## **Statement of Faith**



## Erica Wiggenhorn: What I Believe

I believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God was fully God, came to earth clothed in human flesh to serve as the Savior of the world (Jn. 1:14). God the Father sent Jesus to die on the cross so we might be reconciled to God, who is holy, blameless, righteous, and just (Isa. 53:5-6). The Father "made him who knew no sin, to become sin for us" (Eph. 2:2).

Every person is born into sin and held captive to it apart from redemption through Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:1; 1 Jn. 1:8). God's prophets, who spoke for God to His people Israel, foretold the coming of Christ centuries before His arrival (1 Pet. 1:10-12). God's purpose is for us to know and believe in Him (Isa. 43:10). It is by our faith in the death and resurrection of Christ that we are saved (Eph. 1:7; 2:8-9). There is no salvation from sin apart from Him (Jn. 14:6). Jesus Christ is the only way to God.



**Before Jesus died,** He promised to send His Holy Spirit to guide us into truth (Jn. 14:16-17). Upon Jesus' death, He descended into hell, conquered sin and death,

and on the third day rose again (Heb. 2:14-15; 1 Cor. 15:3-4). Jesus Christ appeared to His disciples and others, and through the Great Commission commanded believers to spread the Good News of eternal life through faith in Him (Mt. 28:16-20; Acts 1:3; 1 Cor. 15:5-7). He then ascended into heaven where He sits at God's right hand (Heb. 1:3).

After His ascension, Christ sent His Holy Spirit to dwell in the hearts of those who repent of their sin and call upon Him to become their Savior and Lord (Acts 1:4-5; 2:38). Through the power of His Holy Spirit, we are continually transformed into a likeness of His image as we walk in obedience to His Word, the Bible (2 Cor. 3:17-18). Because God is the author of all truth, the Bible is infallible and sovereign in its teaching (2 Tim. 3:16-17). At a time known only to Father God, Jesus will return to earth, this time in His complete glory to judge the world (Mt. 24:30-31, 36; 25:31-32).



God's will for us as His creation on earth is to know Him, walk with His Son in obedience (1 Jn. 2:6), and to tell others about His Son (Ep. 6:19-20; Col. 4:4-6). We know God by reading and studying His Word (Heb. 4:12), spending time in His presence through prayer (Eph. 6:18; Rom. 8:26-27), and fellowshiping with other believers, who comprise His church (Heb. 10:24-25). Because God is sovereign, every person, circumstance, or blessing ushers from His hand (Rom.11:26). Therefore, all we do and how we use His creation should be surrendered to Him in thanksgiving (Eph. 5:1-2; Phil.4:6; 1 Thess. 5:16-18).

God is intimately involved in our lives (Mt. 6:30-33). We exist to give Him glory. As we walk in obedience to Him, our natural purposes diminish and His purposes guide our lives (Eph. 3:16-19). All thoughts and actions fall under His Lordship and authority (Col. 1:9-10; 2 Cor. 10:3-5). This transformation occurs by the power of the Holy Spirit. God promises the work of His Spirit in our lives until Christ returns (2 Thess. 5:23-24).