Statement of Faith-Excerpt from Church Constitution

**Article 4.0: STATEMENT OF FAITH**

* 1. The sum total of what we believe in is enshrined in the *Second London Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689*. These are the things most surely believed among us, which we desire to hold in Christian love and proclaim faithfully to the world – for the good of men and for the glory of God.[[1]](#footnote-0) In this historic Baptist document we find assistance in controversy, a confirmation in faith and a means of edification in righteousness. Here we have a body of divinity in small compass and by means of the Holy Scriptural proofs we are ready to give a reason for the hope that is in us.[[2]](#footnote-1)
  2. With regard to the two matters concerning “the regeneration of infants” and the identity of “the anti-Christ” (referred to in chapter 10 paragraph 3 and chapter 26 paragraph 4 of the *Second London Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689*) we leave these to the private opinion of individual members.
  3. Considering the paucity of information in the *Second London Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689* on the Holy Spirit's presence and work in the Christian's life, we add the following:
     1. All who are born again of the Holy Spirit[[3]](#footnote-2) receive the Lord Jesus Christ by faith.[[4]](#footnote-3) They are the children of God[[5]](#footnote-4) and are baptised by the Holy Spirit.[[6]](#footnote-5)
     2. The God of all comfort, who dwells in heaven and is always present everywhere on earth,[[7]](#footnote-6) graciously granted to all those that are justified, in and for the sake of His only Son Jesus Christ, the additional privilege of abiding in His special presence, by sending His Holy Spirit,[[8]](#footnote-7) the Spirit of His Son, as the Spirit of adoption, into each of their hearts,[[9]](#footnote-8) upon their repentance from sin and faith in Christ;[[10]](#footnote-9) whereby they are comforted and encouraged in their afflictions,[[11]](#footnote-10) strengthened in their love, hope and faith, assured of their son-ship and eternal life,[[12]](#footnote-11) assisted in their prayers,[[13]](#footnote-12) instructed in the word and ways of Christ,[[14]](#footnote-13) given access to and filial communion with God,[[15]](#footnote-14) liberated from spiritual bondage,[[16]](#footnote-15) enabled to mortify sin and please the Lord,[[17]](#footnote-16) united to Christ and each other,[[18]](#footnote-17) and sealed until the day of redemption.[[19]](#footnote-18)
     3. This personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit is not now manifested by the extraordinary gifts of the Spirit, like the ability to accomplish miraculous feats, or by hearing heavenly voices, receiving direct revelation, foretelling the future or speaking in tongues[[20]](#footnote-19) since these special apostolic endowments and signs, bound to the founding of the church, ceased when the apostles finished their unique work[[21]](#footnote-20) but rather is manifested throughout this age, by the ordinary gifts of the Spirit, like serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, showing mercy and leadership (Romans 12:7,8) and the fruit of the Spirit, which are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.[[22]](#footnote-21)
     4. Unlike the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit,[[23]](#footnote-22) which is the root and cause of saving faith,[[24]](#footnote-23) this gift of the Holy Spirit results from the exercise of saving faith and is conditioned upon it. Nevertheless the Spirit is not received subsequent to conversion as a second blessing, but immediately upon the exercise of saving faith, so that no believer is devoid of the Spirit of God,[[25]](#footnote-24) nor is this gift of the Spirit patiently tarried for, or carnally peddled.[[26]](#footnote-25)
     5. Although the Holy Spirit resides irrevocably in the hearts of all Christians from the moment of their conversion, being received once and for all[[27]](#footnote-26) nevertheless the same Spirit continues to be supplied to them throughout their lives, so that it is the duty of those already indwelt by God's Spirit both to request further supplies and larger measures of the Holy Spirit and to be filled with the Holy Spirit.[[28]](#footnote-27)
     6. The gift of the Holy Spirit is never completely taken away from Christians, but He can be so grieved by their rebellions and backslidings[[29]](#footnote-28) that for a season his presence is greatly withdrawn and His influences largely withheld,[[30]](#footnote-29) therefore, it is the duty of all believers neither to grieve nor to quench the Holy Spirit.[[31]](#footnote-30)
     7. All believers in every era had the Holy Spirit in their hearts and enjoyed the benefits of His special presence with them, but subsequent to the ascension of Christ and the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost,[[32]](#footnote-31) the era of God's New Covenant, the people of God, not merely individually but corporately, are the temple of God, the place of His special habitation.[[33]](#footnote-32) Their distinguishing trait now being the gift of the Holy Spirit, so that unless a person is indwelt by the Holy Spirit he has neither inheritance among God's people under the New Covenant nor any right to membership in the church of Christ.[[34]](#footnote-33)

1. 1 Timothy 6:12-16 [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. 1 Peter 3:15 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. John 3:3,5 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. John 1:12; Acts 20:21 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
5. John 1:12; Galatians 3:26 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
6. Ezekiel 36:25-27; Galatians. 3:2, 3; 1 Corinthians 12:13 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
7. Psalm 139:7-10; Mathew 18:20; Hebrews13:5 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
8. John 14:16-18 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
9. Galatians 4:6 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
10. Acts 2:38-39 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
11. 2 Corinthians 1:4, 5; Philippians 1:19-20 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
12. Romans 8:14-18 [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
13. Romans 8:26-27 [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
14. John 14:26; 16:13-14 [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
15. Galatians 4:6 [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
16. Romans 8:2; 2 Corinthians 3:17 [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
17. Romans 8:13; Romans 8:6-8 [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
18. 1 Corinthians 6:17; 12:12,13 [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
19. Ephesians 1:13-14 [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
20. Act 2:38,39; 1 Corinthians 13:8-10; 1 Timothy 5:23 [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
21. Acts 8:18-19; 19:6; 1 Corinthians 13:8-10; 15:7-8; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 2:20; 3:1-5 [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
22. Galatians 5:22-23 [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
23. John 16:8; Titus 3:5 [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
24. John 3:3-8 [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
25. Acts 2:38,39; Romans 8:8-9 [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
26. Acts 8:18-22; 1 Corinthians 12:13 [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
27. Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30 [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
28. Ephesians 5:18; Acts4:31 [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
29. Isaiah 63:10; Ephesians 4:30 [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
30. Psalm 51:10-12 [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
31. Ephesians 4:30; 1 Thessalonians 5:19 [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
32. Acts 2:33 [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
33. 1 Corinthians 6:19; Ephesians 2:19-20 [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
34. Romans 8:8-9 [↑](#footnote-ref-33)