

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 10-14-12 AM NOTES
"THE AMAZING WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT"
JOHN 16:5-11
#63 in Series, "Verse-by-Verse Through John"

John 15:4a (NKJV) "Abide in Me..."

John 15:9b (NKJV) "...abide in My love."

John 15:14b (NKJV) "...do whatever I command you."

John 15:17 (NKJV) "These things I command you, that you love one another."

I. The Holy Spirit's Coming (vv. 5-7)

Mark 8:35 (NKJV) "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it."

John 14:28a (NKJV) "You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming *back* to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father..."

Matthew 28:20b (NKJV) "...I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age."

II. The Holy Spirit's Convicting (vv. 8-11)

Isaiah 53:6a (NKJV) "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way..."

Ephesians 2:1 (NKJV) "And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins."

Romans 3:10-12 (NKJV) "As it is written: *'There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one.'*"

Ephesians 2:3b (NKJV) "...were by nature children of wrath..."

James 2:9 (NKJV) "but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors."

1 Corinthians 14:24 (NKJV) "But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all."

A. The Holy Spirit Convicts of Sin (vv. 8a, 9)

Psalms 51:5 (HCSB) "Indeed, I was guilty [when I] was born; I was sinful when my mother conceived me."

John 3:18 (NKJV) "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

Acts 2:37 (NKJV) "Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?'"

B. The Holy Spirit Convicts of Righteousness (vv. 8b, 10)

Romans 3:10 (NKJV) “As it is written: ‘*There is none righteous, no, not one.*’”

Matthew 5:20 (NKJV) “For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:48 (NKJV) “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

Isaiah 64:6a (ESV) “We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.”

Romans 4:5-6 (HCSB) “But to the one who does not work, but believes on Him who declares righteous the ungodly, his faith is credited for righteousness. Likewise, David also speaks of the blessing of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works.”

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV) “For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

Philippians 3:9 (NASB) “and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the Law*, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith.”

Ephesians 1:6 (NKJV) “to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.”

C. The Holy Spirit Convicts of Judgment (vv. 8c, 11)

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“THE AMAZING WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT”
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While the content of John 15 and John 16 seem to be similar, there is a difference in emphasis. In chapter 15 Jesus instructed the disciples what they were to do. For example in **John 15:4a (NKJV)** “Abide in Me...” **John 15:9b (NKJV)** “...abide in My love.” **John 15:14b (NKJV)** “...do whatever I command you.” **John 15:17 (NKJV)** “These things I command you, that you love one another.” When we get to chapter 16, the emphasis is on what God does for the disciple primarily through the indwelling Holy Spirit. Here is a glorious principle of Scripture: Everything the Lord commands us to do, the indwelling Holy Spirit will enable us to do it! This is why the Christian life is so gloriously possible! If you leave out the Holy Spirit, the Christian life is filled with frustration and failure because we will be trying to obey God in the power of our own flesh, and the flesh is not capable of obeying God with the right motive. The glorious truths of this passage are going to liberate some of you from a life of failure and frustration of trying to obey God in the power of the flesh. In the power of the Holy Spirit and only in the power of the Holy Spirit is the Christian life possible!

I. The Holy Spirit's Coming (V5-7)

In the Christian life, our losses often become our greatest gain. In **Mark 8:35 (NKJV)** Jesus says, "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it." We experience real life by losing our own self empowered and self driven self focused life. In the realm of painful circumstances, some of you could give testimony that some of the hardest things you've been through that involved great loss ultimately brought you to the greatest gain in terms of your walk with and intimacy with the Lord. I will never forget the words of a young single mother who had been through a painful divorce where her husband had left her and their little boy for another woman. As she went through that great loss, I watched her as she began to draw near to the Lord and discovered in her loss that He is sufficient. This is what she said to me: "I wouldn't wish on anyone what I've been through, but I wouldn't take anything for it". Some of you can give the same testimony about the loss of a job, health, marriage, or any number of other losses and have discovered the great gain that comes when we turn to the all sufficient Lord. If in times of loss we spend all of our time and our mental and emotional energy grieving over and focusing on our loss, we will never gain what God intended when He allowed the painful loss to come into our life. That is exactly what the disciples were doing! They were so focusing on the loss of the physical presence of Christ that they were in danger of missing the gain of the indwelling Holy Spirit He was going to send when He ascended to the Father after His resurrection. These men were totally self focused. Though both Peter and Thomas had asked Him earlier where He was going (John 13:6; 14:5), their question was only a reflection of their concern for themselves.

In verse 7, the Lord shows them how their loss is going to turn into great "advantage" for them. Why was His going away to their advantage? Because when He went away to the Father, He would send the Helper, the Holy Spirit to indwell them on the Day of Pentecost. We saw back in John 14:16-18 that the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of Christ) would be just like Jesus, but would dwell within every true disciple. The Holy Spirit is Christ in the Christian! When Jesus came in flesh to this earth, He did not cease to any degree being God, but He limited Himself to a body. This was a voluntary limitation of the omnipresence of God. If Jesus was in Jerusalem with His disciples, He could not be in Galilee. In anticipation of the sending of His Spirit, He could say to all of His disciples in **Matthew 28:20b (NKJV)** "...and lo, I am with you always..." Let me illustrate why this was to their (and our) advantage that Jesus went away to the Father. Suppose that after the resurrection Jesus had announced to His disciples that instead of going to the Father and sending His Spirit to indwell them, He was going to stay here on earth in His glorified body. Suppose He then sets up His headquarters in Jerusalem and books appointments. There are many who want to see Him, so the maximum length of an appointment is 15 minutes. Periodically, He goes on tour, but wherever He goes, people have to set up appointments to see Him. Think of the waiting list! People would wait a lifetime for just one 15 minute slot of time with Him. Some would never get to see Him. Now, read **John 16:7 (NKJV)** again, "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you." Oh glorious advantage! We have the Spirit of Christ in us, constant access to Him, constant dependence on Him for His guidance, His power, His wisdom, His enabling! As He fills our surrendered, dependent lives, He lives out the very life of Christ through our unique personalities, He guides us, and He enables us to obey every command of the Scripture. It is not only to the advantage of those original disciples that He went away, it is to our advantage that He returned to the Father.

II. The Spirit's Convicting (V8-11)

While verse 7 focuses on the Spirit's ministry to the disciples, verses 8-11 focuses of His ministry to the world. The Spirit's ministry to the world is to "convict". That sounds negative, but it is gloriously positive! Apart from this conviction, no one can be saved. The Bible tells us that all of mankind are by nature rebels against God, spiritually dead in their trespasses and sins, and totally without goodness (as God views goodness), righteousness, and merit before a holy God. As such, we are under God's wrath. **Isaiah 53:6a (NKJV)** "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way..." **Ephesians 2:1 (NKJV)** "And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins".

Romans 3:10-12 (NKJV) “As it is written: *‘There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. ¹² They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one.’* **Ephesians 2:3b (NKJV)** “...were by nature children of wrath...” The world hates Jesus Christ. No one would be saved if it was not for the convicting of the Holy Spirit.

The key to understanding this passage is understanding the word “convict”. The word can be used in two different ways. It can be used in a judicial sense of a criminal who is convicted in a wrongdoing. An example would be **James 2:9 (NKJV)** “but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.” The word “convict” can also be used in the sense of convincing that something is real or true. An example would be **1 Corinthians 14:24 (NKJV)** “But if all prophesy, and an unnot condor an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all.” The context here seems to indicate the second emphasis of the word. The Holy Spirit supernaturally opens blinded minds to see and be convinced or convicted of three things – sin, righteousness, and judgment.

A. The Spirit Convicts of Sin (V8a, 9)

Oh how ignorant the world is of sin! The world thinks that a person becomes a sinner when he commits a certain number or certain categories of sin. The world thinks that a person is a sinner because he sins. Sometimes a person will get really upset when they are told that they are a sinner. They respond with, “Well I’m not that bad”. The Bible does not teach that a person is a sinner because he sins; the Bible says that we sin because we are sinners by nature. The world is blind to the fact that the real problem is not what a person does, but the problem is what he is. What a person does as a pattern of life is simply evidence of what he is. We were all born sinners. **Psalms 51:5 (HCSB)** “Indeed, I was guilty [when I] was born; I was sinful when my mother conceived me.” Neither you nor I could ever convince a person of this truth. It is a work of the Holy Spirit.

Notice in verse 9 that sin is singular. It is referring to the ultimate sin of refusing to believe in Jesus Christ. In reality, this is the one sin that actually condemns a person; unbelief is the one sin that is unforgivable. We see Jesus stating this truth in **John 3:18 (NKJV)** “He who believes in Him [Jesus] is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” The Holy Spirit convicts the world of the fact that they are sinners by nature and that their ultimate sin is unbelief – a complete trusting in Christ and His finished work on the cross. We see that convicting work of the Holy Spirit immediately after He came on the day of Pentecost. Peter is preaching a simple sermon using quotes from the Old Testament and the hearers respond in **Acts 2:37 (NKJV)** “Now when they heard *this*, they were **cut to the heart**, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?’” That phrase “cut to the heart” is a description of the convicting power of the Holy Spirit. The result was that 3,000 believed on Jesus Christ and were saved. If Peter had preached this simple sermon the day before, no one would have believed. What was the difference? Now the Holy Spirit had come and began to do His convicting of sin work.

Let me share an illustration that I believe the Lord wants to use in our church. Dr. R. A. Torrey, an associate of Evangelist Dwight L. Moody in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s tells of something that happened in the church he was pastoring in Chicago. Several leaders in the church were burdened because there was so little conviction of sin in their services. Some were coming to Christ, but not very many. Dr. Torrey was a solid Bible teacher and was presenting the truth of Scripture, but there was little conviction. One of these leaders shared his burden with other leaders in the church and said, “I suggest that we, the officers of the church, meet from night to night to pray that there may be more conviction of sin in our meetings.” The other leaders agreed and they began to pray. A few days later Dr. Torrey was preaching on a Sunday night and a professional gambler was in the audience. After the service those who were interested in talking with someone about their soul was invited to an inquiry room. Torrey went there to talk with some who had responded and saw the gambler. He was terribly agitated. He said, “I don’t know what is the matter with me. I never felt this way in my life. I was starting out this afternoon to Cottage Grove Avenue to meet some men to spend the afternoon gambling. But as I passed the park, some of your young men were holding an open-air meeting, and I stopped to listen. I saw one man testifying whom I

had known in a life of sin, and I wanted to hear what he had to say. When he finished I went on down the street. I had not gone far when some strange power took hold of me and brought me back and I stayed through the meeting. Then this gentleman spoke to me and brought me over to your church. I heard you preach.” He then started sobbing. He said, “Oh I don’t know what is the matter with me. I feel awful. I never felt this way before in my life.” Dr. Torrey replied, “I know what is the matter with you. You are under conviction of sin, for the Holy Spirit is dealing with you.” Torrey then led the man to Christ and this was the beginning of many striking conversions in this church [From James Boice, *The Gospel of John, Volume IV*, page 2010, 2011]. Would you faithfully pray that? Would you ask in faith for the Holy Spirit to bring a deep unexplainable conviction of sin to those who hear the word of God? The hope of seeing lives transformed in our church and all of its missions and preaching points is not more clever, more relevant enthusiastic sermons. The hope of seeing transformed lives is not in bringing in an evangelist from out of state. The hope of seeing people come to Christ is removing any barriers among God’s people that may be quenching or grieving the Holy Spirit, and then pouring our hearts out in prayer, pleading in faith that He would be free to do His convicting work of sin in the lives of lost members, guests you bring and in the missions efforts of this church.

B. The Spirit Convicts of Righteousness (8b, 10)

The world’s idea of righteousness is just as warped as its idea of sin. The world thinks that sin is doing bad things and righteousness is doing good things. The message often sent even to children (though it may not be in these words) communicates, “Boys and girls, be good if you want to go to Heaven because good boys and girls go to Heaven and bad boys and girls go to the other place”. People grow up with the view that God is “making a list and checking it twice, gonna find out who’s naughty and nice”. Most people (I would estimate the majority of Americans as well as the majority of the world’s population) believe that God has something along the lines of a giant balance scale in heaven and on one side are righteous (good) deeds and on the other side are sinful (wrong) deeds. When we come to the final judgment, the scales don’t lie; which way are they tipped? That is as far from what the Bible says as you can get! Let’s first understand what righteousness in the Scripture means. The Greek word for righteousness in the New Testament means that which is right or accepted. To say that God is righteous is to say that He is right, always right. When it is applied to man, righteousness means to conform to God’s standard of right. To be righteous before God is to be in right standing with God. When it comes to righteousness we have none. **Romans 3:10 (NKJV)** “As it is written: *There is none righteous, no, not one*”. In Jesus’ day, it was thought that the most righteous people were the Scribes and the Pharisees. Yet Jesus said in **Matthew 5:20 (NKJV)** “For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.” “You mean the standard is higher than the Scribes and Pharisees?” Yes, it is infinitely higher! God’s standard of righteousness is perfection. **Matthew 5:48 (NKJV)** says “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.” If He is a God of infinite perfect purity, justice, holiness, and “rightness”, then how could He accept a righteousness that is less than perfect?

The Holy Spirit then not only convicts us that we are sinners and that the ultimate sin is unbelief since it cannot be forgiven, He also convicts us that God requires perfect righteousness and we are bankrupt in the righteousness department. How then can we ever stand right, accepted before this God who accepts only perfect righteousness? The answer is in verse 10. This is the proof of Christ’s perfect righteousness. His acceptance into the Father’s presence to be seated at His right hand is proof that He is perfect in righteousness. So, the Holy Spirit convicts us that only Christ is perfectly righteous; only Christ is accepted by the Father. What then is our hope? Our hope is in Christ! When we are convicted of sin and repent of sin and savingly believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and His perfect sacrifice for our sins, we are then given His righteousness. The language of Romans is that it is imputed or credited to us. **Romans 4:5-6 (HCSB)** “But to the one who does not work, but believes on Him who declares righteous the ungodly, his faith is credited for righteousness. Likewise, David also speaks of the blessing of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works”. We read of this credited or imputed or accounted righteousness in **2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)** “For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that

we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” **Philippians 3:9 (NASB)** “and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith”

When we are convicted of sin and savingly believe on Christ, our sin is forgiven. The Holy Spirit also convicts us that we need righteousness, perfect righteousness to stand in God’s presence. That righteousness is the perfect righteousness of Christ that is put on our account when we come in faith to God. Now we are fully and completely accepted by God because we are in Christ. **Ephesians 1:6 (NKJV)** “to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.”

C. The Spirit Convicts of Judgment (V8c, 11)

The Spirit of Christ also convicts us of the sureness of judgment. Judgment is not the figment of a redneck preacher’s imagination. It is real and it is certain. As evidence Jesus cites the fact that Satan, the ruler of this world (John 12:31) has already been judged. The Holy Spirit convicts the world of judgment because Satan was judged and his power was broken at the cross. If God judges the ruler of this world, He will certainly judge all of the citizens of this world system. The devil’s judgment guarantees the judgment of every unbelieving sinner.

CONCLUSION

I hope that if you know the Lord, this passage is a great comfort to you. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ lives in you to glorify Christ by enabling you to live the Christian life. Why would you try to do it in your own fleshly strength? As you become involved in the mission to go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to every creature, you have to convince or convict no one. The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment.