

## Home Group Leader's Notes

Week of May 11, 2025

**"Powerful" week #3 - About the Conviction of the Holy Spirit**



The BIG PICTURE: As we are learning about the Holy Spirit in our lives, one of the seldom noticed roles is His conviction of us.

We don't like the idea of conviction, for it sounds as though we are guilty of something.

We are!

Actually, this flows from the compassion of God who doesn't want us to die in our sin.

The main point of conviction is to help us turn to God, believe in the gospel, and live forever with God and His family.

### **BAD NEWS OR GOOD NEWS?**

Is it bad news or good news to inform someone that they may not enter the kingdom of heaven? Why?

One could make a point for either – bad news or good news. While the way and when we inform people matters, the truth is, the Holy Spirit is convicting people of this very truth. (See above)

### **LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD**

As we learn about the work of the Holy Spirit of God (the third person of the Trinity), we will learn about His roles to bring people to God. As God, He is everywhere at once (i.e., omnipresent) and knows every person and situation (omniscient). And, because He is God, His essence is love; He invites people into a relationship of love with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This week's focus is on His acts of love to convict people of the truth about our status with God if we are without belief in Jesus.

Our lead passage is from Jesus' teaching when He is huddled with disciples on the night He was arrested. Read **JOHN 16:5-11** and consider a few questions that help us to see the kindness of God. (I am using a translation called the "English Standard Version," one of many excellent translations. You can find this translation and others at "biblegateway.com.")

What were Jesus' disciples hearing and feeling on that night?

They knew that Jesus was leaving them to return to the Father. They were afraid, sad, and disturbed because of things He said. He told Peter that he would deny Him. He told them that one of them would betray Him.

How might it be to their (and our) "advantage" for Jesus to "go away?" (verse 7)

Since Jesus was the source of help, truth, fellowship, power, etc., everyone would want to be with Him. That is not possible, but the Holy Spirit can be with everyone at one time. The real work that needs to happen in us is in our hearts and minds and the Holy Spirit works in and on those.

What specific works of "the Helper" (the Holy Spirit) were promised? (verse 8) How are these works coming from love?

The Holy Spirit would convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment and witness to the world about Jesus and the gospel. This is the kindest and most compassionate thing that God can do for all people.

The Holy Spirit convicts people in the world (those without Christ) as follows:

- 1) He convicts people of sin because they do not believe in Him.
- 2) He convicts the world of righteousness because He was going to the Father.
- 3) He convicts the world of judgment because the ruler of this world (Satan) has been judged.

- 1) According to John 3:18-19, what is the “sin” that condemns people? What did Jesus say in John 8:24 will happen to those continue in that state?  
**The sin of unbelief is the sin that cannot be forgiven. To reject the conviction of the Holy Spirit throughout one’s life ends in death.**
- 2) What did Jesus say about our need for righteousness in Matthew 5:20? What is the problem with our righteousness? (See Isaiah 64:6) What provision is offered in Romans 3:21-22?  
**Our righteousness must exceed that of the Pharisees who were trying with all their ability to be perfect, but failing. Our provision is the imputation of the righteousness of Christ through faith.**
- 3) Those who continue to follow the “ruler of this world” will end up in the same state as Satan – judged, condemned, and facing the wrath of God. Why do you think that this is an essential aspect of the conviction of the Holy Spirit? **Two things: One, even the ruler of this world has been judged. All will come under judgment. Two, do not follow the ways of this world, for it stands condemned.**

### **DISCUSS TOGETHER**

Are the actions of conviction by the Holy Spirit actions of love? Why?

**Totally flow out of the compassion of God. (Exodus 34:6)**

**Would we be loving if a friend was dying of something that they were ignoring?**

How are each and all three of these convictions needed in the lives of people without belief in Jesus?

**We all need to know:**

**Sin – The HS works to convince people that they are in sin unless they believe in Jesus**

**Righteousness – Without righteousness, no one is acceptable to God**

**Judgment – Judgment is sure to come.**

**Turn to Jesus – the only answer is the good news that He provided.**

Why do you think that people find it so hard to believe that they cannot be ‘good enough’ on their own merits to be acceptable to God and enter heaven? Is perfect righteousness too high of a standard?

**Pride, not wanting to humble themselves, not wanting the truth about their own sin.**

**God created us to know and be with Him forever. Therefore, God paid the price and made a way for us to be with Him by providing righteousness by faith.**

What comes to your mind and heart as you consider the truth of 2 Corinthians 5:21?

**Praise, joy, affection and love for God, etc.**

### **APPLY IT THIS WEEK**

The act of warning someone that they have a problem of sin is an act of love. If there was no cure, it would bring only sadness. But the good news is that by believing in (turning to, trusting in) Jesus Christ and what He did for us means that we can become His children, spared from the wrath of God, and given the gift of eternal life with God in heaven. If you have not surrendered your life to Jesus Christ, you can do so now – today is your day to repent and believe, to stop running from God and run to Him. He promises to forgive and cleanse you. He offers you grace.

**PLEASE PRAY**

Jesus taught us to pray. “And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.” (John 14)

- For the people in your world who are without Jesus to sense the conviction of the Holy Spirit and turn to Jesus
- For confidence in the Holy Spirit to inspire us to share the good news of Jesus with boldness, self-sacrifice, and love
- For your global partners and our teamwork with them