

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS
20/20 Vision in 2021
LESSON STUDY: *Simplicity of the Gospel*
January 2, 2021

A NEW START FOR A NEW YEAR
The Gospel Simplified: Jesus In, Satan Out
SCRIPTURE: ACTS 1:5,8

“⁵ For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. ⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

What is the New Year gift from Jesus?

1. John 14:16-18: **“¹⁶And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; ¹⁷ Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”**

“After His ascension He was to be absent in person; but through the Comforter (Holy Spirit) He would still be with them, and they,” DA 277.

2. John 14:18: **“I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”**

“We only have Jesus when we are fill with the Spirit of God. We can only represent him aright, when we are baptized with the Holy Spirit.” AA 47.

“The Saviour was pointing forward to the time when the Holy Spirit should come to do a mighty work as His representative. The evil that had been accumulating for centuries was to be resisted by the divine power of the Holy Spirit.” AA 47-48.

“One interest prevailed; one subject of emulation swallowed up all others. The ambition of the believers was to reveal the likeness of Christ’s character and to labor for the enlargement of His kingdom.” AA 48.

“So mightily can God work when men give themselves up to the control of His Spirit. The promise of the Holy Spirit is not limited to any age or to any race.” AA 49.

“They were compelled to strive with all their God-given powers to reach the measure of the stature of men and women in Christ Jesus. Daily they prayed for fresh supplies of grace, that they might reach higher and still higher toward perfection. Under the Holy Spirit’s working even the weakest, by exercising faith in God, learned to improve their entrusted powers and to become sanctified, refined, and ennobled. As in humility they submitted to the molding influence of the Holy Spirit, they received of the fullness of the Godhead and were fashioned in the likeness of the divine. The lapse of time has wrought no change in Christ’s parting promise to send the Holy Spirit as His representative.” AA 49-50.

“If all were willing, all would be filled with the Spirit. Wherever the need of the Holy Spirit is a matter little thought of, there is seen spiritual drought, spiritual darkness, spiritual declension and death.” AA 50.

“Since this is the means by which we are to receive power, why do we not hunger and thirst for the gift of the Spirit? Why do we not talk of it, pray for it, and preach concerning it? The Lord is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to those who serve Him than parents are to give good gifts to their children. For the daily baptism of the Spirit every worker should offer his petition to God.” AA 50.

3. Luke 13:24: **“Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.”**

“The Spirit furnishes the strength that sustains striving, wrestling souls in every emergency.” AA 51.

Do we realize what time it is? The reason we cant' see, it is because we are asleep.

4. Rom. 13:11-14: “¹¹ And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. ¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. ¹³ Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. ¹⁴ But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”

If we recognize our need, we will be filled with the Holy Spirit. We need him more today than ever before.

5. John 14:10-18: “¹⁰ Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake. ¹² Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. ¹³ And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. ¹⁵ If ye love me, keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; ¹⁷ Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”

Who are we if we reject God?

6. Ps. 53:1: “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good.”

Is the Holy Spirit God?

7. Gen. 1:1,2 vr. 26: “¹ In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. ² And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God (The Holy Spirit) moved upon the face of the waters. ²⁶ And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion...”
8. 1 John 5:7: “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”

In what ways can we appreciate and understand the promises that God has given us? Only by the Spirit.

9. 1 Cor. 2:9-14,16: “⁹ But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. ¹⁰ But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. ¹¹ For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. ¹³ Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴ But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”
10. Phil. 2:5-8: “⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”
 - Less of me, more of him.
 - I must decrease and he must increase.
 - The beginning of greatness is to become little.
 - The increase of greatness is to be less.
 - Perfection of greatness is to be nothing.
 - All of Jesus and none of me.

There is no excuse for sin; we may sin but we don't have to.

11. Matt. 1:21: "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."
12. Rom. 5:20: "Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:"
13. Jude 24,25: "²⁴ Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,²⁵ To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen."

**When we sin, we are siding with Satan; believing his lies instead of God's word (like Adam and Eve did).
When we believe God's word, all things are possible. Lord help our unbelief.**

14. Heb. 11:6,1: "⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. ¹ Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
15. Eph. 4:22-24,30: "²² That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; ²³ And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; ²⁴ And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. ³⁰ And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."
16. Matt. 12:31-32: "³¹ Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. ³² And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come."
17. Rev. 22:12,20: "¹² And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. ²⁰ He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."