

# Gogo Grandmothers STATEMENT of FAITH

**GOD:** There is one true God who is infinitely good, wise, just, powerful and loving. Though God is one, He eternally exists in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Creation:** God created both the visible and invisible universe out of nothing. Though the universe is constantly dependent on God for its existence, it is not a part of God and does not limit His character or works.

**Man:** God created the first man and woman in His own image and intended them for eternal life. They fell from a state of untested righteousness by a voluntary revolt, as a result losing their spiritual life and becoming subject to an inheritable flawed character, self-centeredness and physical death. The fallen nature was transmitted to all humanity, except for Jesus Christ, so that man cannot become spiritually productive by self reformation, but only by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit.

**The Word of God:** All the books of the Old and New Testaments are fully inspired Scripture produced by God through human authors and free from error in the original manuscripts. Properly interpreted, the Scriptures will not deceive and are the final authority when speaking on any matter: doctrinal, historical, ethical, or scientific.

**Jesus Christ:** Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity, is at the same time fully God and fully man, two natures in one person. He was born of the Virgin Mary, performed miracles to show his deity, lived a sinless life under law, voluntarily suffered and died as a substitution for the sinner and a payment to God for the damage done by sin. On the third day He rose bodily from the dead and ascended to the right hand of God the Father, where He reigns over the universe and intercedes for believers.

**Salvation in Christ:** Because of the universal spiritual death of mankind, no one can enter the Kingdom of God except on the basis of Christ's death and the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit, accomplished through faith in the God who raised Jesus from the dead. True faith alone is the condition of salvation, but good works should accompany such faith and become evidence of its existence. Those who truly believe are sealed until the day of redemption.

**The Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit is the third person of the trinity and fully comes into the heart of all believers at the moment of saving faith, uniting them with

the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit bestows on believers spiritual gifts according to his own will and becomes the source of their power for Christian living.

**The Spiritual Life:** Love for God, combined with faith and hope, should be the major motive for Christian living. Believers should respect the destructive consequences of sin and the discipline God administers to His children, but should not be motivated by guilt or fear of punishment. The standards for the spiritual life in this age are those set in Scripture, particularly the New Testament, rather than man-made rules.

**The Church:** The true Church is composed of all those who genuinely believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and is present throughout the world in a variety of local expressions and organizational patterns. The Church should operate by biblical principles, instead of the wisdom of this age as it seeks to be salt and light which penetrates a corrupt and dark world. The goal of the Church is to glorify God by making disciples from all nations. The Church should avoid embracing obscure or novel doctrines which create divisions, but should be open to new and creative methods of ministry which effectively build up the body.

**Satan:** The devil, Satan, is a personal being who was originally created by God but rebelled against his creator and now constantly opposes God, His people, and His purposes. Satan is aided by a multitude of evil spirits, called demons. God will eventually put both Satan and his demons into the lake of fire where they will suffer eternal judgment.

**The Second Advent:** Jesus Christ will return bodily to earth to establish his kingdom, to fulfill the promises given to the Jewish nation and patriarchs, to renovate the earth and humanity from its physical and spiritual decay, to reward those who love Him and to punish those who hate Him.

**The Eternal State:** Both the righteous and wicked will be resurrected, the former to a life of fellowship with God, the latter to eternal conscious separation from Him. Each believer at death goes immediately into the presence of God, perfected in holiness to await the resurrection and the creation of a new heaven and new earth.

