

*Second Baptist Church of Doylestown*

*Wed. Eve. Bible Study - 11/2/15*

*Great Words Of The Bible*

**CONVICTION**

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**John 16: 1-11**

**"All this I have told you so that you will not fall away. <sup>2</sup> They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God. <sup>3</sup> They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. <sup>4</sup> I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, <sup>5</sup> but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' <sup>6</sup> Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup> about sin, because people do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; <sup>11</sup> and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.**

The salvation of a soul is always preceded and accompanied by the convicting work of the Holy Spirit. No one is ever truly saved without experiencing this conviction of which Jesus spoke in John 16:7-11. People often think that they can be saved "at will"; that is, just when they decide they would like to be saved, and very often those who preach the gospel fail to realize how imperative it is to secure the convicting work of the Holy Spirit if ever spiritual results are to be produced.

In the salvation of a soul it is always God who takes the initiative - look up **Genesis 3:9** "But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" and **John 15:16** "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you."

If God did not seek man, man would never seek after God - look up **Romans 3:11**, "there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God" and compare **John 6:44** ""No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day". This raises the question: How does the Father draw men and women to Christ? The answer is - by the Holy Spirit, and the first great work that the Holy Spirit accomplishes is the work of conviction; this means, in simple terms, that He convinces us of our desperate need of a Saviour - look up **Genesis 6:3** "Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years." and **Hebrews 3:7-8** "So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the

time of testing in the wilderness." His "striving" and His "speaking" are all with a view to His great work of conviction.

## OF WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVICT THE SINNER?

1. **He convicts the sinner of SIN.** Not simply "of sins", the fruit, but "of sin", the root, and of the paramount sin of unbelief - the sin of rejecting Christ (John 16:9). Our consciences, if they are not too seared (1 Timothy 4:2), will convict us of sins, such as theft, untruthfulness or jealousy, but it is only when the Holy Spirit opens our eyes that we see the enormity of the sin of rejecting the Saviour whom God has provided. The greatest sin anyone can commit, and the one sin by which we are condemned, is the sin of rejecting Christ - look up **John 3:18** "**Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son**" and **John 3:36** "**Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.**"
2. **He convicts the sinner of RIGHTEOUSNESS.** He convicts of a righteousness which is required (Isaiah 64:6); of a righteousness which is provided by God and offered to man in the Person of His Son (2 Corinthians 5:21), and which is receivable by faith (Romans 3:21-22). Apart from the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, man has no true conception of his own unrighteousness or of God's righteousness (John 16:10)
3. **He convicts the sinner of JUDGMENT.** The Holy Spirit convinces man that Satan, and all who belong to him, are already doomed - see **verse 11** "**and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.**" and look up **Hebrews 2:14** "**Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil.**"

What great need there is today for this three-fold convicting work of the Holy Spirit! There is no substitute for it. Organization, the personality of the preacher, etc., all fail. Only the Holy Spirit can convince men of their desperate need of the Saviour.

## 2. HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT BRING THIS CONVICTION?

1. **He does His work of conviction through the preaching of the Gospel.** The Word of God, the gospel, the "sword of the Spirit" (Ephesians 6:17), is the powerful instrument which He uses (Hebrews 4:12) to effect the salvation of all who believe (Romans 1:16). We shall only see conviction resulting from our preaching if we are faithfully preaching "the gospel" (1 Corinthians 15:1-4), and "the whole will of God" (Acts 20:27). When Peter preached the gospel on the Day of Pentecost his hearers were convicted of sin (Acts 2:23), of righteousness (Acts 2:24 and 33), and of judgment (Acts 2:19-20) - as **Acts 2:37** tells us. "**When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"**"

2. **He does His work of conviction through the personal witnessing of Christians.** He does it not only by public preaching, but by personal witnessing, as was the case when Philip preached Christ (Acts 8:26-39); when Paul reasoned with Felix (Acts 24:24-25), and when Paul testified before Agrippa (Acts 26:26-29).
3. **He does His work of conviction by special providences and interventions.** Saul was brought under conviction by a sudden revelation of the Lord Himself as he travelled down the Damascus road (Acts 9:1-6); the people of Joppa were brought under conviction by the death and miraculous resurrection of Dorcas (Acts 9:36-42 - and note Verse 42 "This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord"; the jailer was brought under conviction, not only by the testimony of Paul and Silas (Acts 16:25), but by the earthquake which God sent (Acts 16:26 - note verse 30 "He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?").
4. **He does His work of conviction in answer to the prayers of God's people.** Here is scope, not only for the preacher, but for the Christians who are present in a gospel meeting, to pray with the preacher for the convicting work of the Holy Spirit to accompany the message as it goes forth - look up Matthew 18:19 "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.
5. **He does His work of conviction through cleansed, yielded and Spirit-filled lives.** Stephen was stoned to death (Acts 7:54-60), and Saul witnessed his death (verse 58); he heard his testimony and he saw his Christ-like spirit (verse 59). Was it not at this point that Saul first became convicted?

In closing, John 16:7-8 says, "I will send him *to you*. When he comes (*to you*), he will *convict*..." The measure in which He can convict is the measure in which He has come "*to you*."