

A Solid Foundation

Peter Scott . Transcribed November 2014

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God the Father, the Almighty, creator of heaven and earth, and of all that is, seen and unseen.

"We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

"We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father (and the Son). With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

"We believe in one, holy, catholic* and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen."

A Solid Foundation

Transcript, Peter Scott, November 2014

As we listen to the news broadcasts and look at the world today, it seems everything is going crazy. People are going in so many different directions at once, they cannot keep it straight. Whether you live in the Ukraine, Saudi Arabia, Syria or Iran, France, Great Britain, or the UK, things are not like they used to be. Good Catholic French boys are found at execution sites in Islamic countries. These are not Muslim children but children raised as Christians becoming Muslim. Immediately we see that there is something wrong with the Christian foundations that the young are receiving today.

You can teach a lot of knowledge and have people memorize things, but unless the Holy Spirit makes it real to you, it is *not* real. It is just something you do, an act you perform, a decision that you might have made but you can still change and let yourself go in an entirely different direction. However, once the *Holy Spirit* comes within you, you are *changed forever*.

In order to answer the problem, this tract is going to lay out sound, Spirit-given, Christian foundations, the rock and anchor of our souls. We are going to be using text that most of us are familiar with starting in the Gospel of John, chapter one,

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)

So we see that the word of God has an important part to play in what we do. When we speak a language, when we say something that has meaning and understanding, even before we were born, the word had meaning in God's mouth. In fact His name is "I am." He existed before there was existence.

*He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness **hasn't got a clue** (did not comprehend it). (John 1:2-5)*

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood (you were not just born of your dad and mom), nor of the will of the flesh (because of sexual desire), nor of the will of man (because someone wanted and planned for you to be born), but of God. (John 1:12-13)

These are foundational truths that are not just words but are true, right to the core of who we are. It speaks to us saying, “Don’t try to sort it out beyond what the word of God is saying; this is what is true.” The Word that He spoke about in verse 1 becomes key in verse 14,

And the Word became 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.

That is the mystery that faces us as Christians every single day. The world is unable to understand this, that the eternal God, the Creator of everything (though most of the world believes that there is some kind of Force or God out there) became flesh and dwelt among us, the Word, our Lord Jesus Himself.

In the early church there were a lot of problems. As it is today also, but in the early church, Gnosticism was starting to spread. That meant believing in the gospel of Christ but in addition, there were other things one had to know and understand. One of the mysteries was the fact that the heavens were moving. Taurus, the sign-of-the-Bull constellation, was moving in the sky. Everybody thought this was a mystery one ought to include along with the original gospel, Jesus plus something else. However we don’t need “something else.” We only need the Lord. The early church was fighting against all these other doctrines coming in to Christianity. I’m willing to guess that a lot of you have baggage that you have brought in as well that needs to change.

The early church formed a creed. Do you remember the Apostle’s Creed? It was there to say that, minimally, when you get baptized and call yourself a Christian, this is what you should believe. This was to confront the whole movement of Gnosticism that was Jesus plus something else.

But earlier on in the church (325 AD, amended in 381 AD) there was another movement. This idea said that you needed Jesus but He was a created being like any other created being. Initially that doesn’t sound so bad. The Son of God had to be born. But actually that is not true Christian doctrine. Therefore the Nicene Creed¹ was written to confront this error with scripture backing it up.

So we are going to go over this Creed and the scriptures behind it. Most of you could probably recite this if you went to Sunday School. Did it really change your life when you memorized this? No. But now that we look back and read it we can see how awesome it really was. These are things the world is questioning today, even those in religious authority are questioning these same beliefs. Recently the Pope was asked about evolution he answered, “When we read about Creation in Genesis, we run the risk of imagining God was a magician, with a magic wand able to do every-

thing . . . but that is not so . . .” *Really?! The theological ramifications of that statement alone are staggering. So apparently he is not a creationist. Interesting. Let’s take a look at the Nicene Creed.*

I believe in one God. (Aren’t you glad there is one God?) . . . one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

Now this statement excludes a lot of things we already know, specifically the Son of God and the Holy Spirit. Let’s stop right there. Jesus taught us,

In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name (Holy are You). Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:9-10)

The key to this prayer is its introduction of some truths or doctrines Jesus understood to be absolutes, that there is a Father in heaven. There is one God. He is holy; He has a government (may Your kingdom come); He has a will (Your will be done). These are concepts foreign to the world. “If there is a God, does He really have a will? If there is a God, is He really holy? If He is God, does He really care about government?” The answer to all those questions is answered right here in Matthew chapter 6. Yes, yes, yes and yes. He lives in heaven; He wants His will to be done here on earth just like it is done there. He is holy and His government will come here on earth.

Not, “Will it happen?” It *will* happen! Amen.

I believe in the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. (I believe in) one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; god of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man;

This is interesting; this was directly confronting the idea that Jesus was a created being. Once you make Jesus a created being then somehow He is subservient to the Creator in a way that is not what the Godhead is all about. God the Father certainly is the Head and Jesus His Son, but it says He was *begotten* NOT made. It means He was there. In contrast, by saying God the Father had to create Jesus, there seems to be an admission that God is so holy that He cannot relate to you and me, even from the beginning. (The Muslims believe this by the way; God is so holy and you are so unworthy that you should not even try to relate to Him in any way shape or

form.) However, the Nicene Creed confronted this. God had an idea that He would send forth a part of Himself, the Son, that He would come down and be born of the Virgin Mary, be made Man incarnate, on this earth, so that He could express Himself the way He IS, not the way He would become, but the way He is. His loving-kindness which He spoke to Moses about, would finally be better understood. His Son would be able to do that in a real and awesome way. Isn't this salvation great, the way He saved us? That's how He did it by making us understand that He is not a Force out there in creation, but He made Himself incarnate, He made himself man. While He was a man (at the same time being a part of the Father), while He was walking the earth as Jesus, He did not use the same supernatural power that He accessed while He was in heaven.

He said He could command angels to do it but He Himself was not going to exercise that vast an authority. While hanging on the cross He could have said, "Okay, it's time for the neutron bombs; one over there, there. Let's wipe this place out and start over again." He didn't do so because He wanted to show us the loving heart of the Father, because He was the Father. He says that in John chapters 15, 16 and 17.

. . . Who (Jesus) being the brightness of His (Father's) glory and the express image of His person (nature, not perverted or distracted from but the exact representation of His nature) and (He, Jesus) upholding all things by the word of His power . . . (Hebrews 1:3)

So at the beginning of His creation, He was already there, a part of the Godhead. The beginning of the Creed says, "There is one God." The Trinity is one God. Jesus believed that. "I am one with the Father." Let's continue.

. . . (Jesus) was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried;

That is also in Acts the third chapter when the author talks about Pilate being used by God sovereignly to make things happen the way the did. This is a new testament truth.

He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end..

Now if you were to start speaking what you believe in the local Mall this afternoon, how many people would just walk away from you? A few. They would say, "You Christians say things that are just too hard to understand. How can you believe that God would become man and His execu-

tion was used to show us His love and that He went to sit at the right hand of the Father? And what about this ‘He shall come again?’ What is this second coming of Christ?” A lot of nominal Christians don’t want to talk about this either. It seems so far out there they could say, “I’ll really believe it when it happens.”

However, the early church understood the resurrection. Jesus taught about the resurrection and the church thought it was important to know and understand it as compared to today where few care to focus on it.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life;

This begins to describe something about the Holy Spirit that we need to embrace. He isn’t somehow just the Spirit of God, but He is the Person of the Holy Spirit, taught in traditional theology as part of the Trinity whom we know and understand and can appreciate. There is a lot of mystery we are talking about here, but things we embrace FULLY as born again, baptized in the Holy Spirit Christians. We love these things because of what it means experientially to us, in the way we worship God on Sunday mornings, the way we come together, the way we rejoice in the Holy Spirit in our brothers and sisters. We can discern Him! All of the things the Holy Spirit does. Without Him, this church thing would be really boring.

I used to be an altar boy in the Anglican, Episcopal Church in Essex Junction Vermont. When it came time for Easter Sunday service, it was very long, an hour and a half! At regular services we could get communion and confession done in thirty-three minutes so I could go skiing in the same day. As an altar boy, one Easter Sunday, I had a potted Lily right in front of me and the aroma was coming into my face and Father Sither was going on and on about something, and I had to be on my knees kneeling the whole time while he got to stand up. I was on my knees getting really woozy and swaying, finally collapsed and fainted. (After that they decided to give me ginger snaps before service.)

I thought, what a drastic difference between what God is doing today and that! God is not about restoring liturgy of the church. God is about restoring and IS restoring His Holy Spirit moving among us with power and expressing His love. All the things the Creed is saying to us is real. These things are not up for discussion, not debatable points. Jesus did dwell with the Father in heaven. Jesus was begotten and came down and was born. When we celebrate Christmas we rejoice beyond measure of what it means to us as Christians. The world just gets to go along for the ride. It gives us the opportunity to share the birth of Christ and what He means in our heart.

The angels were so excited because of what was happening that they burst through the veil between heaven and earth and made the first gospel declaration to the lowly shepherds.

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ (Anointed One) the Lord (Yahweh.) (Luke 2:8-11)

Further in the Nicene Creed,

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life (the Holy Spirit is the one who gives life?); who proceeds who proceeds from the Father [and the Son]; who (the Holy Spirit) with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets (who spoke through the prophets).

So the Holy Spirit is identified as part of the Father and the Son, part of the Trinity. He is identified as that part of what we do in worship. He is identified also as He who actually moved in the old testament prophets to speak about the coming of the Lord Jesus, Isaiah being an awesome example of that.

Nevertheless I tell you the truth. (Jesus says this) It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. (In another place it says, I will go and the Father will send Him to you.) (John 16:7)

So is Jesus confused? He doesn't know whether He or the Father is sending the Holy Spirit? Actually, both are true, because They (the Father and the Son) are one. It might confuse us but it doesn't confuse Jesus at all because He was one with the Father. When He sends the Spirit, He is coming in the Holy Spirit, as if Jesus was still on earth incarnated as a human being, He would not be able to be in you, Christ in you, the hope of glory that Paul talks about. So Jesus is saying, "I need to die. This flesh needs to die not just for your sins but it needs to die so that I can go to the Father and send you the Holy Spirit."

Wow. I can hear the people at the Mall saying they just don't get it. Well there's a lot of mystery to get here. Isn't it good? It's a mystery when people come to the Lord without the full knowledge of these things. When they come, the Holy Spirit comes into their heart and starts His work leading them into all truth.

So we have a conditional, Americana type of response to the gospel, thinking we have to convince people of certain truths in order for them to believe in Jesus. But we don't have to convince people of any truth; the Holy Spirit is the one who does that! We need to introduce them to the Holy Spirit; that's what comes from us. "Look at the filthy rags of what I was and look at me now!"

Let's take a look at the baptism of the Holy Spirit. When Jesus was resurrected from the dead but was in His flesh (He showed His wounds to Philip), before He went back to heaven, He says this:

. . . He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." (John 20:22)

Therefore, when you are saved and when you are commissioned and you know the Lord, do you have the Holy Spirit? The answer is, "Yes, you do." The Lord breathes on you the Holy Spirit. Are you baptized in the Holy Spirit? No. Let me talk to you about baptism for a minute.

Look at water baptism, some think sprinkling, some, submerged, every part of your body under the water, etc. When you are baptized in water, you come out of the water knowing you are WET. Why do you know you are wet? The water is dripping off of you. Sometimes you are also cold if you've been baptized in a place like Kaaterskill Falls. There is evidence that you've given yourself to Christ. When you are baptized there is evidence and that is part of what Water baptism is about.

(About ready to go up to heaven, Jesus says to them) . . . not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Therefore, when they had come together, they asked him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel" (so they were still thinking at this time of the natural Israeli kingdom) And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power (that's the key word) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you (you shall receive power [evidence] of what is going on inside of you); (Acts 1:4-7)

So when the Lord breathed on them, all they had for evidence was His breath, but no power. They still didn't know the difference between the natural Israel and the kingdom of God. They were unable to discern.

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

As the Lord foretold, the Holy Spirit did come and baptized them with *evidence* that they were baptized. If you were to ask me when I got saved, “Wasn’t I baptized in the Holy Spirit?” I would have to say, no, I received an impartation of the Holy Spirit when I received the Lord Jesus. But the baptism of the Holy Spirit means that the Spirit is not able to be contained any more. When you fill up a glass with water and keep pouring it in to over the rim until it spills over, that’s baptism. The table is wet!

So you who are baptized in the Holy Spirit have that evidence and people are able to know and see and feel the difference in you. There is evidence of the power of the Holy Spirit. What are the evidences? Read about all the gifts of the Spirit, being able to prophesy, to pray in the spirit, discern spirits, and speak in tongues (this one is commonly referred to as evidence of being baptized in the Holy Spirit). In the early church that was certainly true. We have not departed from that.

And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

There is only one church. Jesus even said that, “There is only one church and I am the head” (John 10:25). He didn’t say He was going to set up a whole hierarchy of bishops and deacons and everything else. He said, “No, I am the senior pastor.” There is only one time in the new testament referring to senior pastor and that is referring to Jesus (1 Peter 5:4).

I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;

Once you are baptized in Jesus, there is only one baptism and that’s in Jesus. In order to understand a little better,

And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

Now, if you remember Apollos was a man of God and Priscilla and Aquila took him aside and explained the ways of God to him more clearly. Here we see Paul visiting a place where Apollos had visited before his doctrine was more correct.

So they said to him, “We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.”

And he said to them, “Into what then were you baptized?”

So they said, “Into John’s baptism.”

Then Paul said, “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would 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 hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. (Acts 19:1-6)

Here's another example of saved Christians that weren't "wet" yet.

Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing miracles which he did. (Acts 8:5-8)

Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. (Acts 8:14-16)

We can see these particular verses are a key to the new testament pattern of the evidence of being baptized in the Holy Spirit and of what it means to be baptized in Christ. Being baptized in John's baptism, which these disciples were, they knew repentance. They knew they were sinners and there was a better way, the government of God. But they didn't understand the death and the resurrection of Christ. When you are baptized into Jesus, you are baptized into His death, as it says in Romans, and you are resurrected out the water in His resurrection Life. You become much more than the baptism of repentance.

Well, yes the Spirit then came upon them and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. Now let's ask ourselves, "What if that doesn't happen?"

This is an important question as to what God is or isn't doing in the church today. A time ago, in the early years of our particular local church (the Fountain of Life), we met in the basement of a large home. When people got saved we immediately prayed for them to receive the Holy Spirit and have the evidence of speaking in tongues. If that didn't happen we stayed in the room and prayed for them until it did.

One day a catholic nun named Sister Ancilla came in. She had been seeking the Lord for a long, long time. She wanted to be baptized in the Holy Spirit so badly. So we took her into the "workshop" where the owner actually kept all his tools. We had a separate prayer meeting from the other prayer meeting. We sat down with her on the floor and prayed until she spoke in tongues. She was so happy. You couldn't keep her down after that.

The evidence does not have to be tongues. I'm not going to "fall on the sword" for that one. But if it isn't manifesting, then we should be praying that it does. You don't have to; you get to. Paul says, "I wish that you all

would speak in tongues.” He didn’t say only a few or most of you. He said all of you. But he recognized that there were exceptions.

When we talk about water baptism we have to talk about exceptions too. I believe the work in the heart is the most important thing. The Holy Spirit comes in and He does that work, supernaturally. I’ve told this story before. There was a sister that was saved since seven years of age. When I got to know her she was 98. A pastor from another area came and asked her if she was baptized in water by immersion. She said no but she was sprinkled. He told her she needed to be re-baptized.

She was unable to get out of bed nor walk. I’m not sure if they would have let her out of that nursing home either. So, when I saw her that morning, she was crying. I said to her, “You’ve got to be kidding me! You’ve been walking with the Lord since you were seven years old? And you are going to let this upstart pastor tell you what to do! You could tell him a few things.” Now if the opportunity had presented itself and we would have been able to baptize her by immersion, I certainly would have. But instead, I said, “You know what sister, it is what’s going on in your heart that makes the difference, the Holy Spirit within you. And if you are not able to do it, then don’t cry. Let the Lord minister to you.” So we prayed together.

Here’s the rule: always let God have at least three percent to do whatever He wants to do.

That sounds scary because I still believe in the scriptures concerning the baptism in water and the Spirit. I still believe that the evidence should be there. I still believe that Jesus came and was made incarnate for us. I still believe that He died for our sins, I believe that He sent the Holy Spirit with power that we might be able to speak with the tongues of angels. That when I do that, when I worship the Lord in the Spirit and speak in tongues, it is an awesome privilege. When I’m in my prayer closet, when I’m at home and I wake up at three o’clock in the morning and I’m praying for you, maybe you specifically, and I say, “I don’t know how to pray, Lord.” He gives me tongues to pray. And I begin to pray in tongues and I know in the Spirit, it’s a good prayer. I know as I embrace the love of the Lord in your life, it’s a good prayer. And that He means good to you not evil and these prayers will come to pass. And these prayers aren’t something that’s substandard and I should really take another action. But rather, my prayers are the pinnacle for action that’s from the Lord and the throne of grace in your life. And it WILL create a work in your life that shall bring forth fruit. You will be able to do what God wants you to do.

You will be able to stand in the circumstances that you find yourself in at your job, when everything is collapsing, everybody is pointing a fin-

ger in accusation. He will be there with you. When you are in sickness, not able to stand up and get out of bed because you are so weak, He will be the One to raise you up. When you see your loved ones perish before your eyes, you will still know that your Father in heaven knows everything from the beginning to the very end. You will be able to stand with the Lord.

For the Holy Spirit comes in such a way that isn't just a creed that we recite, something we just memorize. I did memorize this Nicene Creed once but I couldn't tell you what it is from my memory now, but as I follow along I know that everything it states is truth, being from scriptures not just a compilation of beliefs. They are scriptural truths. The early church did an amazing thing to counteract the false doctrine creeping in.

. . . the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues (don't forget this last part) and prophesied. (Acts 19:6)

Prophecy has been excluded from the church over and over again as something too dangerous for the common believer to know. This is because when you prophesy the Spirit of the Lord is giving to you the reality of what is true and what is not true. That's what prophesy is; it speaks into you and through you about what is going on around you and the truth that is there.

Now let's back up a bit. I don't want to give the idea that there is extra biblical revelation. Everything the Holy Spirit tells you or wants you to do cannot be separated from the word of God. Prophecy, both in written form and in Rhema, is absolute truth. It is not made up. For example if the Holy Spirit tells you to steal or murder; it is not from God. If the Holy Spirit tells you that Jesus is not really the Son of God, He is a created being (reference: Joseph Smith); no, no, and no. No!

So I know when the Holy Spirit prophesies within my prayers, when He prophesies as I read the bible, He does so to *encourage* me. I check and make sure it is not contrary to the Spirit of truth that is within the word of God. It cannot be contrary because they are one. There is only one God, one work. There is a lot of corrections to be made in today's church because of this statement, especially in new testament churches that are going in all different directions. They can say, "well, the Spirit told us such and such." No. As an elder, an under-shepherd, to oversee the flock and what He is doing, people have come to me and the other elders and said, "the Lord told me such and such." Example: the Lord told me to quit my job. The Lord told me I need to be . . . , etc.. What these individuals are doing is using the name of the Holy Spirit to pre-empt anything that an elder might discern through the Holy Spirit and from the word of God. What they are doing is shutting the door for any kind of adjustment or correction from

their brothers and sisters, overlooking that we are given to one another for that very purpose.

Therefore, when I go before the elders of the church, even myself as another elder, I would not go to them, for example, and say, “The Lord told me, ‘That’s it. Resign.’” I wouldn’t do that. Rather I would speak like this, “I’m so discouraged. This doesn’t seem like God’s will in my life any more; this job is crazy. I’m praying for the Lord to open another door.” Now that leaves it open for others to say to me, “Peter, no. That is not God. I will tell you why it is not; I see in you something more.” Others will be able then to speak to me prophetically in a better way than I could have ever heard on my own. I can reject it or take it in but when those kinds of things happen, it is awesomely wonderful how the Holy Spirit is able to use us together, not simply alone. Amen.

Last week when we were listening to a teaching about being baptized into the church, this is part of what we were talking about. In my opinion, when you receive Christ and are baptized in water and the resurrection, then you are baptized into the church, because He is the church. The church is His bride; the two are one. How can you not be a part of the church when you are a part of Him? We are BORN into the church. That could be up for further discussion, but I personally think that without the Holy Spirit giving us insight into these mysteries, this is all strange and crazy stuff.

This is what news broadcasters on FOX news were saying, “You believe this. You are a catholic; you believe there is a Holy Spirit.” But the person said, “No I don’t.” “But you believe that Jesus was made incarnate, born of the Virgin Mary.” “No, I don’t know what that means.” The world is indeed going crazy.

So we can see, as we go down this road, as we go down the history of what we are going through as a nation, and as the organized church is going off into different directions, we are going to be asked more and more what our faith, our beliefs are. Our faith is not what *we* want it to be; our faith is the actual truth. We seek the truth in the word of God. We seek the truth by the Holy Spirit, in our brothers and sisters, and in prayer. Then He comes into our life and we are able to discern the truth more and more accurately everyday. Do we all know all the truth? Does anybody know the truth on their own? We know only the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit, and He is the one who is the giver of truth and the one Who breathes into us life because of that. Amen, because you know this is true.

Lastly the Nicene Creed brings up the subject,

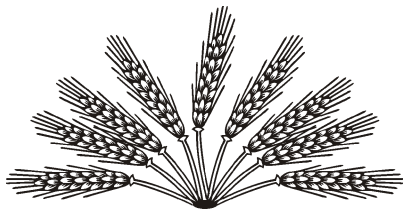
. . . and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

That's the end of the Creed. Most of us would say, "Really?" What does that mean. We all have our own ideas of what that means. We all have our own eschatology, study of the end times. But Jesus taught it more clearly. When Martha came to Him and said that she knew of the resurrection of the dead, that she had got that straight (John 11:24), Jesus said He was not talking about what she understood. Rather it is the life of the kingdom to come. Paul also said that if we didn't believe in another life to come, in heaven, we would be more to be pitied than anyone else on this earth. I don't know exactly what he meant by that because, to be truthful, I'm so involved in the here and now and the Holy Spirit moving in my current life. But I see a deficiency in myself. I am not looking forward, all that much, to what goes on in heaven, partly because I have no clue of what it is going to be like. Probably because I don't know if I will have any control. I like to be in control. We don't really have any control now but we like to think we do.

Here's the key: it is going to be glorious. Whenever it is described, it is done so in ways that are uncomprehensible to our natural minds. It is beyond our imagination. Every science fiction we have ever seen pales next to the reality of what is coming. Imagine what you will imagine and the truth is stranger still.

Now the enemy's tactic is to take you from the truth of the gospel, and if he cannot convert you like he did to this Catholic French boy turned Muslim and executioner . . . if he cannot convert you, he will pervert you. He will distract you. Think about all the tactics he uses on us. He's tried to get you, to get us, away from the truth. What we are doing here is not just a review, it's bringing us *back* to the truth of the Holy Spirit. This is what the theologians believed from the beginning of the church. What is stated in this Nicene Creed was not arguable. None of these points were in dispute even years later when the church went in many different directions during the Protestant reformation. *None* of these points were in dispute. For the most part neither are they today.

So I believe in one God. When He comes and fills my heart with His Holy Spirit, when I pray and when I baptize, I baptize in the name of Jesus. Why? Because that is the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We might not say this in its entirety but one cannot get around the facts. This is what the early disciples practiced, a firm foundation. Amen.



Footnote: 1) Nicene Creed, originally written in A.D. 325 at the Council of Nicaea updated in A.D. 381 at the Council of Constantinople.