

THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT

JUNE 3, 2020

INTRODUCTION:

The plan of redemption involves all members of the Godhead. The Father planned it, Jesus consummated it and the Holy Spirit makes it a reality in the life of anyone who believes. Nothing can be done by the Spirit for anyone until they come to Jesus. They can't come to Jesus without the conviction provided by the Holy Spirit.

JOHN 16:7-11 (NLT)

Before returning to heaven, Jesus taught His disciples about the coming and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

- V7** – Why would it be more profitable? Because as powerful as Jesus' teachings were, they were still filled with prejudice and error. They still expected a temporal kingdom, and didn't understand the need for His death. **JOHN 16:12** Jesus only gave them an outline because that's all they could bear and He knew it! They wouldn't understand the changes that would take place concerning the Jewish system: sacrifices being abolished, priesthood no longer necessary, and more. Even in **ACTS 1:6** after the resurrection they were still looking for an earthly kingdom. **ACTS 1:7-8** The work of the Spirit was necessary to open their eyes to see the Father's plan.
- V8-11** – The Spirit will reprove (convince or convict) the world of three important truths: of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. This means the Spirit will so apply the truth to men's minds that they'll be convicted of their sinful state.
- Of sin – The first and most important work of the Spirit deals with rejecting Jesus. This is the sin of chief magnitude. The Jews were guilty of rejecting Jesus and having Him crucified. Peter used this truth to convince them of their lost condition. **ACTS 2:22-24, 37** This is true of everyone – **JOHN 3:36** The sin that banishes one from God's presence is that of rejecting Jesus. **JOHN 5:39-40**
 - Of righteousness – First, of the innocence of Jesus. He would convince the world that even through He died a criminal's death, He was innocent. "Because I go the Father" the resurrection was the demonstration of His innocence that would satisfy Jew and Gentile alike. God wouldn't raise up an imposter. **1 TIMOTHY 3:16** Conviction comes when one sees Jesus as holy, righteous and just. This view convicts of one's unrighteousness. **ISAIAH 64:6** We can't make ourselves righteous.
 - Of Judgment – God is just and executes righteous judgment. The Spirit reveals that if Satan has been judged, then God will also judge all men. This conviction of being eternally lost causes men to flee to the cross and seek in Christ a refuge from the coming storm of God's wrath.

In these verses we have a condensed version of the work of the Spirit. These three things comprise the whole of His agency in the conversion of men. Even today He empowers those who preach the gospel and manifests His powers in revivals that shake the world and drive sinners to their knees. Azusa street attests to what one move of God can accomplish. **ACTS 2:17-21; 8:1, 5-8, 12; 10:44-48, 11:15-18** The work of the Spirit is to bring people to Christ.