

Overcoming Governing Laws ~ We Believe

Church Constitution & General By-Laws

{Time limit allotted per section 15 - 20 minutes}

~ Presiding Elder Dr. Karey Price ~

Our Doctrine

The Overcoming Church of God of America, Inc. is a group of God's children **that believe** in the true Apostolic Doctrine according to *Acts 2:37 - 38* (*Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*) **We believe** that Jesus is the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and all are One. We recognize and acknowledge our Lord Jesus Christ as the Supreme Head and Rightful Governor of the Overcoming Church of God of America Incorporated in all various departments and His unerring Word as the guide for our council and as our only rule of faith and practice.

As Overcomers, we agree that as we have opportunity, we shall do good to all men. We strive to win our kindred and acquaintances to our Lord and Savior and to spread the Gospel to every nation. We encourage all men to: *Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. Isaiah 55:6-7*

We also agree that;

- ♦ We will give tithes and offerings as God has prospered us for the support of the Gospel ministry abroad and locally, for the expenses of the church and for the relief of the poor;
- ♦ We will bring up such as may be under our care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
- ♦ We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, but as much as possible, attend all meetings of the church
- ♦ We will loyally uphold the authority of the church in all things save in matters of conscience
- ♦ We will strive to promote the prosperity, spirituality, and unity of the church
- ♦ And we will sustain the church ordinances, doctrines and disciplines

~ Elder Susie Gilbert ~

Church Name/Government

The Overcoming Church of God of America was chartered with the State of Georgia, July 24, 1923. This organization is recorded with the State of Georgia as "**The Overcoming Church of God of America, Incorporated**". On October 23, 1919 the first Overcoming Church of God was organized and named **Saint Stephen Overcoming Church of God** by Bishop L.M. Mitchell, founder. The Overcoming Church of God organization is among one of the oldest Holiness-Pentecostal churches in the United States.

Objective/Purpose

The objective and purpose of the Overcoming Church of God of America Incorporated is to instill the deepening of the spiritual life within ourselves so that all our members shall attain the highest state of Christian experience in this life. And as we live this Christian life, our light will shine so bright, that our Christian walk will bring others to Christ, so they can seek the highest Christian experience possible. (*In accordance with; St. Matthew 5:14-16; II Peter 1:4-9*)

We ordain Bishops, Elders, Pastors, Evangelists, Missionaries, and Teachers divinely called and set apart according to their gifts and calling who shall be required to teach and preach the doctrine set forth by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (*In accordance with; Acts 14:23; Romans 10:15; I Corinthians 7:20; and the book of Titus*).

~ Elder Barbara Thompson ~

Our Belief

The Overcoming Church of God of America believes in living a clean life and in teaching the same. **We believe** that man was created by God, composed of body and soul. By nature, man is sinful and unholy and must be born again, sanctified and cleansed from all sins by the blood of Jesus Christ. We believe that when a man confess and forsake his sins, and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, he is saved and have become a child of God, and have made preparation to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. We believe that the Holy Ghost will lead, guide and keep us in living a holy clean life; as stated in ***I Thessalonians 4:7, For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.*** We believe what Jesus said concerning divorcement. This church does not encourage divorce for any reasons other than those outlined in St. Matthew 19:1-11, (*And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery*). We feel that Saints should follow God's words rather than those of a sinful world.

The Bible

We believe that the Holy Bible is the true Word of God and is the only authority in all matters. We believe that the Holy Bible is the unerring word of God written to guide us as we live a holy life and we look to the Bible as our highest authority for doctrine, practice, organization, and discipline. (***II Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.***)

One God

We believe in One GOD. We believe God is a Spirit and Jesus Christ is God and none other beside him, ***Deuteronomy 4:35, Unto thee it was shewed, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him. St. John 1:1 & 1:14 states, (In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God; And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*** We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Second person in the Godhead of the Trinity (the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost). We believe that Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary according to the scripture (St. Matthew 1:18) and He walked among the people performing many miracles. We believe that Jesus Christ became the ultimate sacrifice for our sins by dying on the cross and on the third day he rose, seeking to redeem man from sin and to reconcile him back to God, the Father, that we might have eternal life with him in heaven. We believe that Jesus Christ is the mediator between God and man and is making intercession for us (***I Timothy 2:5&6; For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.***) (*In accordance with; St. John 1:1-14 & 12:45; Colossians 1:15; I Timothy 3:16; Ephesians 4:5-6; Acts 1:8 & 2:36-38; James 2:19*)

~ Minister Bryant Green ~

The Name of Jesus Christ

We believe that we receive salvation through the name of Jesus Christ, ***Acts 4:10-12. (Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.)*** We believe in being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, ***Acts 2:37-38 (Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift***

*of the Holy Ghost.) We believe in whatever we do, we do it in the name of Jesus Christ, **Colossians 3:17** (And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.) (In accordance with; St. Matthew 28:19; St. Luke 24:47; Acts 8:16; Acts 19:5; Acts 10:47&48)*

Holy Ghost

We believe in receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost **Acts 2:38** (*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost*). The Holy Ghost is a gift bestowed upon man by God for the purpose of equipping and empowering him to be a more effective witness in servicing others. The Holy Ghost teaches and guides us into all truths. We believe that the Baptism of the Holy Ghost is an experience subsequent to conversion and sanctification, and that speaking in tongue is in evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. **Acts 19:1-6** (*And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, we have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.*)

We believe that the Baptism of the Holy Ghost is a holy occurrence following conversion and sanctification, and when the believer receives the baptismal of the Holy Ghost, he will speak in an unknown tongue, unknown to himself according to the sovereign will of Christ. *(In accordance with; Acts 1:8, 2:33-38, & 10:44-46; Luke 1:35; St. John 3:5, 16:13 & 20:22; Romans 8:9)*

~ Deacon John Dragg & Deacon Ordie Evans ~

Divine Healing

We believe in Divine Healing with the laying on of hands and anointing with oil. In Jesus' teaching to his apostles, he told them, that they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover, and they must have faith when healing the afflicted. Therefore, we believe, that through Faith in God and in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we can pray for the sick and afflicted, and they shall be healed. **James 5:14-16**, (*Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*) We believe in using Pure Olive Oil **only** to anoint those in need of prayer. God spoke to Moses and told him to take the olive oil into the tabernacle and place it on the altar and sanctify the oil that it maybe Holy. **Exodus 30:24-26** (*And of cassia five hundred shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary, and of oil olive an hin: And thou shalt make it an oil of holy ointment, an ointment compound after the art of the apothecary: it shall be an holy anointing oil. And thou shalt anoint the tabernacle of the congregation therewith, and the ark of the testimony*), *(In accordance with; Exodus 30:24-32; St. Matthew 8:14-17; St. Mark 16:14-18; James 5:13-16)*

We **do not** believe in practicing Witchcraft healing, nor do we believe in reading of hands or telling of fortunes. These actions are sins and are associated with the adversary, Satan, and are **not** a part of GOD. Persons operating in this manner **will not** inherit the kingdom of God. *(In accordance with; I Samuel 15:23; II Chronicles 33:6; Galatians 5:19-21)*

Jesus Coming Again - The Second Coming of Christ

We believe in the second coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus shall return to earth as he had left and everyone shall see him, **Acts 1:9-11** (*And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud*

received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.) And we (the church - the bride) who are ready (holy and sanctified) will be caught up to meet Him in the air. *I Thessalonians 4:16-17 (For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.), (In accordance with; I John 3:2, II Thessalonians 1:7-9; I Thessalonians 4:15-18; Titus 2:11-13; St. Matthew 16:27, 24:30; Luke 21:27).*

~ Deacon Van Green & Elder Dr. JoAnn Higgins ~

ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH *(ordered by God)*

For an ordinance to be valid, it must have been first instituted by Christ Jesus. **We believe** and recognize the three ordinances having been instituted by Christ himself and therefore, binding upon the church practices. The ordinances of the church are by the grace of God in Christ and the benefits of the covenant of the grace of God are represented, sealed, and applied to all believers as they express their faith and allegiance to God.

THE LORD'S SUPPER *(Holy Communion)*

The Lord's Supper symbolizes the Lord's suffering and death that he endured for his people for the remission of the believers sins. It also symbolizes the believers' participation in showing the Lord's death until his return. It unites the believers to Christ through Faith, while giving life, strength and joy to the soul in a special bonding with the glorified Christ. *(In accordance with; St. Matthew 26:26-29; I Corinthians 11:24-29)*

FEET WASHING

Feet Washing demonstrates humility. Christ himself gave us an example of humility when he washed his disciples' feet. This shows us that humility exemplifies greatness in the Kingdom of God, and what better way to show love than to serve others. This act of love is held subsequent to the Lord's Supper. *(In accordance with; St. John 13:4-15)*

WATER BAPTISM

We believe in Water Baptism as it is instructed by Christ Jesus; **"Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."** However, water baptism alone is not a total completion to salvation, but represents that the believer has already had a conversion experience and has accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. We believe that a person must be immersed in water during baptism to symbolize their death, burial and resurrection. In doing this, it represents their death to a sinful life, the burial of the old life, and resurrection of a new life walking in Christ Jesus. Our complete surrender to Christ in the immersion of baptism links us to him through the faith of the operation of God, who raised Jesus from the dead. Therefore, we believe in using the Baptismal order given to us by Christ Jesus, **"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY GHOST"**. And later personalized in its completeness by Peter **"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of JESUS CHRIST for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."** *(In accordance with; St. John 3:5; Colossians 2:10-15; St. Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38-39, 8:16, & 19:5)*

