

The Holy Spirit Convicts and Convinces

Conviction of The Holy Spirit

Acts 9:1-20

1 Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

3 As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and **suddenly a light shone around him** from heaven. 4 Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, **“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”**

5 And he said, **“Who are You, Lord?”**

Then the Lord said, **“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.** It is hard for you to kick against the goads.”

6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, **“Lord, what do You want me to do?”**

Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

7 And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. 8 Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Ananias Baptizes Saul

10 Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, “Ananias.”

And he said, “Here I am, Lord.”

11 So the Lord said to him, “Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called **Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. 12 And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight.**”

13 Then Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. 14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name.”

15 But the Lord said to him, **“Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.** 16 For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.”

17 And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, **“Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”** 18 Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and **he arose and was baptized.**

19 So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus. 20 **Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.**

Do you remember the moment when the light came, and the deadness of your spirit was made alive to God. Suddenly the blinds were taken off and you could see the savior in all his beauty. Paul, who was blinded supernaturally, could finally see for the first time. Within 3 days he got filled with the Holy Spirit, and was publicly baptized. A few days after that he started preaching that Jesus was the Son of God.

Revelation 3:19

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

The Lord Convicts/convinces those he loves to live right, to be brought up like a student in maturity reaching the highest levels of our potential. Therefore we should be eager to accept any and everything the Holy Spirit brings to our attention. Leaving behind our own desires for his desires.

Ephesians 4:17-19

17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 **having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;** 19 **who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.**

“But all these factors change instantaneously when the Holy Spirit touches the human soul and exposes its sinful condition. A sinner feels exposed, naked, embarrassed, and *confronted* when the Holy Spirit wakes him up to his real spiritual condition.”

John 16:7-10

7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 And when He has come, He will **convict the world of sin**, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;

Convict is the greek word “*elegcho*”

- *It means to expose, to convict, or to cross-examine for the purpose of conviction, as when convicting a lawbreaker in a court of law. In this case, it is the image of a lawyer who brings forth evidence that is indisputable and undeniable. The accused person's actions are irrefutably brought to light and, as a result, the offender is exposed and convicted. This tells us that by the time the Holy Spirit is finished dealing with a lost, sinful soul, the unsaved person will feel exposed and convicted. As the Holy Spirit enables him to hear the Word of God for the first time, that Word is so razor sharp that it penetrates his soul until he feels as if he has been cross-examined on a witness stand. Finally, the court is adjourned, the verdict is announced, and he is declared guilty.*

You could read John 16:8 this way...

“But when He [the Holy Spirit] is come, He will present such convincing evidence about the world's sin that the entire world will stand guilty and convicted — so exposed that they will feel they have nowhere to hide from the facts....”

John 6:44

44 **No one can come to Me** unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

Without the work of the Holy Spirit to expose our sinful condition, we would still be in darkness today, eternally lost and without God

Ephesians 5:11-14

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. 14

Therefore He says:

**“Awake, you who sleep,
Arise from the dead,
And Christ will give you light.”**

When the light comes we can see clearly our need for a savior. We who were dead can be made alive through the light!

Ephesians 2:1-10

1 And you **He made alive, who were dead** in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to **the course of this world**, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, **made us alive together with Christ** (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For **by grace you have been saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; **it is the gift of God**, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

The Holy Spirit continues His convicting work in our lives as believers, gently showing us when we’ve missed the mark. How we choose to respond to Him makes all the difference. It’s vital that we respond when the Holy Spirit convicts us. If we repeatedly ignore or override His promptings, we can dull our sensitivity to His voice and even silence our own God-given conscience in certain areas. But it never has to be that way. As believers, we always have a choice—to stay tenderhearted, quick to respond, and sensitive to His leading.

1 Peter 5:6

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

If we need to humble ourselves submitting our will to God, he may ask us at times to do things we wouldn’t normally be inclined to do

The Holy Spirit Convinces us of Righteousness

We saw how the Holy Spirit has an elegcho ministry with sinners, bringing them revelation of their spiritual condition to the point where they cannot deny the fact that they are lost, without God, and in sin. At that point, they then have the opportunity to repent and to receive Christ. But in the very same way, the Holy Spirit cross-examines us as believers and convinces us of our righteousness!

John 16:8a

8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness...

Romans 8:16

16 The Spirit Himself **bears witness** with our spirit that we are children of God,

2 Corinthians 5:21

21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might **become the righteousness of God** in Him.

"The Holy Spirit wants to open your eyes. He wants to bring you to a point where you see and understand, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that you are not trying to become righteous; rather, you have been declared the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus"

Our sinful nature naturally leans toward the negative. Left on its own, it always pulls us down, never up. Without the Holy Spirit's control, the flesh will follow that downward path until it destroys itself. When we live by the flesh, we struggle to believe anything good — that God is working in us, or that we've been made righteous in Christ. Because negative thinking is so deeply rooted in us, we need the Holy Spirit to convince our hearts of what God says is true. When the Father declares, "You are My child, and I've made you righteous," only the Spirit can help us truly believe it. Without His help, our emotions will argue back, "That can't be true — I'm unworthy and unholy."

Romans 8:11 NLT

11 **The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead**, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

The Holy Spirit raised Christ from the dead. He was there when Christ died, and when he was made alive. In the same way the Spirit is present at our lowest point convincing us of our spiritual deadness only to bring new life in us!

2 Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.**

The Holy Spirit Convinces of Judgment

John 16:8,11

8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

This describes the Holy Spirit's work to convince and remind us that although Satan may seem to have free rein at the moment, his ultimate fate is settled and his doom is sealed. He is the loser at the end of the day.

Judged is the Greek word "krino"

- *The word krino was used in a judicial sense, even in a court of law, to mean the decision has already been weighed and decided. There is no more debating of this issue. The decision is made, and the case is closed. All that remains is pronouncement of the verdict, which is judgment. And Jesus said that part of the Holy Spirit's ministry would be to convince you and me that Satan is condemned without the possibility of escape.*

Ruler is the Greek word "archon"

- *a title used to describe a ruler in a particular realm that can be translated as the word "Ruler."*

World is the Greek word "kosmos"

- *it denotes culture, society, and the systems in which mankind lives and functions. It denotes systems, such as education, entertainment, government, and every human sphere, as the places — the kosmos — where Satan operates*