

The Voice of the Spirit

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I. Introduction. (John 16:7-10)

A. "He that has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says" appears seven times in Revelation 2-3.

B. The Spirit says come.

II. The world is lost.

A. There is nothing poetical about it.

B. There is a "woe" that the eloquence of human speech cannot devise.

C. The lostness is inside of us. It is a fact that the world is lost.

III. The world is not yet forsaken.

A. Christ has offered propitiation for our sin.

1. God found a way to redeem us and pay full reparations so that man could be redeemed.

B. God is now speaking through many voices to catch our attention.

1. The voice of the Spirit is the loudest.

a. The Spirit's voice gives grave meaning to these realities.

b. Two kinds of knowledge: the knowledge of experience, and the knowledge of the Spirit.

IV. The Spirit's voice. (John 16:7-10)

A. Came to confirm three things.

1. The words of Jesus.

a. Christ made the loftiest and most astonishing religious claims of all time.

1) No other teacher said what he did.

2) The Spirit came as a penetrating witness to confirm Christ's words.

3) Scholarship does not confirm the Word, but the Spirit does

2. The works of Jesus.

a. Nobody denied originally that miracles happened. They denied that God had done it.

3. The person of Jesus.

a. The Spirit came with power to confirm the person of Jesus

B. The Spirit is a better witness.

1. Even in the face of historical evidence, the Holy Spirit leaps past all evidence to the conscience.

2. Our faith does not depend upon reason, but the power of the Holy Spirit.

C. No man is naturally seeking the Light.

1. Jesus Christ is the Light of the world and the Holy Spirit is pointing to Him.

2. If you are seeking light you will go straight to Jesus.

3. Sin and righteousness and judgment is what matters - the Holy Spirit is not concerned with matters such as baptism.

D. The Holy Spirit knows us clear through.

1. The word for “pricked” with reference to the Holy Spirit’s work is sharper and deeper than the word for “pierced” with reference to Jesus’ crucifixion.

E. That which the Holy Spirit convicts of.

1. Sin.

a. Faith is not an intellectual but moral.

b. Unbelief is the result of their sin.

c. Faith is the gift of God to a penitent man.

1) The problem is not the Son question for us now - that is taken care of with the Holy Spirit’s coming at Pentecost.

2) The problem is the sin question now.

3) Un-confessed sin makes believing impossible.

2. Righteousness.

a. The one righteous man in the world made it uncomfortable for the unrighteous.

b. The voice of the Spirit is beckoning us today: better for the sin lover not to be raised from the dead.

3. Judgment.

a. Death is not the end for man.

1) There is a resurrection of damnation and of grace.

b. We would not want to live in a universe without God's judgment.

F. The Spirit will persist until the heart has died.

1. It is like the dying man who ceased to feel pain, but he only feels no pain because he is close to the end.

2. It is better that you die than your hearts die.

3. If you can hear the voice, happy are you.

G. Humble yourself and hear the voice to walk with God.

Application questions.

1. What are the three things that the Spirit does with reference to Jesus? Why do you think the Spirit centers around Christ?

2. Explain what it means that the Spirit convicts us concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment. Which of these stands out to you?

3. How do we quicken ourselves to respond to the Spirit's voice? What steps can you take to make this principle a matter of habit?
