



Refresh

Bible Study Magazine

Connecting God's
Word to Life Today

Statement of Faith

To the contributors of *Refresh*:

Generally, our beliefs align with “The Baptist Faith and Message,” not because it’s Baptist, but because it seems to us that it reflects the whole counsel of God’s Word. But we think it’s a good idea to emphasize the following.

1. God

There is one God (*Isa 43:10-11; 44:6, 8b; 45:5-6, 18, 21-22; 46:9*), who is the Creator of the earth, the universe, and all things (*Isa 42:5, Eph 3:9, Col 1:16, Rev 4:11*). He is the God who is revealed to us in the Holy Bible.

There are 3 Persons of God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (*Matt 28:19, Matt 3:16-17, 2 Cor 13:14, 1 John 5:7*).

Jesus Christ is God (*John 20:28, John 1:1,14, John 10:30, 33, Col 2:9, Heb 1:8, Rev 1:17-18, Rev 2:8, Isa 9:6, Isa 7:14, 1 Tim 3:16*). He is the Head of the Church (*Eph 1:22*), and the Mediator (*Heb 8:6*) of the New Covenant (*Heb 8:10-12*) by which believers relate to God.

God interacts with believers in daily life in such roles as Savior, Father, Shepherd, Teacher, Encourager, Helper, and Comforter, among others.

2. God’s Plan of Salvation

A. God sovereignly chose:

- a) to make faith the requirement for salvation, more specifically in New Testament times, faith in His Son Jesus Christ, and
- b) to give every person a free will to accept or reject the truth and God’s offer of salvation.

God desires all men to be saved, and He has designed His plan of salvation accordingly. (The following verses are NKJV.)

1 Timothy 2:4 [God] who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Matthew 18:14 Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.



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There is some debate about the word that is translated “all” in 1 Tim 2:4—Strong’s #3956, *pas*—whether it means some of all types or groups, or whether it means everyone.

That same word for “all” is used 4 times in the Great Commission: “all authority,” “all nations,” “observe all things that I have commanded you,” “I am with you always” (Matt 28:18-20 NKJV). It is used once in Romans 3:23, “for all have sinned” (NKJV), and in several other verses where it would most likely be agreed that “all” means *all*.

The same word is translated “whoever” (NKJV) in John 3:16 and other verses that testify that God’s offer of salvation is extended to everyone, to “all” persons.

B. A person whom God has accepted into His family and kingdom can never lose his or her salvation (*John 10:27-29, 5:24, 6:40, 47, 3:15-16, 11:25-26; 1 John 2:25, 5:13, 20; Psalm 37:28, Isa 45:17, 55:3, 1Peter 1:5, Heb 7:25*).

3. **The Bible** is God-inspired, inerrant, and authoritative (*2 Tim 3:16*). It has no error regarding the truth of who God is, who we are apart from Him, who we can be by faith in Him, the plan of salvation, the certainty of eternal life by faith, the existence of angels and the devil, and so forth.
4. **The Church** is composed of believers, and they are members of God’s family and kingdom. Our mission and privilege is to know and love God (*John 17:3, Mark 12:30*), to keep growing in how well we know Him, and to relate to Him, believers, and nonbelievers according to the wisdom that He has given us in His Word.



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Wanted: Articles for *Refresh Bible Study Magazine* 2023 Issues

The mission of *Refresh* is to connect God's Word to life today. It's a free, digital magazine published by Lighthouse Bible Studies. If you are interested in submitting to *Refresh*, we would love to hear from you.

We accept devotions, Bible studies, Christian living articles, poetry, and short stories. Please include **application** for today and at least one **Scripture** for each submission.

- **Devotions** – The focus is a story or illustration that is then connected to a verse or passage of Scripture. Use up to 1000 words, a short prayer, and 2 questions.
- **Bible Studies** – The focus is Scripture—its explanation, application, and so on. Use up to 1200 words, a short prayer, and a few questions.
- **Christian Living** – The focus is on how we live out Scripture. Use up to 1200 words, a short prayer, and a few questions.
- **Short Stories** – The focus is on illustrating that issue's topic with a fictional story. Use up to 1000-1200 words, and include a Bible verse in the story (beginning, end, or woven into the story) and at least two discussion questions.

We look forward to receiving your submissions for the following 2023 *Refresh* issues. This year we will have 3 issues instead of 4, so we can finish some compilations and so forth.

Issue:	Topic:	Submission Window:	Release Date:
Spring	God in the Here and Now	February 13 – March 16	April 28
Fall	When Hope Shines in Dark Places	June 26 – July 17	September 11
Christmas	Anything related to Christmas (except Santa)	September 18 – October 9	December 4

Join us in contributing an encouraging Christian voice to our increasingly secular world. Help us connect God's Word to life today.

Email us at lighthousebiblestudies@hotmail.com with any questions.



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Writer Information and Guidelines:

- 1. Refresh Bible Study Magazine is online only, and it's free.**
- 2. We can't pay you.** We can't even pay ourselves. Katy Kauffman and Beebe Kauffman review articles, suggest edits if needed, and design and publish the magazine.
- 3. Length of articles.** Please see the previous pages for specific word counts according to the type of your submission. We have a size limit that works best for delivery of the magazine to subscribers, and we like to keep it under that limit. The photos that we use with every article increase the size of the magazine. If you need more than the allotted words, send your submission and we will get back to you.
- 4. Send your article to lighthousebiblestudies@hotmail.com.**
- 5. In the text of your submission, capitalize pronouns referring to God,** as in the NKJV Bible and others. But when you are quoting the actual Bible verse, use the capitalization that your translation has.
- 6. Bible verses and translation.** If you quote a Bible verse in your writing, we need to know the reference (such as "John 3:16") and the Bible translation (NKJV, NIV, ESV, NASB, etc.). For example: "Whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16 NKJV).

The magazine's purpose is to connect God's Word to life today, so we try to have at least one Bible verse in every article, devotion, poem, or short story.

- 7. Permissions.** We need written permission from you to use your submissions in the magazine. We have a one-time permission form that covers the first article that you submit to us, and all subsequent articles. It gives us nonexclusive permission for *Refresh Bible Study Magazine*, a publication of Lighthouse Bible Studies, LLC, to distribute what you send us. The copyright, of course, stays with the author. If you need any permissions for what you include in your article, we'll need a copy of that so we can keep it on file.



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Writer Information and Guidelines:

8. New contributors. We need 4 things from you:

- a. A **signed permission form**. If your article is accepted, we will send this form. When you receive it, you should also receive our Statement of Faith. Please review it to make sure we are on the same page. If you agree with the Statement of Faith, please sign the permission form, scan it, and e-mail it back to us. You can also use regular mail.
- b. A **head shot** of you. It can be taken with your regular camera if the photo is taken in good lighting.
- c. Your **bio** of up to 30-60 words for the end of your article.
- d. You may include a **link** to your blog or website, if you have one.

9. Edit Your Work.

- a. Use an interesting **lead-in** to capture your readers' attention.
(personal story, illustration, analogy, surprising statement, question, quotation, etc.)
- b. Build what you write on accurate **theology**. If it's correct, the whole counsel of God will support it. This is our first priority, above excellent writing or reader appeal.
- c. Craft your **content**.
 1. Use a friendly and encouraging **"voice."** If you are writing about a problem, don't assume your reader has it. Don't scold them for not overcoming it. Nothing "preachy."
 2. Be clear and concise, but be effective. Outlines can help craft a dynamite **flow of thought**.
 3. Eliminate **distractions**.
 4. **Show**, as much as you can, rather than *tell*. Illustrate or emphasize your point in such a way that makes it more memorable.
 5. **The goal** is tight, focused, meaningful writing that comes between a great hook or lead-in, and an ending that is worth staying for—make it sing!
- d. Spend a little time developing a catchy or intriguing **title**, or ask someone for their ideas. We don't want readers to move past your article.
- e. Following a few **formatting guidelines** will save us time.
 1. 1" margin on all sides (And please single space your article.)
 2. Times New Romans font, 12 pt.
 3. No double spaces after periods, please.
 4. We use the *Chicago Manual of Style* form for citations, such as:



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1. Author's name in normal order, *Name of the book in italics* (City of the publisher, State: Publisher, Year it was published), page #.

The state is normally abbreviated, but not with the two letters that the Post Office uses.

Tennessee is Tenn. for citations, not TN. The page number is just the number without "page." If you are citing an article or a note from a Bible, the translation goes after the name of the Bible.

Thank you for your interest in writing for *Refresh Bible Study Magazine*. We look forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

God bless you,
Beebe Kauffman and Katy Kauffman
Refresh Bible Study Magazine