put on our new self.
- You and I will never be perfect in our lifetimes, but we can believe in and follow Jesus, which will not only ensure us of life in Heaven but will help us live better lives while we're alive on Earth. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).
- Jesus is alive today. Three days after his crucifixion, God raised him from the dead. Jesus was seen by and interacted with many people after his death, which further proves his life, death, and resurrection. Who else, but God, has the power to bring the dead to life?
- Jesus ascended into Heaven (Acts 1:9-11) but will return one day: "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:3).
- In Jesus' physical absence, God did not leave us without a helper. As Jesus taught in John 14:26: "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you." The Holy Spirit lives inside of us at the moment of our acceptance of Jesus as Savior of our life.

As I get older, I see more clearly in these and in other ways just how much God loves you and me. He loves us so much He has even given us free will to choose or reject Him. In light of all He has done for me, I choose Him!

With love, Shannon

^{*}Scripture references are taken from the New American Standard Bible*