

Wind & Fire - Nov 1st - The Conviction of the Holy Spirit - Troy Knight

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures:

John 16:5-7
John 16:8-11
John 16:12-15
2 Peter 1:20

Start reading

John 16:5-7

“But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going. Instead, you grieve because of what I’ve told you. But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you.

John 16:8-11

And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment. The world’s sin is that it refuses to believe in me. Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged.

John 16:12-15

“There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can’t bear it now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, ‘The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.’

2 Peter 1:20

Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet’s own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Troy talked about the Holy Spirit convicting him of pressuring people to make a stock purchase. Have you ever worked in a job or been in a relationship where God’s Spirit convicted you to end it? How did it turn out?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read John 16:5-7. Why was it “best” that Jesus go away?
- Read John 16:8-11. John mentions 3 words that God’s Spirit uses to bring us to faith in Jesus. What part did conviction of sin, righteousness, and judgment play in bringing you to faith?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Many churches today preach less about sin and instead teach a sort of therapeutic, moralistic theism. It’s more about what God can give us and how that makes us feel vs looking at the sin in our lives. Why is conviction of sin so important to salvation and sanctification?
- What are you doing daily to be guided by the truth of the Holy Spirit?
- In light of the Holy Spirit’s jobs of convicting us of sin, righteousness, and judgment, what is your role in the processes of:
 - a) seeing people (including yourself) come to a saving knowledge of Jesus?
 - b) of growing in faith as one set aside for God?
- According to John 16:8-11, who is the judge? How should that affect your relationships with unbelievers? How can you become more sensitive to the Spirit’s leading in those relationships?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Troy talked about 3 ways that the Holy Spirit speaks to us, through the Bible, through people, and sometimes through impressions or circumstances. Commit as you go through this next week to read the Bible and as you do pray that the Holy Spirit will speak to you through His Word.

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- Holy Spirit thank you that you speak to me and convict me through the Bible, people and sometimes through circumstances. I’m so grateful to have you as an advocate in my life. Help me to keep listening to you as you speak to me. -Amen

Start digging. For further study.

- Read the 2nd page and discuss it.

Question: "What does it mean that the Holy Spirit will convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment?"

Answer: In John 16:8, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit: "When [the Spirit] comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment" (ESV). In this verse, we see a three-fold ministry the Spirit will perform in relation to the unsaved world. He will "convict" the world; that is, He will reprove it or show it to be wrong. This reproof will target three areas in which the world needs admonishing: sin, righteousness, and judgment.

Jesus went on to explain: "Concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged" (John 16:9–11, ESV).

The world is a sinful place, and one of the Holy Spirit's tasks is to convict the world of its sin. No amount of preaching, pleading, or pointing of fingers will bring about the conviction of sin, unless the Holy Spirit is at work in the sinner's heart. It is the Spirit's job to convict. And what is the most basic sin of which the world is guilty? Jesus specifies it as *unbelief*. The convicting power of the Holy Spirit is at work in the world "because they believe not in [Christ]." Once a person responds to the Spirit's conviction and turns to faith in Christ, the other sins he practiced will be taken care of. It is the sin of unbelief—a refusal to trust in Jesus—that is primary.

The world must also be convicted of righteousness, and this, too, is something the Holy Spirit does. There is a righteous standard we are all held to, despite the world's stubborn denial of absolute truth. And who is the standard-bearer of righteousness? Jesus points to *Himself* as that standard: "Because I go to the Father." There is only one Person who came down from heaven, lived a life of sinless perfection, and who ascended back to heaven—the Son of Man, who lives to be our Intercessor (John 3:13; 1 Timothy 2:5). The righteousness that the world tries to deny is found demonstrated in Christ. Everything He ever said and did was the consummate expression of God the Father (John 8:28; Colossians 2:9). He is righteousness personified, and none can measure up to Him (Romans 3:23).

The world is facing judgment, and the Holy Spirit also convicts them of this truth. There is a day of reckoning scheduled—a day in which the holy God will mete out justice and rid His creation of sin. In fact, this judgment has already begun. With whom did it begin? Jesus identifies *Satan* as the one on whom judgment fell: "Because the ruler of this world is cast out." Jesus had earlier indicated that His death on the cross was when "the prince of this world will be driven out" (John 12:31). It was on the cross that Jesus redeemed sinners for God and utterly vanquished Satan. "That by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil" (Hebrews 2:14). Three days later Jesus rose from the dead, showing to all the world that Satan's rule has been overthrown. All who reject Christ and remain in their sin will be condemned along with Satan, and this is the warning that the Holy Spirit sounds in the hearts of the unsaved.

The influence of the Holy Spirit in an unsaved person's life will lead that person to the realization that he is guilty, that God is just, and that all sinners are deserving of judgment. Once a sinner has been awakened to his soul's great need, the Spirit will point him to Christ, the one and only Savior and Refuge from judgment (John 16:14). In all of this, the Spirit uses His "sword," the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17), and the result is a regenerated heart. "Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ" (Romans 10:17).