**The Greatest - Wk 3 – The Greatest Gift**

**We are starting the New Year on the greatest principles in scripture**

**\*\* The Greatest Reason - We exist for the glory of God.**

**Rom 11:36 - For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen**

**\*\* The Greatest Command – over everything in the Bible.**

**Mark 12:30Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ 31The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”**

**\*\* The Greatest Purpose - The great commission for every Cristian**

**Mark 12:30Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ 31The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”**

**Today a great - that empowers our ability to walk this out!**

**Acts 1**:**4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” 6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”**

**\*\* The Greatest Gift – The Holy Spirit!**

**“Power” dunamis - the explosive miraculous power of God.**

**Acts 19:2 - "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."**

**Today a similar situation in churches - often misunderstood / neglected**

**Ignorance – Fear – Confusion – Doctrinal issues**

**The Greatest Gift! - Holy Spirit 101: 4 Questions**

* **What is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is a who – not a what**

**Genesis 1:2 “Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”**

**The Holy Spirit is a person – but NOT human. Personal being.**

**Rom. 8:16, "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God"**

**According to the Bible the Holy Spirit grieves, loves, speaks, can be lied to, can be blasphemed, can be tested…**

* **Who is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is God**

**The 3rd person of the Trinity – with all the attributes of God**

**90 places in the bible – The Spirit of God is called HOLY**

**John 14:16, Hebrews 9:14 – Tell us the Holy Spirit is ETERNAL**

**Psalm 139 – the Holy Spirit is OMNIPRESENT**

**All through Scripture – Spirit is the almighty power of God- OMNIPOTENT**

**Gen / Job / Psalms – The Holy Spirit has the power to CREATE**

**1 Cor 2:10, John 14 – The Spirit of God knows all things – OMNISCIENCE**

**Acts 5:3-4 – The Holy Spirit is called God by the apostles**

**Acts – Over and over the Holy Spirit speaks and directs.**

**HS is called and equated to God in the NT (Aka. Triadic formulas)**

**Matthew 28:19 -Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit…**

**Why the use of the Trinity in baptism? Because we are not to forget the essence of God - the vast mystery of who He is!**

**Matthew 3:13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” 15 Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented. 16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”**

**The trinity is manifests – Three in One. One God!**

* **How do you get the Holy Spirit?**

**You receive the Holy Spirit at Salvation – through Jesus**

**Some churches teach it is a separate experience**

**John 3:5 Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.**

**1 Cor 12:13 - We were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free - and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.**

**Rom 8:9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.**

**Romans 8:14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.**

**Galatians 4:6 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”**

**Ephesians 1:13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.**

**There are 3 types of baptism – Christians are designed for two:**

**Matthew 3:11 “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit *and* fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”**

**Baptized in Water (1) and the Spirit (2) – and Fire (3) – judgment**

**Water baptism – declares the power of God to save us.**

**Spirit Baptism - declares the power of God in us.**

**\*\*\*\* When you are born again - the Holy Spirit moves in!**

**The beauty is - John 14:16 - The Holy Spirit will be with you forever!**

* **Why are we given the Holy Spirit?**

**The Holy Spirit is given by Jesus to help us**

**John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever- 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and he will be in you.**

**Counselor: parakletos (par-ak'-lay-tos); intercessor, consoler, advocate, comforter, helper.**

**HOLY SPIRIT GIVES YOU THE POWER – Why we need the Holy Spirit!**

**Because we are unable to know God on our own – He is…**

**1) The power that leads to Salvation (John 3:5-6)**

**1 Cor 12:3 - no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.**

**Because we cannot change ourselves – He is**

**2) The power to live a holy life**

**John 16:7-11 – Romans 8:13 - 2 Cor 3:18 – Galatians 5**

**Because we often have a fear of people**

**3) The power to share our faith boldly - boldness to be a witness**

**Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”**

**Acts 4:31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.**

**A primary function of the HS in a believer is boldness!**

**Because we are not as smart as God**

**4) the power for guidance and counsel**

**We need help with life’s choices and direction.**

**Isaiah 30:21 - “Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, ‘This is the way; walk in it.’”**

**John 16:13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.**

**John 14:26 - …the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.**

**John 15:26** **When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father - the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father - he will testify about me.**

**Because we are weak in times of crisis**

**5) The power to give strength and comfort (2 Cor 12:9-10, Eph 3:16-17)**

**John 14:16 - And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever… / John 16:7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.**

**No need to travel to a holy city – comfort is coming your way.**

**Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

**Because we cannot work miracles**

**6) Power to make a difference with spiritual gifts and abilities**

**The HS empowers us to make a difference in the world.**

**Never confuse our platform (abilities / gifts) with our purpose in life**

**Your purpose is not a gift or ability.**

**We have a supernatural God who still does supernatural things.**

**1 Corinthians 12:7 - A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church.**

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