

The Holy Spirit

Lesson 4

Conviction And Conversion

John 16:1-13

➤ The question is in the conviction and conversion of the sinner to Christ, **"How does the Holy Spirit exercise his influence upon the heart?"**

➤ Does he operate immediately (without means) or intermediately (through means)?

➤ Directly or indirectly?

➤ Our purpose is to show that the Bible teaches that in the conviction and conversion of the sinner to Christ, the Holy Spirit operates upon the sinner's heart through the agency of the Spirit-revealed and Spirit-inspired word of God.

Calvinism Reviewed

- **T**otal Depravity. Ezekiel 18:20; Romans 3:23
- **U**nconditional Election. Ephesians 1:3; Galatians 3:26f
- **L**imited Atonement. Hebrews 2:10
- **I**rrresistible Grace. Romans 5:1; Acts 7:51
- **P**erseverance of the Saints. Galatians 5:4; Luke 8; Acts 8; Hebrews 3:12; 1 Corinthians 15:58

Heart Must Be Changed!

- **Matthew 15:18-20**, *"But the things which proceed out of the mouth come forth out of the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart come forth evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, railings: these are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not the man."*
- **Acts 15:9**, *"and he made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith."*

What Is The Heart?

Intellect

Will

Emotions

Conscience

- Corruption begins in the heart. (Matthew 15:18f)
- Salvation must therefore begin in the heart. (Romans 10:10)

➤ **But ...**

- Is this accomplished directly by the Holy Spirit operating on the heart of man or through some medium?

What Is The Gospel?

- **FACTS to be believed.**
cf. Mark 1:14-15
- **COMMANDMENTS to be obeyed.**
2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; cf. Romans 2:8-9
- **PROMISES in which to trust.**
Romans 8:24-25; Hebrews 6:15-16

THE WORD AND THE SPIRIT.

SPIRIT ACTION WORD OF GOD

John 3:5-6, 8 **Born, Begotten** 1 Peter 1:23-25
1 Corinthians 4:15
James 1:18

John 6:63; **Quickens** Psalms 119:50, 154
Romans 8:11

THE WORD AND THE SPIRIT.

SPIRIT ACTION WORD OF GOD

Titus 3:5 **Saved** James 1:21
Romans 15:13 **Power of** Romans 1:16
1 Corinthians 6:11 **Sanctified** John 17:17
1 Corinthians 6:11 **Washed by** Ephesians 5:25-26

An Inspired Example – Jews – Acts 2

- **Holy Spirit promised to Apostles.**
John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13
- The apostles to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit – Luke 24:46-49
- Holy Spirit's coming near – Acts 1:8
- Holy Spirit came – Acts 2:1-4
- Holy Spirit's convicts – John 16:8

An Inspired Example – Jews – Acts 2

- **Pricked ... convicted of sin.**
 - HOW? "**When they heard this.**"
 - Heard what? The Spirit inspired words of Peter.
 - But Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would "**convict the world of sin.**" – John 16:8
 - Conclusion ... The Holy Spirit convicted the sinners on that day of Pentecost through the instrumentality of the word of God.

An Inspired Example

– Jews – Acts 2

- FACTS presented. Verses 22-36
- COMMANDS issued. Verses 36, 38
- PROMISES offered. Verses 38-39

Conscience Cleansed – cf. 1 Peter 3:21

Hearts changed: *“They then that received his word were baptized: and there were added (unto them) in that day about three thousand souls.”* Verse 41

Gospel Changed Saul of Tarsus

•FACTS presented

- Acts 9:5, *“I am Jesus whom thou persecutest”*
- cf. 2 Timothy 2:12, *“I know whom I have believed ...”*
- cf. Acts 26:28-29 Paul was persuaded.

•COMMANDS issued

- Acts 22:16, *“Arise and be baptized ...”*
- Acts 9:18, Paul *“arose and was baptized.”*

•PROMISES trusted

- Acts 13:23-32; 26:6-7
- 2 Corinthians 4:7,16; Romans 8:18;
- 2 Timothy 4:6-8

CONCLUSION:

- Truly, every conversion is begun and consummated by the Spirit.
- As the “revealing agent” in man’s conversion, He reveals the wonderful love and goodness of God. John 3:16; Romans 2:4
- He reveals the awful plight of man lost in sin. Romans 3:23
- In the sublime story of God’s providing salvation for man through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, the Holy Spirit convicts of sin, righteousness, and judgment.
- Through faith produced in the heart by the word of God, Romans 10:17, man obeys ... turns to God from sin ... is converted.
- No other way to come to God.