

The Conviction of the Holy Spirit

Pastor David Uth

Passage: John 16:1-11

1 "I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. 2 They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. 3 And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. 4 But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you. I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. 5 But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 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 go, I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; 11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Background

One of the most common questions asked about the Holy Spirit centers on His role in the life of people, believers and unbelievers. Only once did Jesus speak about the Holy Spirit's activity *in* the world – which is to convict or convince the lost of their sin and desperate need for a savior. All of those who follow Jesus, though, know that the Holy Spirit can also work in our lives similarly in order to expose areas, attitudes, and actions that do not conform to the ways and words of Jesus. Today, Pastor David will show us how Jesus describes this “convincing” work of the Spirit in our lives *and* how each of us should respond so that the Spirit can continue to shape us to be more like Jesus.

Service Notes

Instructions

This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the “Talk it Over” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Our hope is to have meaningful conversations around God’s Word, not simply answer all the questions. Finally, the “Live it Out” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.

Getting Started

- What do you think the role of the Holy Spirit is in the life of a believer? How have you experienced the Holy Spirit work in your life this week?

Talk it Over

- **Read John 16:1-11.** In what ways would Jesus’ leaving be “to the advantage” of the disciples? How does the Holy Spirit “expose” the world of their sin? What role does sharing the Gospel play in this? How does the Spirit convince believers of sin in their own lives? How does the Spirit help bring correction to sinful acts and attitudes in our lives? How can we differentiate between the convicting/convincing work of the Holy Spirit and the condemning lies of Satan when we sin? How does the Spirit use Scripture, prayer, or a community of believers to convince/correct us when we sin? When the Spirit exposes sin in your life, how do you normally respond? Why is it so easy to justify actions and ignore the work of the Spirit? What happens in our hearts when we dismiss the correction of the Holy Spirit? How should we respond? What other passages help us know how to respond to sin in our lives? What Scripture brings hope rather than condemnation for believers as we deal with the presence of sin in our lives and in the world around us?
- **Read Romans 8:1-17.** What is the great hope of verse 1 for believers? How does this verse help us as we battle sin in our lives? According to these verses, what does a Spirit-led life involve? What is the practical difference between “walking” in the flesh and in the Spirit? Why is this important when we think about the “conviction” of the Holy Spirit? How does the Holy Spirit remind us we are God’s children? What, then, is the goal of the Holy Spirit working in our lives – condemnation or correction? How should this influence how we respond?

Live it Out

- When was the last time the Holy Spirit “exposed” to you a sinful attitude or action? How did you respond? What is one step of obedience you need to take today in this area?