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Foundational Principles

GFA Statement of Belief

At GFA, we believe in a loving and compassionate God who desires to see all people flourish. We hold to the foundational truths expressed in the Apostles' Creed, a declaration that has guided Christians for centuries. This ancient creed beautifully summarizes core Christian beliefs, emphasizing the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.

We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God, providing guidance, wisdom, and revelation for living. We approach scripture with a commitment to allowing scripture to interpret scripture, seeking to understand its timeless truths in their intended context.

Our approach is shaped profoundly by grace and the finished work of the cross, emphasizing righteousness by faith and a life of victory and abundance through God's unmerited favor. We're inspired by the power of spoken words and the believer's authority to appropriate God's promises, seeing faith as an active force that aligns us with God's will. We recognize the importance of the gifts of the Spirit and miraculous encounters as normal expressions of God's presence and power. We believe in a God who is inherently good and desires to see the atmosphere of heaven released on earth through His people. Furthermore, we deeply resonate with the message of God's relentless, unconditional love for all, especially for those who may feel lost, forgotten, or unworthy. We stand in agreement with all bible-believing Christians who honor and uphold the transformative power of scripture.

GFA Statement of Faith

Our Statement of Faith articulates the core theological convictions that underpin our work and guide our staff. While our participants aren't required to adhere to this, it represents the spiritual foundation from which GFA operates.

We believe in:

- One God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son (Jesus Christ), and Holy Spirit.
- The divinity of Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, sinless life, miraculous works, sacrificial death on the cross for the sins of humanity, bodily resurrection, ascension to heaven, and His future return.
- The Holy Spirit as a divine person, indwelling believers, empowering them for a life of holiness and service, and gifting them for the building up of the church.
- The Bible as the divinely inspired and authoritative Word of God, our ultimate source of truth and guidance.
- Salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, not by works, resulting in reconciliation with God and eternal life.
- The church as the body of Christ, a community of believers called to worship God, grow in faith, and demonstrate God's love to the world.
- The power of God to bring healing, deliverance, and transformation in every area of life.
- The Kingdom of God as both a present reality and a future hope, continually advancing through the love, power, and presence of God's people.

Attestation to the Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

GFA Basic Tenets: How We Operate

At GFA, our operational principles are built on the belief that we're called to love people as Jesus loves people. This means extending acceptance and grace to everyone we encounter, free from judgment or stigma. We're committed to fostering environments where individuals feel safe, respected, and valued, particularly as they navigate mental health, addiction recovery, personal growth, relationships, and emotional well-being. We aim to show Jesus and the Kingdom of God through our actions and interactions.

This commitment includes:

- **Unconditional Positive Regard:** We offer unwavering support and encouragement, affirming the divine worth of every person. This means believing in the inherent potential of all, providing support without conditions.
- **Empathetic Engagement:** We demonstrate genuine compassion by truly entering into the experiences and emotions of others, seeking to understand and share their feelings with kindness and care.
- **Empowerment and Autonomy:** We equip individuals to choose their own path to healing and personal growth, providing guidance and support without attempting to control their journey. Our role is to empower, not to dictate.
- **Non-Judgment and Stigma-Free Engagement:** We intentionally create space for individuals to be themselves, recognizing that everyone's journey is unique. We actively refrain from judgment and work to dismantle stigma in all its forms.
- **Humble Service:** We lead with servant-hearted humility, consistently prioritizing the needs and well-being of those we work alongside above our own.
- **Holy Spirit-Inspired Action:** Every decision, interaction, and initiative at GFA is guided by the loving and compassionate Spirit of Jesus Christ. We seek the Spirit's guidance in all we do, trusting His power for transformation.

The Lord's Prayer: A Blueprint for Transformation

The Lord's Prayer is meant to be more than words we repeat—it's a living blueprint for seeing God's will on earth, right here and now, especially as we walk alongside those in recovery. By engaging this prayer actively, we move from simply asking God to work, to declaring His truth and participating in His purposes. This shift transforms the Lord's Prayer into a dynamic tool for empowerment. Rather than reciting it passively, we speak it with faith, authority, and expectancy—aligning our hearts with heaven's reality and inviting God's Kingdom to break through addiction, anxiety, and oppression. We believe the Lord's Prayer is a spirit-filled declaration of divine truth and authority. It provides practical steps for individuals and our community, transforming prayer from a passive request into an active proclamation of freedom, healing, and wholeness. By treating the Lord's Prayer as a dynamic, faith-filled declaration rather than a rote recital, we actively participate in God's restorative work—bringing freedom, healing, and hope into every life and situation.

- **“Our Father in Heaven, Hallowed Be Your Name”** This opening invites us into intimacy with a loving Father who knows us intimately. It calls us to revere His holy name above all else—shifting our focus from our struggles to His unmatched greatness and love.
- **“Your Kingdom Come, Your Will Be Done, On Earth as It Is in Heaven”** This is our active declaration that the perfect order, peace, and freedom of heaven would invade our lives today. We bind what seeks to ensnare us—addiction, fear, despair—and we release every blessing of heaven—joy, clarity, peace—into our circumstances.
- **“Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread”** This petition is a prayer for all our needs—spiritual, emotional, and physical—one day at a time. It reminds us to trust God moment by moment, leaning on His provision of hope, strength, wise counsel, and practical resources for healing and stability.
- **“And Forgive Us Our Debts, As We Also Have Forgiven Our Debtors”** Here we embrace the freedom of forgiveness. We release guilt, shame, and resentment—both ours and others’—opening our hearts to divine grace and restoring the relationships that sustain us on the recovery journey.
- **“And Lead Us Not into Temptation, But Deliver Us from Evil”** This plea acknowledges the reality of spiritual battles and invites God's protective power. We ask to be guided away from triggers, negative thoughts, and harmful patterns, and to be shielded by His strength as we walk in victory.
- **“For Yours Is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory Forever. Amen.”** We close in worship, affirming God's ultimate sovereignty. This doxology reminds us that every breakthrough, every step of healing, flows from His unchanging character—and that His Kingdom reigns forever.