

## The Holy Spirit #7

**INTRO:** Last week we looked at the first of three aspects of the ministry of the Holy Spirit. This week we will look at the remaining two elements of the Holy Spirit's conviction: Righteousness and Judgment. Like the term *conviction*, these two words are often not understood correctly. We'll look at what the Bible says and means by these terms to help us understand how to work together with the Holy Spirit more effectively. Remember that we are seeking to answer the question asked in Acts 2:12 following the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon those followers of Jesus gathered in the Upper Room. Peter explained to them this was fulfillment of prophecy...and part of that was the coming of God's Spirit, the Holy Spirit into the lives of those who believed in Jesus death, burial, resurrection and Lordship. That is why we too need to explore and understand this great gift of the Living God taking up residence in us!

**I) John 16:8-11 NKJV** *And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.*

### **A) Conviction of Righteousness**

- 1) Many understand righteousness to mean *right behavior*
  - (a) Sometimes righteousness is equated to high moral standards—a *righteous man*
  - (b) Righteousness is far more than right behavior or high morals
  - (c) Righteousness speaks of our being given *right standing* before a righteous God
  - (d) Righteousness is an attribute of God and when we understand that it has been imparted to us, it does result in transformation and right actions. But right actions alone do not mean one is in right standing with God.
  - (e) Righteousness speaks of an internal spiritual quality and is a result of the New Birth
- 2) When we see the righteousness of God—we want to serve Him
  - (a) The Holy Spirit opens our eyes to see what we cannot see in the natural, fleshly realm we live in
  - (b) Because the Holy Spirit IS God, He is all knowing and realizes that we do not have innate ability to understand and accept the reality of the righteousness that Jesus purchased for us
  - (c) Without the Holy Spirit helping us, we would miss the significance of this gift
  - (d) So the Holy Spirit is not convicting us of the need to live right, He is showing us that we have been made righteous in Christ.
    - (i) Jesus ascended into heaven—to the Father
    - (ii) His presence is a testimony to His righteousness that He has given to us when He paid the price for our sins (Heb 10:8-14)
    - (iii) Without the conviction that is given believers by the Holy Spirit, how would we become aware of this fact? He is with us to reveal truth and it is an ongoing process as we grow in faith.
  - (e) The conviction of righteousness by the Holy Spirit is an inner knowing... expressed in **2 Cor 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.*
  - (f) Because we have this knowledge of the gift of righteousness through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, we can come into God's presence with bold confidence of our position before Him. RIGHT STANDING!

### **B) Conviction of Judgment**

- 1) Who is Jesus calling the ruler of this world? Isn't God the ruler, Jesus the King of Kings?
  - (a) **John 12:31 MSG** *At this moment the world is in crisis. Now Satan, the ruler of this world, will be thrown out.*
  - (b) **John 14.30 NKJV** *I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.*
  - (c) Clearly, Jesus is saying the ruler of this world is Satan. This is a consequence of the fall of man bringing sin into the world.
  - (d) As a judged outlaw and violator of God's will and commandments, Satan is judged for his sins.
  - (e) Know that despite being judged, Satan will still come to condemn mankind, especially believers.
- 2) Judgment is the result of coming before a court and receiving a formal legal opinion from the judge and the court.

(a) Both man and Satan will be judged by God's Law

(b) There is no escaping this judgment

3) **Deut 30:11-14 MSG** *This commandment that I'm commanding you today isn't too much for you, it's not out of your reach. It's not on a high mountain--you don't have to get mountaineers to climb the peak and bring it down to your level and explain it before you can live it. And it's not across the ocean--you don't have to send sailors out to get it, bring it back, and then explain it before you can live it. No. The word is right here and now--as near as the tongue in your mouth, as near as the heart in your chest. Just do it!*

(a) The truth is that God has not hidden His commandments from man

(b) He has proclaimed them and anointed men and women to share them with others who had hearts and ears to hear

(c) He lets us know the standards and His expectations and if we listen He shows us what is coming

(d) God's word is in our hearts and mouths and we can do it. We need to remind ourselves by confessing this truth as faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. 14 *But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it. NKJV*

(e) If we make the mistake of saying we cannot do God's Word...we are in essence saying that God is not doing what He said... i.e. He is not working in and through us!

### C) The Holy Spirit's Ministry of Conviction

1) Sin, Righteousness and Judgment

2) **Rom 10:6-11 MSG** *But trusting God to shape the right living in us is a different story--no precarious climb up to heaven to recruit the Messiah, no dangerous descent into hell to rescue the Messiah. So what exactly was Moses saying? The word that saves is right here, as near as the tongue in your mouth, as close as the heart in your chest. It's the word of faith that welcomes God to go to work and set things right for us. This is the core of our preaching. Say the welcoming word to God--"Jesus is my Master"--embracing, body and soul, God's work of doing in us what he did in raising Jesus from the dead. That's it. You're not "doing" anything; you're simply calling out to God, trusting him to do it for you. That's salvation. With your whole being you embrace God setting things right, and then you say it, right out loud: "God has set everything right between him and me!" Scripture reassures us, "No one who trusts God like this--heart and soul--will ever regret it."*

3) It is sin if you don't believe God and His Word—you need to trust His truth for He is Righteous, Just, Love, and True!

4) If believing that you are made righteous is a problem for you ...the solution is to begin to believe He rose again. Then understand that Jesus did that for you... to purchase your salvation and righteousness and that is what allowed you to become born again.

5) If believing that there is a judgment is a problem for you—vss. 9-10 Say Confess the Lord Jesus... and that belief grants full salvation

6) Know that you cannot believe one thing and confess another! Align your life, your thoughts, your emotions and spirit with God's Word and with the help of the Holy Spirit you will experience the fullness of life that God created for you!

7) Remember that believers become sons of the Judge! Our Father is the Most High Judge! Through the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit we are brought into the saving knowledge of Jesus and into right relationship with God.

---

<sup>i</sup> Morris, Robert. The God I Never Knew. Waterbrook Press, Colorado Springs.