**SEE THE LIGHT**

**John 1:19-34**

*“This was John’s testimony when the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ 20 He didn’t deny it but confessed, ‘I am not the Messiah.’ 21 ‘What then?’ they asked him. ‘Are you Elijah?’ ‘I am not,’ he said. ‘Are you the Prophet?’ ‘No,’ he answered. 22 ‘Who are you, then?’ they asked. ‘We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What can you tell us about yourself?’ 23 He said, ‘I am a voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the Lord—just as Isaiah the prophet said.’*

*24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. 25 So they asked him, ‘Why then do you baptize if you aren’t the Messiah, or Elijah, or the Prophet?’ 26 ‘I baptize with water,’ John answered them. ‘Someone stands among you, but you don’t know him. 27 He is the one coming after me, whose sandal strap I’m not worthy to untie.’ 28 All this happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.*

*29* *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is the one I told you about:* *“After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me, because He existed before me.” 31 I didn’t know Him, but I came baptizing with water so that He might be revealed to Israel.’ 32* *And John testified, ‘I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He rested on Him. 33 I didn’t know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water told me, “The one you see the Spirit descending and resting on—He is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.” 34 I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.’”* (John 1:19-34)

* **John the Baptizer’s mission was to help people see that Jesus was the Jewish Messiah and Savior of the world.**
* ***What can we learn from John the Baptizer’s message about Jesus?***

***We Learn From John The Baptizer About The:***

**PRE-INCARNATION MINISTRY OF JESUS**

* *“After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me, because He existed before me.”* (John 1:30)
* **Jesus has** **always existed before anything God created.**
* *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning.”* (John 1:1-2)

 ***Jesus Has Existed From The Very Beginning As The:***

* **CREATOR OF ALL THINGS**
	+ *“All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men.”* (John 1:3-4)
* **REVEALER OF GOD’S TRUTH**
	+ *“The one who comes from above is above all. The one who is from the earth is earthly and speaks in earthly terms. The one who comes from heaven is above all. 32 He testifies to what he has seen and heard, and yet no one accepts his testimony. 33 The one who has accepted his testimony has affirmed that God is true. 34 For the one whom God sent speaks God’s words, since he gives the Spirit without measure.”* (John 3:31-34)
	+ **Jesus’ words and life give us a clear understanding of God’s desires and direction for our lives.**

***We Learn From John The Baptizer About******The:***

**SALVATION MINISTRY OF JESUS**

* *“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”* (John 1:29b)
* **Everyone sins and is in need of a Savior (Romans 3:10, 23).**
* **Our sins separate us from God in this life, and promise to keep us separated from God in the next life.**
* *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* (Romans 6:23)

 ***When Jesus Comes Into Our Lives He Brings:***

* **FORGIVENESS FOR OUR SINS**
	+ **When our sins are forgiven, we are reconciled with God.**
	+ *“For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring you to God.”* (1 Peter 3:18)
* **FREEDOM FROM OUR STRONGHOLDS**
	+ Jesus - *“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed.”* (Luke 4:18)
	+ **Jesus came to bring us salvation, consolation, emancipation, illumination and liberation.**
	+ *“So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free.”* (John 8:36)
* **A FUTURE IN HEAVEN**
	+ *“The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hands. 36 The one who believes in the Son has eternal life, but the one who rejects the Son will not see life; instead, the wrath of God remains on him.”* (John 3:35-36)
* **Jesus is the only One who can bring us the forgiveness, freedom and future that we’re looking for.**

***We Learn From John The Baptizer About The:***

**IMPARTATION MINISTRY OF JESUS**

* *“And John testified, ‘I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He rested on Him. 33 I didn’t know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water told me, “The one you see the Spirit descending and resting on—He is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’”* (John 1:32-33)
* *“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I. I am not worthy to remove his sandals. He himself will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”* (Matthew 3:11)
* **God’s Spirit enters our lives when Jesus becomes our Savior**
* *“Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”* (Acts 2:38)
* **At salvation Christians are: 1) Birthed by the Spirit into God’s Family (John 3:5), 2) Baptized by the Spirit into Christ’s Body (1 Corinthians 12:13), 3) Guaranteed by the Spirit for God’s Purposes (2 Corinthians 5:5), and 4) Sealed by the Spirit for God’s Glory (Ephesians 1:14).**

***When God’s Spirit Comes Into Our Lives:***

* **HE BRINGS US DIRECTION**
	+ Jesus - *“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth.”* (John 16:13)
	+ **When we listen to God’s Spirit in our inner being, He will give us the instruction and direction that we need to live healthy, holy lives.**
* **HE BRINGS US TRANSFORMATION**
	+ *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. The law is not against such things.”* (Galatians 5:22-23)
	+ **The godly changes that occur in our lives after we accept Jesus are from God’s Spirit transforming us.**
	+ *“And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.”* (2 Corinthians 3:18b NLT)
* **Just like John the Baptizer pointed people towards Jesus, we need to point people towards Jesus this Christmas.**