

The Holy Spirit—Convicting the Unbeliever

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I. Introduction. Text: John 16.

II. The conviction of the Spirit is essential for the salvation of anyone.

- A. It was essential that Jesus go away.
- B. The Spirit was essential for disciples because of the life that they would live while Jesus was gone.
- C. The way that Jesus would work in the world after He was gone was through the Holy Spirit.
- D. A person must be convicted by the Holy Spirit because of his condition apart from Christ.
 - 1. The natural man cannot understand the Scriptures apart from God. (I Corinthians 2)
 - 2. The devil blinds the natural man with regard to revelation. (I Corinthians 4)
- E. Lost people do not understand things such as security. (John 6:39-40)
- F. The working of the Holy Spirit draws a person to salvation. (Ephesians 2)

III. What the Spirit convicts of.

- A. The focus of the Spirit is dealing with unbelief in a person—they must come to know the resurrected Christ. The focus must not be upon sin.
- B. The Spirit convicts the unbeliever of the righteousness of Christ and consequently of his own unrighteousness.
- C. The Spirit will convict the world of judgment. Satan has been judged—the verdict has been issued upon him. (John 12, Revelation 20:10, Acts 2, Acts 24:24)
 - 1. There are two responses to the gospel of Christ—rejection and acceptance.
 - 2. The tragedy of continually rejecting the gospel hardens the heart. (Acts 7:51)
 - 3. Receive Christ, trust Him, and give your life to Him. The Spirit of God will then do a work in your life.

Application questions:

1. Why cannot an unbeliever come to Christ by himself?

2. What is the work of the Spirit with regard to the unbeliever?

3. Who is someone that you can share the gospel with this week knowing that the longer one goes on rejecting the gospel, the further he strays from God?
