

WHAT THE ELIM PENTECOSTAL CHURCHES BELIEVE

The Bible: We believe that the Bible is God's message to all men. Every word of it is directly inspired by God Himself. The message of the Bible is our ultimate guide in every aspect of our lives as a church and as individuals.

The Trinity: We believe that the Universe was created by God who has existed for all time. He is Ruler over everything within the Universe, yet He knows everyone on Earth. God exists as three equal persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit who work together in perfect unity to carry out His perfect plans.

The Saviour: We believe that Jesus Christ is God the Son who came to Earth to live as a man. As a man, He lived a perfect life and, by doing so, set an example for all people. The words of instruction He spoke on Earth, as recorded in the Bible, remain relevant to our lives today. When He was killed by crucifixion He was not being punished for His own sins, as He had not committed any. Death, therefore, had no right to keep Him, and He came back to life and passed into Heaven. Because of His death, we can also pass into Heaven if we spend the rest of our lives following His teachings and trusting Him to forgive us when we fail.

The Holy Spirit: We believe in God, the Holy Spirit. We believe that Holy Spirit makes us aware when we are failing to follow God's teaching. He then prompts us to ask God to forgive us for these sins and our guilt is taken away. We believe that in order to live the holy and fruitful lives that God intends for us, we need the baptism in the Holy Spirit who enables us to speak in tongues, which is the evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and to possess other charismatic gifts. He has individually equipped us so that we can successfully achieve His purpose for our lives which is to worship God, fulfil our role in the Church and serve the community in which we live.

Salvation For Mankind: We believe that man was created to be God's friend. However, man chose to do things that God did not want him to do, and this sin separated all mankind from God. We believe that Jesus, by living a perfect life as a man, restored the relationship and became a bridge between God and the people He created. Therefore, if we believe in Jesus and allow Him to forgive our sins, we can start our relationship with God over again, as God intended it to be.

The Church: We believe that everyone on Earth who believes in Jesus Christ is part of a single body, the Church.

The Ministry: We believe that Jesus desires every member to play an active role in the work of the Church. In particular, we believe that among the members He will appoint people to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, in order that the work of the Church can be fulfilled.

The Ordinances: We believe that every believer in Jesus Christ should follow His example by being baptised in water and by commemorating His death by regularly taking Communion.

The Commission: We believe that Jesus has commanded every member of His church to spread the good news about His love for mankind to every person on Earth. We believe that He has given us power to bring His healing for physical and spiritual ailments to all mankind.

The Coming King: We believe that Jesus will return to Earth from Heaven to rule in power and glory.

The Future State: We believe that either a person will spend eternity with the Lord Jesus in Heaven or be lost in Hell. This will be based on whether or not they accept the message of Jesus Christ and believe in Him today.

RESPONSE Do you follow the Bible teaching or this Elim teaching?

This doctrinal statement is astray from the Bible. For example

The Saviour. The Lord Jesus was not killed by crucifixion. He did not die because He was crucified. He died because He dismissed His spirit (Luke 23.46). His life was not taken by men but given according to the purposes of God

The Holy Spirit. While there may be Elim churches who may not insist on the second blessing (the first being conversion) which second blessing is the baptism in the Holy Spirit evidenced by speaking in tongues, the Elim Pentecostal Movement does believe in and preach this doctrine which is essential to their beliefs, and state that this is the Full Gospel which is contrary to Scripture. The work of the Holy Spirit is to seal all true believers and to indwell them and teach them the truth about Christ. The Holy Spirit does not draw attention to Himself but to the Lord Jesus.

The Ministry. There are pastors, teachers, evangelists who are certainly not appointed by God. There are no prophets in the sense of those foretelling events which are not in the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 13.8)

Salvation. The life of the Lord Jesus did NOT restore or bridge a relationship between God and man. It emphasises how lost we were and how incapable we are to please God until we put the Lord first in our lives and let ourselves recede and allow the Lord to dwell within by the working of the Holy Spirit. We are not to talk about self (2 Corinthian 4.5) but preach Christ and Him crucified (1 Corinthians 1.23)

The Commission. We are to spread the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2.4) and we must adhere to the Biblical truth that in ALL things Christ must have the pre-eminence (Colossians 1.18)

The Coming King. There is nothing in the Elim doctrine that speaks of the Christian's hope of glory, any details of the Second Coming and the rapture (1 Thessalonians 4).

Elim and other Pentecostal and charismatic churches pride themselves on being community churches which is a strong and modern feature in our day. They emphasis being kind, welcoming and all-embracing whereas the Bible teaches righteousness, temperance and judgment for the unbelievers to come (Acts 24.25) and in these Elim churches these essential subjects seldom get a look in.

Dispensationalism is usually ignored and yet it is important for us to know something of the times and seasons.

The Church. The church is to proclaim Christ and salvation and to promote the worship of God with reverence as the Scriptures state, In quietness is your strength (Isaiah 30.18) and all our work, including that for the Lord, should be in quietness which indicates assurance (Isaiah 32. 17), the result of righteousness, doing that which is right in God's eyes. The church is not a community or social organisation. It is not all things to all men or designed to get people in through worldly and modern methods such as pop groups and an Elim church football group. The church is here to evangelise not entertain and to get people in by false pretences is devious. We should remind ourselves that we, as Christians, are not to love the world or the things of the world (1 John 2.15). The Church of Christ is the Body of Christ; believers are members of that Body not of a community of social creation made by man. The House of God is not situated at 25 High Street or in the front room of Golden Villa. In Philippians 3. 20 -21, believers are called citizens of heaven and not of a community or social club made by man. It is a great pity when entertainment and social events become important in Pentecostal worship where it is often made more important than the preaching of the Gospel and Bible study.

PRACTICES OF ELIM

Meetings in Elim and other Pentecostal and charismatic churches intend to be demonstrative with active practices such as their belief of what they call dancing in the Spirit which is certainly not Biblical. David danced before the Lord and that was vile (2 Samuel 6, look at verses 20 and 22 particularly). In the Bible, dancing is not spiritual and certainly not of the Holy Spirit but is worldly (Exodus 32.19, Judges 11.34, 21.21. 1 Samuel 30.16 etc). Elim people also lift hands, or one hand in meetings, which is not Biblical either, whereas we read of men lifting up holy hands in prayer (1 Timothy 2.8). Pentecostals and other charismatics believe they have members with gifts of healing and I have heard some such healers say that, if someone is not healed, it is their fault because of their lack of faith.

Meetings can also be noisy and exuberant whereas, as we have said, in quietness is the believers strength (Isaiah 30 15) and our assurance (Isaiah 32.17) and that our work, including our service for the Lord, should be in quietness (2 Thessalonians 3.12).

As someone has said, God is not deaf!

In some Elim churches, the pastor is elevated in that, for example, if someone in another denomination has a dispute with a member of the Elim church, then that someone must consult the Elim pastor first and foremost and failure to do so will be an insult to the authority of the pastor.

It has been regularly asserted by Elim people that Elim and Pentecostals are the only churches that are right in ALL things and, as they have the baptism of the Holy Spirit evidenced by the speaking of tongues, this makes them superior.

The Elim churches supports churches together which is the ecumenical movement and yet the Bible asks, Can two walk together unless they be agreed?