THE TRINITY



DISCIPLESHIP COURSES

TRUTH MATTERS





The Trinity

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TRUTH MATTERS

We live in a world that says there are no longer any absolutes. What is true for you may not be what is true for me – it is all relative - but it turns out truth is ABSOLUTE. Truth has a name – and it is Jesus Christ. *I am the way, THE truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.* (John 14:6) If we want to know THE truth then we have to get to know Jesus. The way we do that is studying His Word! *Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*. (2 Timothy 2:15)

We call it the Great Commission – becoming a disciple - Matthew 28:19-20. There are four verbs in the Great commission but only one is a command - make disciples! Our desire to become a disciple by studying the Word of God - but not just through a cursory reading of the Word - we want to dive in deep. Where did our Bible come from? How can we personally study it so that Jesus can speak TRUTH into our lives? We will even get into the original languages – Greek / Hebrew – to further uncover the amazing story of redemption God has written for us!

Come along as we desire to become a generation rooted and grounded in the TRUTH! Passionately desiring to know our Savior so that we can go out and powerfully proclaim Him to a world that has forgotten the God who loves and dies for them!

The Trinity

"There are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one." - I John 5:7

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF THE TRINITY

1. Truth has to come through Love

- We all have knowledge:
  - **I Corinthians 8:1** – "We all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies…"
  - Knowing the truth does not mean we know how to handle a problem. When we think WE have THE answer - we become arrogant - puffed up. Rather than solving the problem - often we become a problem ourselves!
  - I knew a pastor who was fresh out of seminary – eager to prove his skills.cA couple of JWs came knocking on his door – he quickly invited them in - and proceeded to use his sizable knowledge to dismantle their cult! He won the battle – but lost the war – they left that day and never came back! He had all the right knowledge - but knowledge was not enough!

- Knowledge must be filtered through the Love of God
  - **I Corinthians 13:2** - "Though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."
  - We might have all the knowledge - know our Bibles from front to back. We might have degrees - titles - the answer to every question – but knowledge is very dangerous if not used correctly. Un-tempered by love - we only become arrogant and prideful - worthless!
  - Like Peter – we use the Sword in our own strength – and only manage to lop off ears - knowledge is only half of the picture. Love allows me to use that knowledge for God! Without love to guide us - without love as the glue to hold the body together we are destined to be torn apart by our selfishness - seeking our own glory. It is all about Love – without love our knowledge is irritating / worthless / empty!
  - **Ephesians 4:15** – "Speaking the truth in love…"

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2. The Christian doctrine of the Trinity:

- Why is this important:
  - The Doctrine of the Trinity is the RED line that cannot be crossed. It is what makes a religion that claims to believe in Christ a cult. Denying Jesus is God – denying the triune nature of God the Father / Son / Spirit! They will say they believe in Jesus – but it is not the Jesus of the Bible!
  - Jehovah's Witness - Jesus was the first creation of Jehovah (Michael the Archangel)
  - Mormons – Jesus is a spirit son of God – the brother of Lucifer (satan)
  - We can agree to disagree about a great many things. There is great diversity within the Body of Christ – I Corinthians 12 - and we can agree to disagree and a VAST collection of non-essentials - but we CANNOT disagree on the Trinity / Deity of Jesus Christ – it is THE essential!

- Comprehension vs. Apprehension:
  - It is important to note the Word Trinity does not exist in the Bible. The closest word in the Bible would be the word Godhead – *theiotes* – divine nature.
  - **Romans 1:20** - "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead…"
  - **Colossians 2:9** – "For in Him [Jesus] dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily…"

- Describing the Trinity:
  - There are several different ways that people have tried to describe the Trinity. Some have tired to use the example of the egg – yolk / white / shell. But God is not like an egg – He is not 3 separate parts that together form a whole.
  - Others have tired to use the example of water – ice / liquid / steam. But God is not like ice – He does not change form into 3 different parts.
  - The closest example might be a triangle – one shape with 3 equal sides. But the Bible makes no effort to explain how this is true - only that it is a fact!
  - To be honest – there is likely no good example to describe the Trinity. To say that we could understand the complexity of God – would mean our God is small. We are the creation – and only have the slightest understanding of our creator!
  - We do have His Word – and that does give us insight and glimpses. Yet the Bible is not the complete revelation of the Character and nature of God. The Bible is the revelation of how to have a relationship with God. All the other questions we have ABOUT God will be answered one day when we meet him!
  - **Isaiah 55:8-9** – "'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,' says the LORD. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.'"

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3. The Old Testament examples of the Trinity:

- In the beginning:
  - **Genesis 1:1-2** – "In the Beginning God (*Eloheem*) created the heavens and the Earth…"
  - There are several words used in the Old Testament for God – El / Adonai / YHVH. The word used here is Eloheem – (*translated God*) – meaning Gods. The Rabbis say that it is plural to add emphasis to the name of God. We know better – it is plural because God is triune – three in one!
  - Immediately after the word God you find two letters: Aleph and Tau. They are the first and last letter of the Hebrew Alphabet (*A & Z*). They are not a word so they are not translated in our Bible. Aleph and Tau or Alpha and Omega or the First and the Last - Revelation 22:13. Because Jesus was the one who created all things in the Beginning!
  - **Hebrews 1:1-2** – "God… has in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds…"
  - All three persons are there at creation – Father (*God*) – Son (*Word*) – Spirit.
  - **Genesis 1:2** – "… And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."
  - **Genesis 1:3** – "And God said, let there be…" - the Word of God – Jesus

- God speaking in plural:
  - **Genesis 1:26** – "And God said, Let Us make man in our image, after Our likeness…"
  - The Our that God is referring – is not angels – man is not made in their image. Here God refers to Himself in the plural. Again we see in first chapter of the Bible we see a hint at the trinity!
  - God created man (*bara*) in His image. There are two words translated as 'create' in the Hebrew language. Asah – to assemble from pre-existing elements (*a car is created from many parts*). Bara – to create something from nothing (*a word that is only associated with God*). We are created in the image of God – what does that exactly mean. God here created (*bara*) the Spirit of man! Only the 3rd time we see God creating something from nothing (*beginning / animals*).
  - Man is unique from all the rest of God's creation - we are Body / Soul / and Spirit. Being created in the image of God refers to tri-unity of our nature. We live in a body / have conscious thought / but have an eternal spirit. Man is eternal – man does not cease to exist when he dies. Where we spend eternity is the real question. We can choose to spend eternity with God or separated from Him!

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- Shema Yisrael - Hear O Israel
  - **Deuteronomy 6:4** - "Here oh Israel, the Lord your God is one Lord…"
  - Every Sabbath day - in every synagogue - in every nation of the world this verse is ready by every Jew - the statement there is ONLY ONE God.
  - Hear O Israel: The Lord (*Yahweh*) our God (*Eloheem*) is one Lord (*Yahweh*).
  - Yahweh is the name of God / Eloheem is more literally translated gods.
  - The word one - is the Hebrew word *echad* - properly interpreted united as one!
  - This passage should read: Hear O Israel - YAHWEH our Gods is untied into one YAHWEH!

- The First and the Last - when did God die:
  - No Question that the First and the Last is the LORD.
  - **Isaiah 41:4** – "Who hath wrought and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? I the LORD, the First, and with the Last; I am He."
  - **Isaiah 48:12** – "Hearken unto Me, O Jacob and Israel, My called; I am He; I am the First, I also am the Last."
  - When did the LORD (YAWEH) die and come back to life?
  - **Revelation 1:11-18** – "Saying, I (*Jesus*) am Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last… And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the First and the Last: I am He that lives, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."
  - **Revelation 2:8** – "And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things says the First and the Last, which was dead, and is alive…"

- God (F*ather*) / Spirit / Me (*Jesus*) – all three mentioned:
  - **Isaiah 48:16-17** – "Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning… and now the Lord GOD, and His Spirit, has sent Me."
  - **Isaiah 61:1** – "The Spirit of the Lord GOD (*Yahweh*) is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me…" - Quoted by Jesus about Himself in **Luke 4:18**

- When did the Jews pierce God:
  - **Zechariah 12:4,10** – "In that day, says the LORD… (*Context*) And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon Me [AZ] whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourns for his only son…"
  - Next to the word Me there is the first a last letters of the Hebrew alphabet. It is not a word – that is why it is not interpreted. When did the Jews pierce the LORD – the First and the Last!

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4. The New Testament examples of the Trinity:

- Jesus is the Great I AM - Exodus 3:14
  - **John 8** – Jesus found himself in a heated conversation with the Religious Leaders. On 3 different occasions he referred to Himself as the I Am. In our Bibles there is the added word He – but it is italics – not in the original language!
  - **John 8:24** - "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."
  - **John 8:28** – "Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself…"
  - **John 8:58** – "Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."
  - Jesus was claiming he had seen Abraham - perhaps when Melchizedek (*Jesus*) came out and blessed Abraham - **Genesis 14:18-19**. **Hebrews 7:1-3** - "Melchizedek... [is] like the Son of God…" It could also have been when the Lord appeared to Abraham about Isaac - **Genesis 19:1**. Both times Abraham rejoiced when He heard the Word of God! In fact the name of the son God promised to give was Isaac - meaning laughter!
  - The Jewish leaders argued – You are not even 50 years old - and you say Abraham. They were pointing out the physical impossibility of Jesus' claim because of His age. Abraham had lived some 2000 years before the time of Jesus.
  - Jesus answered them - before Abraham was - I Am! The 'I AM' - is one of the titles given by God to Moses (*burning bush*) - **Exodus 3**. There can be no mistake to what Jesus is saying - He saw Abraham - because He is God! We can further be sure because in response the leaders took up stones to kill Him!

- Who raised Jesus from the Grave – The Father / Son / and Spirit:
  - **Acts 2:24** - "Whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it."
  - **John 10:17-18** - "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. "No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."
  - **I Peter 3:18** – "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit…"

- Jesus is the Almighty:
  - **Isaiah 6:3** – "And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!"
  - **Revelation 4:8** – "The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"
  - **Revelation 1:8** - "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

- Who lives in us – The Father / Son / and Spirit:
  - **John 14:23** – "Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."
  - **I Corinthians 6:19** – "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?"
  - Our bodies are the building God lives inside of - He makes His home in our heart. What is on the walls of our heart - what does God see when He comes in? Do we have His Word written on our hearts - **Psalms 119:11** - or are there images / thoughts that we would be ashamed to admit were ours. We need to tear out those things in our heart that would make us ashamed. By faith making our heart a home where Jesus is comfortable and welcome! Not that we need to clean up before Jesus comes into our heart. It is by inviting Jesus into our heart - that we become clean! By faith we invite Him into our heart so that He can clean out all the garbage!

- Additional New Testament References on the trinity and deity of Jesus:
  - **Matthew 3:16-17** – "When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."
  - **Matthew 28:19** - "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
  - **John 20:28** - "Thomas answered and said to Him [Jesus], "My Lord and my God!"
  - **Titus 2:13** – "Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ…"
  - **Hebrews 1:8** – "But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom."
  - **I John 5:6-7** – "This is He who came by water and blood-- Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one."
  - One of the great mysteries of our Faith - there is only One God - yet God exists in 3 distinct persons - God the Father / God the Son / God the Spirit. The Bible makes no effort to explain how this is true - only that it is a fact!

NOTES

1. The character of the Trinity:

- God is a God of order - **I Corinthians 14:33**
  - God does not work in chaos - God is God of order - He works through structure. Part of that order/structure - is a hierarchy of authority within His character.
  - God the Father is the head / authority over God the Son - Jesus - **I Corinthians 11:3**.
  - God the Spirit exists to bring Glory to God the Son – **John 16:14**

- Each part of the Godhead has a purpose:
  - **Ephesians 4:4-6** – "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."
  - There is only one Spirit. There is only one body - one church - drawn by the Spirit to Jesus. As far as God in concerned - there are only two groups - believers / un-believers. All of those who believe in Jesus - are part of the one church of God!
  - There is only one Lord - speaking of Jesus. There is only one faith that saves us - through the cross of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the ONLY way to get to heaven - the only way to have eternal life - **I Timothy 1:25**. There is only one Baptism - speaking of water baptism. Jesus gave the command to baptize all believers in **Matthew 28:19-20**. The public confession we make before the whole world of our salvation!
  - There is only one God and Father of all. Ultimately the Father is the one who is above all - through all - and in us all. Three different persons - God the Spirit / God the Son / God the Father. With three very different ministries - but they are just One God!

2. The character of the Father:

- God is Sovereign:
  - The word sovereign means God is in control – He is supreme. When we say that God is sovereign we are saying He is the number one ruler in the universe. The idea of sovereignty is encouraging - it assures the Christian nothing is out of God's control. It gives us the confidence that His plans always triumph!
  - **Romans 9:18-21** – "Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens. You will say to me then, 'Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?' But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, 'Why have you made me like this?' Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?"

- God is Eternal:
  - There has never been a time when God did not exist - He has no beginning and He has no end. Being eternal - God is not bound by time – He is outside of time! Having always existed He sees the past and the future as clearly as the present!
  - The validation of the Bible comers from the foreknowledge of God. He and He alone proclaims that end form the beginning – proving He is God. With His perspective - He has a perfect understanding as to what is best for our lives. Knowing this - we should be willing to trust Him with our lives - **Proverbs 3:5-6**.
  - **Isaiah 46:9-10** – "Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'"
  - **I Timothy 1:17** – "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."

- God is Omniscient:
  - God possesses all the knowledge there is to have - nothing ever takes Him by surprise. Nothing can come to light after salvation that He did not know when He saved us. Meaning we cannot fail or disappoint God – He already knows all of our failures!
  - **Hebrews 4:13** – "There is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account."

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- God is Omnipresent:
  - God is infinite and everywhere present through all time and space. Since God is everywhere - it is foolish to think we can hide from Him. In the Old Testament Jonah tried to run from God - but he ended up as fish bait!
  - But it also means that today a believer may experience the presence of God at all times!
  - **Deuteronomy 31:6** - "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."
  - **Proverbs 15:3** – "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, watching the evil and the good."
  - **Jeremiah 23:24** – "Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?' says the LORD; 'Do I not fill heaven and earth?' says the LORD."
  - **Colossians 1:17** – "God is before all things, and in Him all things consist."
  - **Psalms 139:7-10** - "Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me."

- God is Omnipotent:
  - God is all-powerful - having more than enough strength to do anything. God's omnipotence is seen in His power to create - **Genesis 1:1**! But because God is all-powerful the believer is kept secure in his salvation. Our salvation comes because the gospel is the power of salvation - **Romans 1:16**.
  - **Ephesians 3:20** – "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us…"
  - **Revelation 19:6** – "I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thundering, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"

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- God is Immutable:
  - God never changes in His nature or character. The Bible contains thousands of things that God has promised to do for us. And He can be absolutely trusted to keep His Word – **II Corinthians 1:20**
  - **Numbers 23:19** - "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"
  - **Psalms 102:27** – "You are the same, And Your years will have no end."
  - **Hebrews 13:8** – "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."
  - **Malachi 3:6** - "For I am the LORD, I do not change…"

- God is Righteous:
  - It is impossible for Him to do or cause anything that is wrong. Because God is perfect - He demands perfection from those who desire to be in His presence. Jesus said - "Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" - **Matthew 5:48**. Which is why the only way to enter the presence of God is by the Grace of God!
  - **Deuteronomy 32:4** – "He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He."
  - **Psalms 111:3** – "His work is honorable and glorious, And His righteousness endures forever."
  - **II Corinthians 5:21** – "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

- God is Just:
  - It is impossible for Him to do anything that is unfair - either to Himself or to man. When men stand before God to be judged they will receive full justice. This is both a comfort - for those who have been wronged in life. And a warning - for those who think they have been getting away with evil - **Romans 1:18**
  - **II Timothy 4:8** – "Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."
  - **Revelation 16:7** – "I heard another from the altar saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."

- God is Absolute Truth:
  - In John 18:38 Pilate asked - "What is truth?" / Jesus said - "I AM the truth!"- **John 14:6**. Man is constantly searching for truth - but in sources other than God. But when a person comes to Jesus - his quest for the truth ends and freedom begins. "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" - **John 8:32**
  - **Psalms 33:4** – "For the word of the LORD is right, And all His work is done in truth."

- God is Incomprehensible:
  - His ways are above our ways - beyond human ability to logically think through and figure out!
  - **Romans 11:33** – "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!"

- **Isaiah 55:8-9** – "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

◉ God is Love:
- His love is given freely and without any consideration of the merit of who receives it! God is our example - He demonstrated His love for us in sending Jesus to die in our place!
- **John 3:16** - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."
- **I John 4:7-8** – "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

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3. The character of the Son:

- The title 'Son of God' is used 45 times in the New Testament:
  - Jesus calls Himself the 'Son of God' 10 different times just in the Book of John. The title Son of God is often misunderstood - it has nothing to do with the virgin birth.
  - From before the beginning Jesus carried the title – because Jesus is God - **John 10:30**. The title describes His relationship to the Father - the 2nd person in the Trinity!

- Jesus was in the Beginning with God – **John 1:1**
  - The Word was with God in the beginning - meaning they were co-laboring together. But not just equals - Jesus is none other than God almighty!
  - In the beginning was THE Word / and THE Word was with THE God / and THE Word was God. Notice there is no THE before the final God – some cults have added a there – a god.But it actually reads - θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος – God was THE Word!

- Jesus created all things:
  - Jesus is the one who created everything - earth / heaven / man / angels.
  - **Colossians 1:16** - "In Him all things consist. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him."
  - In fact nothing exists that Jesus did not create - and He holds it all together. If it were not for Jesus - the whole universe would just fall apart! And one day - after the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ / Millennial reign - it will
  - **II Peter 3:12-13** - "On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and melt away in the flames. But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised…"
  - So often in life we strive to get things - that in the end will just end up burning away. What we should be striving for - is growing closer to Jesus - that lasts forever!

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- Jesus came to die - **Philippians 2:6-8**
  - Jesus is God almighty – He is equal with God in every way. Yet Jesus became a man – miracle of the Immaculate Conception. **Isaiah 7:14** - "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."
  - Jesus was always God almighty – but He set aside His deity to become a man. He put aside His reputation so He could relate to you and I. Have you ever wondered why the Pharisees were not terrified to challenge Jesus. God incarnate – yet children would come to him without thought or care. Jesus was humble / approachable – so that sinners could hear about salvation! Jesus came to be a servant of all! **Mark 10:45** - "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve…" **John 13** Jesus stood up after supper and washed the feet of the disciples. If Jesus was willing to humble Himself and minister to them. Then they should also be willing to humble themselves and minster to others. The point is that we should be willing to serve each other in humility! Too often we look for others to serve us – we want to have our feet washed. It is easy to be served – but we are called to serve others!
  - Jesus humbled Himself – died on the cross. Not only was Jesus a servant – He was willing to make the ultimate sacrifice! The truth is Jesus came as a man – in the flesh as it were – to live a perfect sinless life. Jesus did what no one else could– He fulfilled the righteous requirement of God's Law. Then Jesus – the only perfect man – paid the price for our sin – Death – **Romans 6:23**. In that moment Jesus condemned sin – defeated the darkness once and for all! Then came one of the great mysteries of the ages – God gave us Jesus' righteousness! **II Corinthians 5:21** – "For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ." Not because we earned it - but it was given to us as a free gift - full of Grace! In Jesus – we have lived a perfect life – we have fulfilled the requirement of the Law. Now when God looks down on us – He does not see our sinful mistakes / flaws. He instead sees the perfect life of His Son Jesus – He sees us as perfect/flawless!

- Jesus is the image of the invisible God – **Colossians 1:15**
  - **John 14:7-11** - Jesus said – If you had known Me – you would have known the Father. Up to this point the disciples still did not understand – the triune nature of God. Philip said – show us the Father and we will be satisfied. Jesus answered – Have I been with you so long and still you do not know Me. To see Jesus is to see the Father – because Jesus and the Father are one!
  - Everything Jesus said / did – came from the Father in heaven. Jesus did nothing in His own authority / by His own power. He did this to set an example for the disciples to follow after. Jesus could have depended on His power / ability – He was God almighty. But then we could not have followed his example – because we are not God.
  - By depending on the Father in all Jesus said and did – he gave us an example. In everything we should seek to pattern our lives after Jesus – **I Corinthians 11:1**. The perfect role model – the perfect example – following in the footsteps of Jesus! If the disciples had a hard time believing – all they had to do was look. The miracles Jesus performed – proved that He and the Father were one.
  - I could tell you that I am a good friend of the President – you might doubt. But If I then called him up on my phone – and started to talk to him – proof! When we follow Jesus' example – we prove to the world we belong to God. It is one thing to

tell people we know God – have a relationship with Jesus. But the proof is in our actions – through our life we show we know God!

- Jesus will rule until the end - **I Corinthians 15:24-28**
  - Jesus will rule - till He brings an end to every authority and power - **Psalms 8:6**. All nations / all kingdoms / all men / even satan and his demons!
  - **Philippians 2:10** -"At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth…"
  - The very last enemy Jesus will destroy is death. Death was never part of God's original plan - it was the result of sin - **Genesis 3**. God created us to have an eternal relationship with Him - but that was lost. When Jesus defeating sin through the power of the cross - He defeated death! When the works done - God separates believers from unbelievers - **Revelation 20:12**. Jesus will put Himself under God the Father. Then God will be all in all - His creation back to the way He originally intended. That is the end of the story - not when we take our last breath here in earth!

4. The character of the Spirit:

- **John 14:15-20** - Jesus promised to send the Spirit of Truth – the Holy Spirit!
  - There is some controversy over just what / or who – the Holy Spirit is. Because the word Spirit has the neuter in the original language. The neuter gender would tend to point to a lack of character. We do not refer to each other as it (*neuter*) we call each other he or she. But the Holy Spirit is not a power / or a presence – He is a person.
  - Although Spirit has no gender – 12 times Jesus refers to the Spirit as He! He is the third part of the triune nature of God – Father / Son / Spirit.
  - In Fact the Spirit can be grieved – **Ephesians 4:30** / insulted – **Hebrews 10:29** / He can be Lied to – **Acts 5:3** / the Spirit speaks to us – **Acts 10:20** / the Holy Spirit prays for us – **Romans 8:26** / and He sends us out – **Acts 13:2**

- The Spirit will never leave us:
  - Jesus went back to heaven – but promised to return. The guarantee of that promise was the Holy Spirit – who would stay behind. If you want to get married - you give for future wife an engagement ring. It is the guarantee - the promise to her that you will for sure marry her.
  - **Ephesians 1:13-14** - "You were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession…"
  - Much better / and more durable than a diamond – God gave us His eternal Spirit! It is His guarantee He will be back for us to finish what He started – our salvation. Until that time - until we are in heaven - He seals us with His Spirit!

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- The Spirit will guide us in all truth:
  - The Spirit knows the deep things of God - **I Corinthians 2:10-13**. You have no idea what is in my heart - I do not know what is in yours. The only one who knows for sure what is in your heart - is you!
  - In the same way - no one knows the heart of God - except for the Spirit of God. Because the Holy Spirit is God - He knows the heart of God - the deep things. We have received the Spirit from God - so we might also know. There is no way we could understand the mystery of cross on our own. There is no way we could envision the incredible riches God has planned for us. But the Holy Spirit can - and He then opens up our understanding - so we can too! He guides us in truth – He is the one who reveals the 'deep things' of God to us!

- The Spirit cannot be known or seen by the world:
  - The Philippines has its own version of famous Hollywood stars – TV / Movie actors. I would have no idea – because I do not know who the famous movie stars were. But they could walk right by me and I would not know – I do not know what to look for!
  - The world does not know or see the Spirit – because they are not looking for Him. In fact the idea of the Holy Spirit it seems like foolishness to them.
  - **I Corinthians 2:14** – "People who are not Christians can not understand these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish because only those who have the Spirit can understand…"

- The Spirit teaches us – **John 14:25-26**
  - Jesus taught the disciples while He was still there with them. He knew He was giving them a lot of information – but they did not need to take notes. It would be the Holy Spirit who would help them to remember all He said. Have you even been talking about Jesus – and suddenly remember a serve / teaching. The Holy Spirit helps us remember – but we need to read / listen first! In fact it was the Holy Spirit who would teach them all things!
  - Often we get the mistaken idea we are not able to understand God's Word. We need to have someone interpret it for us - explain the Word to us. There are plenty of people who are willing to tell us what the Bible means. But the question is are they right - or is it just their opinion.
  - God has given each of us His Holy Spirit - He is the one to teach us. We can be absolutely certain that what the Holy Spirit gives us - is the truth! Years of being filled with the ideas of the world limits of our understanding. When I first got saved I had more of the worlds values in me than Jesus. I was more concerned about my job / money – than I was about eternity. But the more I got into the Word – the more the Word got into me. The more I understood – the more clearly I could see – life is all about Jesus!
  - The Holy Spirit comes and opens our eyes – guides us to the truth. Life – true life – eternal life – is simply knowing Jesus - **John 17:3**

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- The Spirit gives us POWER:
  - The ministry of the Holy Spirit can be broken up into three categories. The Spirit is with us convicting us of our sin - before we believe in Jesus - **John 16:7**. The Holy Spirit come to live in us - after we believe in Jesus - **I Corinthians 6:19**. The Holy Spirit comes upon us - gives us the power to live boldly for Jesus.
  - **Acts 2:14-15** - Peter stood up with the 11 Apostles. He addressed a large crowd – at least 3000 people – **Acts 2:41**. Interesting that it was Peter who stood up – because it was Peter who failed. It was Peter who had denied Jesus three times before the crucifixion. It was Peter who had gone back to fishing – quitting the ministry – **John 21:3**. Now ONLY 50 days later – here was Peter boldly standing up before thousands! The difference – Peter was no longer full of himself – he was full of the Spirit!
  - If we are full of ourselves - we will not be able to effectively serve the Lord. If we are living a life where we feel constant defeat to sin in our lives. If we are lost and confused – do not know what God wants from our lives. We need to be emptied - pray that God fills us up instead with His the Holy Spirit. Then we will have the power of God to live our lives for Jesus!
  - **II Corinthians 4:7** – "We have this treasure in jars of clay…"

- The Holy Spirit gives us gifts:
  - All believers who are filled with the Spirit have at least one gift. **I Peter 4:10** – "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."
  - There are 23 gifts listed in the New Testament:
    - **Romans 12:4-8**: Prophesy / Ministry / Teaching / Exhortation / Giving / Leading / Mercy
    - **I Corinthians 12:8-10**: Wisdom / Knowledge / Faith / Healing / Miracles / (Prophecy) / Discerning of Spirits / Tongues (Interpretation of Tongues)
    - **Ephesians 4:11**: Apostles / Prophets / Evangelist / Pastors / Teachers
    - **I Corinthians 7:**7: Singleness / Marriage
    - **I Peter 4:9-10**: Hospitality
  - We do not decide what gifts we receive - the Holy Spirit gives them to us. We are not defined by our gift - I am a prophet or I am a healer. The Holy Spirit can give us any or all of the gifts as the need arise!
  - How do I know what Gifts God has given. Your gift will become evident as you as it naturally flows from you. You will see it by the fruit in your life - others will recognize that gift. If you think you are a leader - turn around and see if anyone is following. If a teacher start teaching - see if anyone comes to listens.
  - **I Timothy 4:14** - "Do not neglect the gift that is in you…"

- The promise of the Spirit:
  - The Spirit could not come until Jesus left - **John 16:7**. Not that the Holy Spirit was not there – the Spirit had always been there. The Spirit came down upon Jesus when He was baptized – **Mark 1:10**
  - The problem was the disciples – with Jesus there they did not need the Spirit. Because they looked for Jesus to do everything – and took no responsibility. So for their sakes Jesus had to go away – so they would step out! We can sit and listen to Bible teachings all day – every day. But it is not enough to listen – there comes a

point when we have to walk. Step out in faith and begin to take responsibility – mature in our walk.

- It takes no faith to let someone else serve the Lord – be used by the Spirit. What takes a step of faith is to believe that God can use me! How do you get the power of the Spirit - just ask.
- **Luke 11:13** -"Your heavenly Father [will] give the Holy Spirit to those who ask…" Not just once – but over and over and over again for - daily asking for the Holy Spirit. You need gas to run a car - but you need to keep filling that car up with gas. We need also need to be daily filling up on the Holy Spirit to live for Jesus. So that we have the power to obey Jesus commands – serve / love / know!

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