

FOUNDATIONS

LESSON 41: CONVICTION

Main Idea: The doctrine of Conviction by the Holy Spirit is the insight into a core ministry of the Holy Spirit, the Ministry of Conviction. It addresses the questions: How does God accomplish His work of bringing sinners to faith and repentance? How does the Holy Spirit enhance Christian character?

I. Conviction by the Holy Spirit

A. The Nature of Conviction

1. Etymology: **Latin:** “Convictus” or “Convincere”
2. Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary definition of Conviction: “To find or prove to be guilty,” Or “The state of being convinced”
3. Biblical Appearances of “convict” or “conviction” (John 16:8-11, Hebrews 11:1)
4. Etymology of Conviction: **Greek:** ἐλέγγω (elegchó) or ὑπόστασις (hupostasis)
 - i. ἐλέγγω (elegchó) -- to expose, convict, reprove
 - ii. ὑπόστασις (upostasi)- Confidence, firm trust, assurance
5. The Author of Conviction (John 16:8, John 16:13, 1 Corinthians 2:14)
6. The Prerequisite of the Holy Spirit’s Conviction: Regeneration (John 3:3-5, Ephesians 2:8-9, Colossians 2:13, John 6:37, John 6:44)
7. The Means of the Holy Spirit’s Conviction (Romans 10:17, Hebrews 10:15, Galatians 3:1-3, 1 Corinthians 12:3, 1 Corinthians 15:45)

II. The Holy Spirit’s Ministry of Conviction- Three Areas

A. Conviction Concerning Sin

1. Conviction of sin is the first of three main areas in which the Holy Spirit executes His ministry of conviction (John 16:8)
2. The necessity of the Holy Spirit’s conviction about sin (Jeremiah 17:9, John 3:19, Romans 3:10, Ephesians 2:1, Romans 1:18-20, Romans 2:14-15, Romans 8:7, Psalm 51:5, 1 Corinthians 2:14)
3. The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin to bring us to Jesus Christ (Acts 2:36-37, 2 Timothy 2:25)

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B. Conviction Concerning Righteousness

1. Conviction regarding righteousness is the second of the three main areas of the Holy Spirit's ministry of conviction (John 16:8)
2. The meaning of "conviction of righteousness" (John 16:8, John 16:14, 1 Timothy 3:16)

C. Conviction Concerning Judgment

1. Conviction regarding judgment is the third of the three main areas of the Holy Spirit's ministry of conviction (John 16:8)
2. The Holy Spirit's conviction of judgment is necessary because Satan deceives people into unbelief about coming judgment (2 Corinthians 4:4)
3. The Holy Spirit convinces us that the prince of this world is judged (John 12:31, John 16:11, Colossians 2:13-15)
4. The Holy Spirit convicts us that we deserve judgment (Romans 2:5, Romans 6:23).

III. Fruits of the Holy Spirit's Ministry of Conviction

A. Humility

Humility occurs when we become conscious of our guilt (Romans 1:18, Ephesians 2-3, Ephesians 2:11, Ephesians 5:8, Ephesians 5:16, Philippians 2:12)

B. Thankfulness

"We grasp the measure of God's grace in proportion to our sense of our need"- Sinclair Ferguson (Luke 7:47)

IV. Degrees of Conviction by the Holy Spirit

- A. The Holy Spirit convicts us to the degree that is necessary
 1. Degrees of conviction will differ just as believers differ themselves.

IMPLICATIONS: