

1. THE BEGINNING
2. HE CREATES
3. HE CONVINCES
4. HE CONVICTS
5. HE CONVERTS
6. HE CONSECRATES
7. HE COMFORTS
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THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTS

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth: It is expedient for you that I go away; **for** if I go not away, **the Comforter** will not come unto you; but if I go, I will send him unto you. And he, when he is come, **will convict** the world in **respect of sin**, and of **righteousness**, and of **judgment**" (John 16:7,8 ASV)

THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTS OF SIN

Matthew Henry asserts: "Convicting is the Holy Spirit's work, only He can do it effectually, and none but He. Man may open the cause; but it is the Spirit only that can open the heart. First He lays open the wound, and then applies healing medicines."

EXERCISE 30

Even after we receive Jesus the Holy Spirit continues to seek to *convince* us of our sins for at least three reasons:

1. I John 1:9 " _____, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."
2. James 5:16 "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you _____. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."
3. Luke 7:47 "Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven-- for she loved much. But _____."

Harold Bell Wright in his book That Printer of Udell's gives a vivid description of the Holy Spirit at work convicting a character named "Dick" of his past sins.

"His own life came before him like a horrid vision just as it had done that morning when he learned of his father's death. He saw his childhood home, smelled the odor of the fragrant pines upon the hills, and heard the murmur of the river running past the cabin. Again he heard his drunken father cursing in his sleep, and caught the whisper of his mother's dying prayer; and again he crept stealthily out of the cabin into the glory of the morning, with a lean hound his only companion.

Slowly and painfully he traced his way along the road of memory, recalling every place where he had advanced; every place where he had fallen; going step by step from the innocence of boyhood to the awful knowledge of the man of the world. He had fought, had fallen, had conquered and risen again; always advancing toward the light, but always bearing on his garment the smell of the fire, and upon his hands the stain of the pitch. And now, it was time to respond to this journey of memory across all of his years. He would change!"

Our *human nature* is not bent towards searching out sin. This is well illustrated by a conversation I had with a friend. She remarked, "I have made no mistakes which I regret in life." With amazement I countered that one of the words which translates *sin* in the New Testament is "*mistake*"--to miss the mark. I pointed out that I HAD SINNED OFTEN, and with regret.

During the night the Lord reminded me from Scripture that Isaiah had contemplated the same proposition, and his response was "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, (but) my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty." (Isaiah 6:5)

I arose at 5 the next morning after our discussion, and my mind continued working on the above concept --sins-regret. While meditating, I posed the probability that I had committed many regrettable sins, and that I should formulate a "TOP 12 LIST" of my BIGGEST BLUNDER BOOMERS. As my mind traversed the 60+ years of my life, I quickly reached the BIG DOZEN MARK by the time I was six years old, then on to 20, and I saw 30, 40, 50 coming my way. When I began to include sins of omission, I realized the figure would reach into the thousands. I lost count, mostly because I wanted to, and quickly realized without straining my brain, the figure would reach many thousands.

What is the *value* of being aware of our sins? Jesus said there is a relationship between our many sins forgiven and how much we love. "Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven--for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little." (Luke 7:47) Being conscious of my sin(s) has made me seek the Lord's forgiveness, this greatly amplified my prayer walk, which in turn has increased my love for God and provides a climate for accepting others who sin and seek their Lord.

Thus, do not neglect the Holy Spirit when He seeks to convict us of our sins.

EXERCISE 31

From the following Scriptures list the "tools of conviction" which the Holy Spirit uses. After your answer on each line indicate with "YES" or "NO" whether this "tool" is used today.

Jude 1:9 _____

Jude 1:15 _____

John 8:9 _____

James 2:9 _____

I Corinthians 14:24 _____

II Samuel 12:8 _____

Jonah 1:17; 2:1,2 _____

Jonah 4:5,7,8 _____

Isaiah 6:1,8 _____

Hebrews 4:12 _____

Romans 2:15 _____

Spend some time alone. Allow the Spirit to call to your attention your sins which need confessing. Do so and ask forgiveness.

"Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Selah Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD'-- and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah" (Psalm 32:1-5)

THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth: It is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I go, I will send him unto you. And he, when he is come, will convict the world in respect of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment" (John 16:7,8 ASV)

Jesus interprets the statement about "righteousness" in verse ten--"*in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer;*" John 16:10

While our Lord was here, man could see righteousness personified in human form, but when Jesus returned to the Father we now must allow the Holy Spirit and God's Word to "*convict*" us of righteousness.

Our blessed Holy Spirit *convicts us concerning righteousness* in unique and usually silent ways. Most often we will know **HE** is working when we start doing righteous deeds. Such is the case of this beautiful testimony by Brother Roger Day of Highmore, South Dakota, as he took Jesus to Russia for the thirteenth time. His trips are *different* in that he does not go to build buildings, but save souls for Jesus and strengthen the faith of the Saints!

EXERCISE 32

As a spiritual exercise I ask you to underline or shade the words-phrases which indicate the Holy Spirit at work. I found 45 such items.

"Well, God was on the move in most wonderful ways from the time I got on the first plane until I got off back at home. I prayed that He would reveal His power and that He would see to it that every moment provided opportunities to bless people. He did it. I could not begin to list

everything...although I did write a 30 page journal for my wife. It is hard to say what was the most important part of the trip, but briefly I will say this. Back in May or June the Lord had assured me that the next trip was going to be something very special. About that same time, I wrote and told a young lady who was helping organize the trip. She wrote back and told me that God had spoken the same thing to her. Well, shortly after that, they began to have some very great moves of God amongst the youth...but the elders did not understand it, so they squashed it...I did not know about this, until after the first meeting while I was there. What happened at that first meeting was absolutely beautiful. I watched as God moved on the people. Now mind you, they do not watch Christian television, or read *Charisma* magazine...or anything like that...but here they were...some laughing, some crying, some falling, some jumping...and all praising the Lord, for His presence. The next day, I met with some folks and they told me what had happened in the youth meetings...well, God was just confirming with the elders that they were not going to stop him and He sent them to me to help them understand that they must go with God. Every meeting the intensity increased. People were delivered from smoking, drinking, fears, (there is a lot of strange fear there), demons left, people were saved. Tumors

were healed. One very large man who always hugs me until it feels like he could break my back came to me, and said his strength was gone...I believe it was heart problems and blood flow...at any rate, before I left, I got the same old hugs...his strength was back. The churches were brought together with a vision for reaching the community...one is an old line Pentecostal ... the other a charismatic...both blessed by the power of God and a new love and desire to work together. There were probably fifty people saved, maybe more...we had young men come in from a dance that was going on in another part of the auditorium...I believe they came to mock, but they got in a prayer line and when God was done...they just sort of sat down in a daze. Grandmas came for prayer and I had to catch them in my arms and lay them on the floor...in the midst of all the struggles that are there now..they were experiencing the joy of the Lord, and they loved it...there were twenty or thirty people who, one night the Lord spoke to them that He wanted to use them in powerful ways, if they would yield themselves...they came forward for prayer, and then they went out into the people and prayed for those who wanted prayer. Mostly I have to say that I was a spectator, watching God work His wonders, and thanking Him for letting me be there to watch. I met with a small group of about 25 young actors and actresses. I spoke to them about the goodness of God and then sang them a song, with my interpreter telling them the words. When I was done I asked how many would like to accept Jesus as their savior and get to know Him personally...only two remained sitting. Praise the Lord. One by-product of this, was that a religious cow died in one of the elders who teaches drama...he thought that people could only get saved by praying a certain prayer or with a certain message..but he watched them get saved by the words of a song. He said that his wife repented in the bathroom and that he was no longer bound by tradition and then we all laughed...God does mess with our theology sometimes. Most people think I don't have a theology...but I do have Jesus. I also watched God restore relationships, and saw people sharing with one another and giving and well, most everything that you would expect to happen in the presence of God happened, along with a lot of things that some folks don't think do, or should happen.

In the airports I saw the presence of God bring peace to three different screaming babies. They simply took hold of the finger I held out to them, and got quiet...their parents could only look and I could only smile, as we did not speak each other's language....I prayed for more people than I ever have as I was made more aware of how God can touch and minister to all who we will ask Him too. There is so much that I do not know...and the more I am in His presence the more I feel like I know nothing...I just want to know Him more. This is as close as I can come to a report unless God tells me something different. Let me again say, that I was more of a spectator than a facilitator. I was just privileged to be there. To God be the glory. The letters that people gave me as I left perhaps say the most important thing. They each

conveyed the fact that they loved God more, and were more confident of His love for them, and they were certain that this was only a beginning of what God was going to do now, because they would call upon Him with greater faith than ever. What more could we desire?

Also, we were able to share much financial support with other believers who have needs. We also left a considerable fund for the help of widows and orphans. We visited an orphanage, which we hope to help more in the future...now that is really it....God bless you,

Roger Day -- Date: Thursday, 03 Dec 1998

Now, carry out this truth-- "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. "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:" (John 16:7-8 NKJ)

Write down what He is convicting you about "righteousness." If you have a problem, go back and read this section again.

THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTS OF JUDGMENT

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth: It is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I go, I will send him unto you. And he, when he is come, will convict the world in respect of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment" (John 16:7,8 ASV)

"The devil, the prince of this world was discovered to be a great deceiver and destroyer, and as such judgment was entered against him, and execution in part done. He was cast out of the Gentile world when his oracles were silenced and his altars deserted, cast out of the bodies of many in Christ's name, which miraculous power continued long in the church; he was cast out of the souls of people by the grace of God working with the gospel of Christ; he fell as lightning from heaven.

This is a good argument wherewith the Spirit convinces the world of judgment, that is, First, of inherent holiness and sanctification, (Matthew 12:18). By the judgment of the prince of

this world, it appears that Christ is stronger than Satan, and can disarm and dispossess him, and set up his throne upon the ruin of his. Secondly, of a new and better dispensation of things, He shall show that Christ's errand into the world was to set things right in it, and to introduce times of reformation and regeneration; and he proves it by this, that the prince of this world, the great master of misrule, is judged and expelled. All will be well when his power is broken who made the mischief. Thirdly, of the power and dominion of the Lord Jesus, He shall convince the world that all judgment is committed to him, and that he is the Lord of all, which is evident by this, that he has judged the prince of this world, has broken the serpent's head, destroyed him that had the power of death, and spoiled principalities; if Satan be thus subdued by Christ, we may be sure no other power can stand before him. Fourthly, of the final day of judgment; all the obstinate enemies of Christ's gospel and kingdom shall certainly be reckoned with at last, for the devil, their ringleader, is judged." Matthew Henry

Augustine is an earthly example of *judgment*

Augustine (c.604 AD) was unable to calm the inner storm of unrest that raged within him and could no longer ignore it. Finally he threw himself prostrate under a Fig tree, his body wrenching violently and uncontrollably with sobs. Augustine found himself crying out to God, "End my uncleanness O Lord! End my uncleanness!"

Between his praying and weeping, he heard the voice of a child in a nearby house begin to chant, "Take up and read! Take up and read!"

Augustine remembered the Bible he had brought with him. With shaking hands, he opened it to Romans 13:12 in obedience to the voice of the unseen Child. He read: **Not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying; but, put you on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh in concupiscence.**

Not in rioting and drunkenness . . . He had partied since the days of his youth.

Not in chambering . . . He had lived a life of fornication and fathered a son outside of marriage.

Not in wantonness . . . His mind was a filthy pit of unclean thoughts.

Not in strife and envying . . . He spent his whole life striving for power and status. He envied everyone in a higher position than he held.

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ . . . He had done nothing but mock and jeer the only one who loved him enough to die for him. *Make not provision for the flesh*. He had cared for nothing or no one, but was concerned only with his own fleshly and self-centered desires.

In concupiscence . . . His whole being was saturated with lust.

His inner core of rotteness was exposed by the light of God's Word. He had never seen himself as he really was. He cringed at the stench of vile filth within him. For the first time in his life, he stood alone, naked in spirit, before the piercing gaze of a holy God, and prayed:

"Oh, my God! End your conviction of me! End my uncleanness, O Lord!"

And God opened a fountain for cleansing sin and uncleanness, the precious blood of his only begotten Son. Augustine became a new creation in Christ.

Light literally blazed into his heart, driving out darkness and all other gods with its presence.

"Oh, my Christ." Augustine prayed in wonder and awe. "Let me live the rest of my life only to please you."

Men stared as Augustine ran from the garden, his face lit from within, his torch held confidently.

"I have no need to ever consult another astrologer," he cried. "Yes, I consulted these impostors, but Christ is and forever more will be my guide!"

All his craving for worldly success was gone. The esteem of men meant nothing to him. Why should he marry an heiress he did not love? He broke his engagement. He resigned his position as professor and retreated to a country villa to write.

Shortly after beginning his new life, his restlessness resumed. He turned to the Scriptures for help, and daily grounded himself in the Word of God. And the restlessness was again replaced with a beautiful peace.

EXERCISE 33

List the "tools of conviction" which the Holy Spirit uses in Augustine's confrontation with God. If you look closely there are at least eight "tools".

The solution for Isaiah is described in these words: "Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." (Isaiah 6:6,7) It is imperative along with considering our sin(s) that we confess the same to God, (I John 1:7) then forgive ourselves and forget them just as God has done.

Read again David's experience after he had sinned:

"O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me." (Psalm 51:1b-12)

This searching out our sin process helps to make the grand old hymn a reality in our life, "Lord, to my heart bring back the springtime, Take away the cold and dark of sin; O return to me, sweet Holy Spirit, May I warm and tender be again."

Spend some time alone with the Lord, confess your sins and ask for forgiveness.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives." (I John 1:9,10)

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."
(James 5:16)