

Responding to the Spirit's Conviction

There are three truths about how the Holy Spirit's conviction works that will help you respond to Him.

- **Truth #1: THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE GREAT CONVICTER.**

When he [the Holy Spirit] comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: John 16:8 (New International Version)

Conviction

- Convict = to convince someone of his sin
- Part of conviction = calling a person to a decision based on the truth
- Conviction = to show someone his sin and to summon him to repentance

Satan, the god of this evil world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe, so they are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News that is shining upon them. They don't understand the message we preach about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God. 2 Corinthians 4:4 (New Living Translation, 1996)

- **Truth #2: THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTS PEOPLE IN THREE AREAS.**

When he [the Holy Spirit] comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; ¹⁰in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; ¹¹and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. John 16:8-11 (NIV)

Three Areas of Conviction

- Sin

- First reality: The sinfulness of sin

Whoever sins is guilty of breaking God's law, because sin is a breaking of the law. 1 John 3:4 (Good News Translation)

Whoever breaks one commandment is guilty of breaking them all. James 2:10 (GNT)

For all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard. Romans 3:23 (NLT, 1996)

- Second reality: The ultimate sin of rejecting the Savior (see John 16:9)

For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. 2 Corinthians 5:19 (NLT)

You are storing up terrible punishment for yourself because of your stubbornness in refusing to turn from your sin. For there is going to come a day of judgment when God, the just judge of all the world . . . Romans 2:5 (NLT)

- Righteousness (John 16:10)

The Spirit convinces the world of what righteousness really is.

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, . . . 1 Peter 3:18 (NIV)

God made him [Jesus] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

- Judgment (John 16:11).

. . . man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, . . .
Hebrews 9:27 (NIV)

For . . . God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; . . . 2 Peter 2:4 (NIV)

The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise to return, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to perish, so he is giving more time for everyone to repent. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and everything in them will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be exposed to judgment. 2 Peter 3:9, 10 (NLT, 1996)

- **Truth #3: THE HOLY SPIRIT ALSO CONVICTS BELIEVERS.**

- The Holy Spirit's job is to make Christians uncomfortable with sin.

- Guilt is what happens when believers become conscious of sin.

If we say we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and refusing to accept the truth. 1 John 1:8 (NLT, 1996)

- When the Spirit convicts believers of sin, it's not about salvation; it's about fellowship.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 (NIV)

My thanks to the authors of the following books used as resources in this sermon series:
Surprised by the Power of the Spirit by Jack Deere; *The Promise* by Tony Evans;
God's Empowering Presence by Gordon Fee; *The Holy Spirit* by Billy Graham;
Those Controversial Gifts by George Mallone

