

## THE ACCELERATOR

*John 14:12 Truly, truly, I say to you, He who believes on Me, the works that I do he shall do also, and greater works than these he shall do, because I go to My Father. 13 And whatever you may ask in My name, that I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.*

- We have just gone past the first half of the year, and it is an opportune time to remind you of the word for 2024 for this church.
- We don't believe in shelving the prophetic, we believe in going to war with the word of God.
- 2024 is a year of greater exploits, a year where God is calling the church to a life of exploits, a life of greater works.
- I don't know about you, but I have seen God at work in my life – I have seen doors opening in our business, I have seen a greater level of fruit in reaching people. Where the devil was trying to discourage me, I have seen God infusing a new dosage of life in my ministry and I am excited about the rest of this year.
- This is what Jesus was talking about in the verses we have just read.
- Jesus makes an audacious promise here and it is up to us to take His word and seek after greater exploits in 2024.
- He gave us four keys to a life of greater exploits, and these are keys that will close the gap between your reality and the promises of God.
  - Have a high esteem for Jesus.
  - Live a life of faith
- In the past 5 months, we have been dealing with these two keys as we were unpacking the idea of bridging the gap.
- This morning, I want to kickstart the third key for a life of greater exploits.
- I want to talk to you on the subject matter **THE HOLY SPIRIT THE ACCELERATOR**.
- Let me tell you a few facts about the term accelerator:
  - In mechanics, an accelerator is a device for increasing speed, usually a pedal for controlling the fuel intake in a motor vehicle.
  - In physics, an accelerator is a machine for increasing the kinetic energy of subatomic particles or atomic nuclei and focusing them on a target.
  - In chemistry, an accelerator is a substance that increases the speed of a chemical reaction.

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- Now in the spirit, the Holy spirit accelerates and enhances a believer's walk of faith.
- Nothing happens to its fullest extent without the working of the Holy Spirit.

- Let's look again at what Jesus said in John 14:

*John 14:12 Truly, truly, I say to you, He who believes on Me, the works that I do he shall do also, and greater works than these he shall do, because I go to My Father.*

- In part a of this verse, Jesus talks about the ability to do the same works that He did, and he attaches that to believing in Him, in other words, without acknowledging Jesus and walking by faith, no one can do the same works as Jesus did.
- He then took this matter another notch higher when in part b, He says that not only will you be able to do the works that He did but you will do greater works.
- He strategically connects greater works with Him going to the father. He told His disciples that they had seen nothing yet, because what they had seen would not be compared to what they would experience after He had gone to the father.
- Saints, this is really exciting because as I am talking to you now, our Lord, our King and friend is with the Father.
- What was Jesus going to do at His arrival in heaven?

*John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, so that He may be with you forever,*

*John 16:7 But I tell you the truth, it is expedient for you that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Comforter will not come to you. But if I depart, I will send Him to you.*

- These verses are telling us what Jesus was going to do when He went back to the Father; it was to ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit.
- This must tell you and I that the church cannot operate in greatness without the working of the Holy Spirit.
- The operation of the Holy Spirit is the third key for greater exploits.
- The Holy Spirit is Jesus, He is the spirit of Jesus. Whilst Jesus was on earth, Jesus could only be with the disciples but through His Spirit, He will be with them and within them.
- The Holy Spirit is the power behind the Kingdom of God, without the Holy Spirit believers are powerless.

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- That is why I have coined Him the accelerator of things in our lives.
- Everytime someone encountered the Holy Spirit, that person's ability was accelerated.
- The operation of the Holy Spirit is integral to the function of a believer. The Holy Spirit initiates and sustains your salvation.
- It is through the work of the Holy Spirit that one comes to be saved of their sins.

*John 3:5 (ESV) Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.*

- It is the Spirit who brings conviction to the unbeliever and causes him to see the truth of the gospel in a clear light.

*1 Corinthians 12:3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.*

- Through the Holy Spirit, God draws us towards Him so that we can come to know Him better.

*2 Thessalonians 2:13(ESV) But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.*

*2 Thessalonians 2:13 (BBE) 13 But it is right for us to give praise to God at all times for you, brothers, loved by the Lord, because it was the purpose of God from the first that you might have salvation, being made holy by the Spirit and by faith in what is true*

- Not only does the Holy Spirit leads us to salvation but He also sanctifies us to be more like Christ. I will go into details on this matter in the following weeks.
- After the resurrection of Jesus, the Bible says He met with over 500 of His disciples over a period of 40 days and on one of His last meetings, Jesus commanded them in the following manner:

*Acts 1:4 And having met with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to await the promise of the Father which you heard from Me. 5 For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized in the Holy Spirit not many days from now.*

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- Jesus was telling them that they should not attempt to do anything without receiving the Holy Spirit.
- This is solemn warning, even for today's believers to walk with the Holy Spirit. One cannot over-emphasize the need for a relationship with the Holy Spirit.
- These men had walked with Jesus for 3 years and one would think that it was enough to give them insight in how to do ministry.
- You need the Holy Spirit when you are working, you need the Holy Spirit when you are studying at school, you need the Holy Spirit to be a good mother and good father.
- Jesus then explained the reason why they needed to wait for the empowering of the Holy Spirit.

*Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power, the Holy Spirit coming upon you. And you shall be witnesses to Me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

- They were going to receive power, enablement, new capacity to achieve after receiving the Holy Spirit.
- This was new capacity to preach God's word, to perform miracles, to be courageous in the face of fear and persecution.
- They were going to receive power to be bold in the face of opposition, power to remain faithful to the truth in a wayward system.
- This new capacity would turn them into effective witnesses of Jesus their Lord. In other words, without the Holy Spirit, our witness can not be effective.
- The Holy Spirit was at work in the Old Testament though He would not dwell permanently. He would come as and when God needed to do a supernatural work through someone.
- In the Old Testament, through the Holy Spirit:
  - Prophets and priests were empowered to declare prophetic words for the nations.
  - Bezalel and Oholiab were filled with the Holy Spirit to design and craft the tabernacle.
  - Samson received special power to fight the Philistines.
  - Elijah outran the chariot of Ahab.
  - Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dreams.
  - Daniel interpreted the writing on the wall for the king.

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- Joshua commanded the sun and the moon to stop until he had avenged against the enemy.
- The New Testament is full of the operation of the Holy Spirit. After the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, God's people experienced the permanent dwelling of the Holy Spirit.
- The early church was a hive of activity of the Holy Spirit.
- Before the Holy Spirit, Peter was just a talkative man who was fearful. But after the baptism of the Holy Spirit, Peter was bold and preached the first gospel which resulted in 3000 people coming to salvation.