

God sent the Spirit to his saints. The task of winning the lost was given to the saved people. Cornelius had the angel to appear with him, and the angel did not point out salvation. This was the task of Peter, who came over and explained the way.

When God sent the Spirit into the world, He prepared a body. This body is the saint's. He dwells within, as when Jesus came, God prepared a body for him. Therefore did you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit?

I. The manner of conviction

How does the Spirit work through the saint. The sin that the Spirit convicts of is unbelief. This is the root of all sin. Paul seem to have trouble with his sin of stoning Steven. When the Spirit convicts of unbelief we are also convicted of our many sins.

A. The Holy Spirit convicts the sinner of sin by revealing to him the nature of sin, that he is unrighteous, that he is a transgressor, and that if you know to do good and do it not, it is sin.

B. The Spirit convicts and helps the sinner to realize the consequences of his own sin. The wages of sin are death,--that he is under condemnation already, and that he will reap corruption. And unless he is forgiven, he will perish and be cut off forever. The Spirit shows him that there is dangerous doom ahead. Does the Spirit scare the lost man? I would say yes, because Jesus told his audience that except they repent, they would perish. Paul shocked his hearers by warning them of the destruction.

The Holy Spirit uses Christians to convict sinners. There is a story of a young girl who died in New York City and a preacher was called in to conduct her funeral. He asked the pastor of the church of Mary's spiritual condition. He stated three weeks before he had been impressed to speak to her, but had failed. He asked her Sunday School teacher. she stated two weeks before she had been impressed to speak to her, but thought that it would be embarrassing. He asked her mother. She had been impressed the week before, but had failed, and so the Holy Spirit had sought to work through these Christians. May that not be your sad experience. But like the man who made it possible for the Kings message to get through! When the wire broke, he held both ends and became a transmitter, so Jesus wants to use you. *He has a message to get through --*

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THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTS *John 16:8*

Intro. God did not create the world and leave it to run itself. Believing that God created the world, and that He is very much in the world, I would like to show you what He is doing. I think there are at least three persons involved,--the Spirit, the sinner, the saint.

I. The Spirit

The Spirit is the one who convicts (John 16:8) To some people the Spirit is an influence, a force, an im-personal power like the law of gravity or electricity, or even the wind.

To many people and church members included, the Holy Spirit is an unknown god, as Paul preached on Mars Hill. Perhaps even as that piece of music entitled "The Lost Chord."

1. The Spirit is God

The word God means deity. And this term does not confine itself to the heavenly Father. But includes the Trinity. Therefore the Spirit is a part of God as much as the Father and the Son. In fact the Holy Spirit is called God in Acts 5:1-4. Peter has said that Ananias lied to the Holy Ghost.

Matt. 3:14-17, we see all three persons in action at the baptism of Jesus, as He ascended out of the water, the Spirit descended like a dove upon Him, and we hear also the Father speaking words of approval.

Shall we worship the Spirit? The answer is found in Rev. 22:9,--worship God. We worship Him when we sing the Doxology.

2. The Spirit is a person.

He is not it,--meaning a divine influence or power, but when the Spirit is referred to, personal pronouns are used. John 14:7--Jesus refers to Him as even the Spirit of Truth. Jesus also said, "I will send Him, and when He is come..."

The word person, does not mean physical being of flesh and blood. I suppose there are three things at least characteristic of a person, knowledge, feeling and will. The Holy Spirit has knowledge, (I Cor. 2:11), the Holy Spirit

has feeling. Rom. 15:30: the Holy Spirit has a will. I Cor. 12:11. He is a person who desires to get a hold of us and use us according to His will. It seems to me, the question is not how I can get more ~~of~~ of the Holy Spirit, but how can the Holy Spirit get more of me.

II. The sinner.

By the sinner, we mean the lost person. Jesus said, when the Spirit is come, He will reprove the world. He did not mean physical universe, trees and rocks,—but He meant lost people.

Now the true nature of a sinner is:

1. He is sinful, because he has deliberately sinned. "There is no man that sinneth not" We have all sinned, the Bible reveals. If we say that we have not sinned, the truth is not in us.

2. He is enslaved. The sinner is not a free man, he is in bondage. Heb. 2:15.

3. He is blind. The devil has blinded him to keep him lost. He is religiously blind. Matt. 15:14. Jesus talked about blind leaders. He was not talking about physical blindness, but spiritual blindness.

The sinner is blind because he is in darkness. 1 John 2:11.

4. He is dead. The sinner is spiritually dead. Eph. 2:1.

The prodigal son story tells us that the father said "This my son was dead, is alive, was lost, and is found." I believe that He was saying the same thing dead was equal to lost, and alive equal to being found.

Other scriptures in the new Testament, John 5:24, talks about passing from death to life. Now this is not like a ticket to some future ball game, but its an experience that you already have. You have crossed the mark from death to life.

It's impossible for a lost man to save himself. Recall the story of the fisherman who fished all night and caught nothing, but in a few minutes the next day caught a great multitude,—fishing without Jesus. Some great churches today live in the shadow of their former greatness. The answer is the sad experience of Samson, "he wist not that the Lord had departed from him." The lost man cannot arise unless there is something to draw him.

~~Not possible~~ We ought not to expect lost people to be saved in our services where members are worldly and indifferent. We should live and witness, possessed of the Spirit, so that God can use us as magnets, and perhaps if we practiced the Bible given methods of evangelism, we might have more results.

Jesus charged the Pharisees in Matt. 23:15 with going around the world to make one proselyte. And when you make him, he is worse off than he was before. They were ignoring God's way of conversion, and Jesus was saying "You're attempting to take members in, in a false way." What Jesus was saying,—the person is worse off than if you had left him alone. And when a church roll is lined with many false made members, who have not been born again, they had better be left out in the world.

Something is Wrong → Outgrown idea of literal Hell we have outgrown theology of pens — Amazing Grace has swept the sound — turn it around "when they've been there ten thousand years, bright burning as in the sun, they no less desire to suffer in Hell, than when they first began."

1930 - Ohio State Prison - fire - 300 died - one guard had a key & because he was stubborn, or confused he refused to use it — let he not be confused men are lost.

III. The saint

I will send my spirit to you,—and he was talking to the 11 apostles,—a saint is a saved person, and is important.

1. The mediator. He is God's contact man,—the connecting link, between the sinner and the Spirit.