

FCPO-USA

FIVE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH

The Biblical Foundation That Unites Us



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INTRODUCTION



The Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers-USA is a **nondenominational Christian ministry to law enforcement.**

What does that mean?



It means FCPO-USA is made up of Christian officers from many different denominations and Christian traditions. We are also made up of virtually every kind of **badge, star, shield, credentials, uniform, patch, unit, task force, city, county, state, and federal law enforcement agency.**

We may wear different uniforms, carry different credentials, and worship in different churches, but we are united by something far greater:

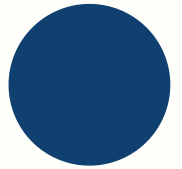
We are brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ.

Because of our denominational diversity, FCPO-USA has identified five fundamental biblical truths that provide the common ground upon which we can **fellowship, pray, study God's Word, worship, encourage one another, and serve together.**

These are not intended to replace or compete with the statement of faith of a member's local church. Rather, they establish the **biblical foundation upon which FCPO-USA fellowship is built.**



THE FIVE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH



- The Infallibility of Scripture
- The Deity of Jesus Christ
- The Virgin Birth and Miracles of Christ
- Christ's Substitutionary Death
- Christ's Physical Resurrection and
Eventual Return

These five truths are foundational because they answer some of life's most important questions:

Can I trust God's Word?
Who is Jesus?
Was Jesus truly God who became man?
Why did Jesus have to die?
Did Jesus really rise from the dead?
And is He really coming again?

Let's take a closer look at each of these foundational truths.





THE INFALLIBILITY OF SCRIPTURE

**GOD'S WORD IS TRUE, TRUSTWORTHY,
AND AUTHORITATIVE**

FCPO-USA believes that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and is trustworthy and authoritative in all that God intended it to teach.

The Bible is not merely a collection of writings from men. God worked through human authors to communicate His truth.

SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 3:16–17 - *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

2 Peter 1:20–21 - *“Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”*



Psalm 119:105 - *“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.”*

John 17:17 - *“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”*

Hebrews 4:12 - *“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword...”*

Why This Matters

As law enforcement officers, we understand the importance of having a reliable standard of truth. We make decisions based upon evidence, established law, training, and what we know to be true.

In the same way, our spiritual lives need a reliable foundation.

**Feelings change. Culture changes. Opinions change.
God's Word does not.**

Think About It

- What is the hardest issue for you to deal with when accepting the Bible as the Word of God?
- Do you allow Scripture to shape your beliefs, or do you sometimes try to make Scripture fit your beliefs?
- What role does God's Word play in your daily life?

THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST

JESUS CHRIST IS GOD WHO BECAME MAN



FCPO-USA believes that Jesus Christ is not merely a great teacher, prophet, moral example, or religious leader.

Jesus Christ is God.

The Christian faith rests upon the truth that the eternal Son of God entered His creation, took on human flesh, and lived among us.

The name **Immanuel** means:
“God with us.”

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:23 - *“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).*

John 1:1 - *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”*

John 1:14 - *“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”*



THE VIRGIN BIRTH AND THE MIRACLES OF CHRIST

**JESUS WAS SUPERNATURALLY BORN AND
DEMONSTRATED HIS DIVINE AUTHORITY**

The virgin birth is not a minor detail of the Christmas story. It is an essential part of the biblical account of who Jesus Christ is.

Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born to the virgin Mary. His miraculous birth fulfilled Old Testament prophecy and demonstrated that His coming into the world was the work of God.

The miracles of Jesus likewise demonstrate His divine authority and identity. Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus demonstrated power over sickness, nature, demons, sin, and even death.

His miracles were not simply displays of power. They were **signs pointing people to the truth about who He is.**



SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 7:14 - *“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”*

Matthew 1:20–23 - *“Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”*

Matthew then connects Jesus' birth directly to Isaiah's prophecy concerning the virgin who would give birth to a son called Immanuel—“God with us.”

Luke 1:34–35 - *“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.”*



THE MIRACLES OF CHRIST

Jesus' miracles provide further testimony concerning His identity and authority.

John 20:30–31 - *“Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”*

Matthew 8:26–27 - Jesus calmed a storm, and His disciples asked: *“What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!”*

Mark 2:10–12 - Jesus demonstrated His authority to forgive sins by healing a paralyzed man. The miracle was evidence of His authority.

John 11:43–44 - Jesus called Lazarus from the tomb after Lazarus had been dead four days.

Jesus Himself declared:

John 11:25–26 - *“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.”*



Why This Matters

The virgin birth points us to the supernatural identity of Jesus. His miracles point us to His divine authority.

Christianity is not based merely on the teachings of a good man. It is based upon the person and work of **Jesus Christ, the Son of God.**

Think About It

- What would be different about Christianity if Jesus had simply been an ordinary man?
- Why is the virgin birth important to understanding who Jesus is?
- What do Jesus' miracles tell us about His authority?
- Do you believe Jesus is who He claimed to be? How does that belief affect the way you live?



CHRIST'S SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH

JESUS DIED IN OUR PLACE

At the very heart of the Gospel is the truth that Jesus Christ willingly gave His life for sinners.

Jesus did not die merely as an example of courage, sacrifice, or love.

He died for us.

He took upon Himself the punishment that our sin deserved.

This is what is meant by **substitutionary atonement**: Christ, the sinless One, suffered and died in the place of sinners so that those who trust in Him can receive forgiveness and reconciliation with God.



SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 53:5 - *“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.”*

Isaiah 53:6 - *“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”*

Isaiah's prophecy points directly toward the suffering Servant who would bear the sins of others.

2 Corinthians 5:21 - *“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

1 Peter 2:24 - *“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”*

1 Peter 3:18 - *“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.”*

Romans 5:8 - *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*



JESUS GAVE HIMSELF WILLINGLY

Jesus was not simply a victim of circumstances.

He willingly laid down His life.

John 10:17–18 - *“The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.”*

Jesus' death was part of God's redemptive plan.

Mark 10:45 - *“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*



Why This Matters

Every law enforcement officer understands the concept of sacrifice. Officers routinely put themselves in harm's way to protect others.

But the sacrifice of Christ goes infinitely beyond human sacrifice.

Jesus did not die merely to save us from physical danger.

He died to save us from our sins and reconcile us to God.

We cannot make ourselves righteous enough to stand before a holy God. Our salvation depends upon what **Christ has done for us**, not upon what we can do for ourselves.

Think About It

- What does it mean to you personally that Jesus died **for you**?
- Why was it necessary for Christ to be without sin?
- What would our hope of salvation be if Christ had not died for our sins?
- Are you trusting in what Christ has done, or are you trying to earn God's acceptance through what you do?



CHRIST'S PHYSICAL RESURRECTION AND EVENTUAL RETURN

**JESUS CHRIST ROSE PHYSICALLY FROM THE DEAD
—AND HE IS COMING AGAIN**

The resurrection is not simply a symbol of hope.

Jesus Christ physically rose from the dead.

The resurrection is foundational to Christianity. The Gospel declares that Jesus truly died, was buried, and rose again.

Because Christ rose from the grave, death does not have the final word for those who belong to Him.

And the same Jesus who rose from the dead and ascended into heaven will one day return.



SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 15:3–4 - *“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”*

1 Corinthians 15:14 - *“And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.”*

1 Corinthians 15:17 - *“And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.”*

Paul makes the importance of the resurrection unmistakably clear.

Without the resurrection, there is no Christian hope.

THE RESURRECTION WAS PHYSICAL

After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples.

Luke 24:39 - *“Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”*



Jesus demonstrated that He was not merely a spirit or an idea. He had physically risen from the dead.

John 20:27 - Jesus invited Thomas to examine the wounds from His crucifixion.

Thomas responded:

John 20:28 - *“My Lord and my God!”*

JESUS ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN

After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples and then ascended into heaven.

Acts 1:9–11 - *“After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.”*

Then the angels told the disciples:

“This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”



CHRIST WILL RETURN

The return of Christ is repeatedly taught throughout the New Testament.

John 14:2–3 - Jesus said:

“I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me...”

1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 - *“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God...”*

Titus 2:13 - *“While we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.”*

Revelation 22:12 - Jesus says:

“Look, I am coming soon!”

And again:

Revelation 22:20 - *“Yes, I am coming soon.”*

To which Scripture responds:

“Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.”



Why This Matters

The resurrection means that **Jesus conquered death.**

His resurrection gives us confidence that His promises are true, our sins can be forgiven, and eternal life is possible through Him. His promised return gives Christians something else:

Hope.

We are not simply looking back at something Jesus did thousands of years ago. We are looking forward to something Jesus has promised to do.

He is coming again.

For the Christian officer, this truth should affect the way we live, serve, treat others, face danger, and conduct ourselves both on and off duty.

Think About It

- What would your faith look like if Christ had not physically risen from the dead??
- Why is the physical resurrection essential to Christianity?
- How does knowing that Jesus is coming again affect the way you live today?
- Are you ready to meet Him?

THE FIVE FUNDAMENTALS



OUR COMMON GROUND

FCPO-USA brings together Christian law enforcement officers from many denominations, agencies, backgrounds, and traditions.

We may not agree on every secondary theological issue.

But we can stand together upon these essential truths:

1. THE INFALLIBILITY OF SCRIPTURE

God's Word is true and trustworthy.

2. THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is God who became flesh.

3. THE VIRGIN BIRTH AND MIRACLES OF CHRIST

Jesus was supernaturally born and demonstrated divine authority through His miracles.

4. CHRIST'S SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH

Jesus, the sinless Savior, died for our sins in our place.

5. CHRIST'S PHYSICAL RESURRECTION AND EVENTUAL RETURN

Jesus physically rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and will return.



These truths give us a foundation upon which we can stand together.

Different badges.

Different agencies.

Different denominations.

Different uniforms.

One Lord.

One faith.

One Savior.

One Body.

As Paul wrote:

Ephesians 4:4–6 - *“There is one body and one Spirit... one hope... one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all...”*

That is the foundation of our fellowship.



FCPO-USA



UNITED BY THE GOSPEL.

STRENGTHENED BY GOD'S WORD.

SERVING CHRIST AND OUR FELLOW OFFICERS.



A FINAL QUESTION

The purpose of studying these fundamentals is not simply to know what FCPO-USA believes.

It is to ask ourselves:

Do I believe these truths—and am I living my life in light of them?

As law enforcement officers, we are called to be examples to others.

Our mission is to encourage law enforcement officers to embody the transformative power of Christ as His ambassadors, **both on and off duty.**

The world does not merely need officers who know about Christ.

It needs officers who know Christ, follow Christ, and represent Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:20 - *“We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.”*

That is why these fundamentals matter.

They are not merely doctrines to memorize.

They are truths upon which we can build our lives.



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