**Holy Spirit Conviction**

 A Brief Commentary

 by

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Holy Spirit Conviction. What is it? When does it take place? Why is it necessary?

I once heard a preacher say that he believed that Holy Spirit conviction is our conscience speaking to us.

The Holy Spirit may sometimes use our conscience, but Holy Spirit conviction goes far beyond what our conscience often tells us. We sometimes change the thinking of our conscience by worldly standards. God’s standards never change.

*1 Timothy 4:1-2 Now the Spirit speaketh* ***expressly,*** *that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy;* ***having their conscience seared with a hot iron;***

It is the Holy Spirit who convicts us of our sinful condition to bring us to salvation. Man in his unsaved condition is so taken up in the things of this world that he has no desire for salvation. He is *“dead in trespasses and sins”. Ephesians 2:1*

*John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day*.

Because we are spiritually dead, we cannot come to God, until we have been convicted of our sinful condition and brought to repentance.

Before a baby is born there is life. The mother will tell you there is life when the unborn child (kicks her). The doctor can check and find a heartbeat, denoting life. So life precedes birth. Likewise God awakens a lost sinner from the dead (we were dead in sin). Shows him his lost condition and gives him repentance and faith to bring about salvation and new birth.

*Ephesians 2:1-5 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;).*

The question is, how do we come to the point of repentance? Repentance is God given and we receive it only by yielding to Holy Spirit conviction. We may not realize it at the time, but as we look back we see that until such conviction took place we were not concerned about repentance, nor did we even desire that precious salvation that only God can give.

*2 Timothy 2:25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will* ***give them repentance*** *to the acknowledging of the truth;*

Likewise God gives us the **faith** to trust Him for salvation**:**

*Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith;* ***and that*** (the faith) *not* *of yourselves: it is the gift of God*:

*Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

It seems that unsaved man always wants to weigh the good against the bad, and thinks that if he does more good than bad, that he will get to heaven. Nothing could be further from the truth. Unsaved man can do **nothing** to please God.

*Isaiah 64:6 But we are* ***all as an unclean thing****, and* ***all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags****; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

God is only satisfied with purity and perfection, **and we have none of that.** However when we repent and humbly ask God for forgiveness, He takes away our sin and imputes to us His righteousness. That does not mean that we are a sinless being, for we are still in a sinful world, and still are tainted with worldly sin. We will only attain perfection when we are taken home to glory.

The well known preacher of preachers, Dr. Charles H. Spurgeon, gave the following testimony**:**

“The thought struck me. *How did you become a Christian?* I sought the Lord. *But* *how did you come to seek the Lord?* The truth flashed across my mind in a moment–I should not have sought him unless there had been some previous influence in my mind to make me seek Him. I prayed thought I, but then I asked myself, *How come I to pray?* I was induced to pray by reading the Scriptures. *How came I to read the Scriptures?* I did read them, *but what led me to do so?* Then, in a moment I saw that God was at the bottom of it all, and He was the author of my faith, and so the whole doctrine of grace opened up to me, and from that doctrine I have not departed to this day, and I desire to make this my constant confession, I ascribe my change wholly to God.”

Holy Spirit conviction, can come at whatever time The Lord so chooses. The Holy Spirit brings conviction, to bring us to salvation, also to direct our lives after we are saved. Without His direction we would be very poor Christians having no real direction in our lives. He helps us in understanding the Scriptures. He aids us in our prayer life, and gives us direction in our witness for God.

*John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name,* ***he shall teach you all things****, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

*Romans 8:26 Likewise* ***the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities****: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself* ***maketh intercession for us*** *with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

When we are saved we begin a new life. We must learn how to walk, how to talk, how to pray. For our walk is now before the Lord, our way of life is different, our conversation is different, and we now must learn to pray, (talk with our saviour and listen to Him).

*John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

When we are saved (born again), we are indwelt by God’s Holy Spirit. We, therefore, have the responsibility to conduct our lives in such a way that we do not grieve Him.

*Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption*

When The Holy Spirit comes to dwell in us, He also makes us a member God’s family, (the church).

*Galatians 3:26,27 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

*1 Corinthians 3:16,17 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.*

*Romans 8:9,10 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit,* ***if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.*** *Now* ***if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*** *And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*

*Galatians 4:4-6 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons,* ***God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.***

On the previous page I stated that “when we are saved The Holy Spirit makes us a member of God’s family (the Church).”Please do not misunderstand*.* Becoming a member of an organized Church does not bring about salvation. Those persons who have been (born again) into God’s kingdom, are the true Church. There may be many who have their names on a Church register who do not know our Lord Jesus Christ and are therefore, none of His.

*2 Peter 1:10,11 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to* ***make your calling and election sure:*** *for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:* ***For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.***

Are you sure, my friend*?* Have you responded to Holy Spirit Conviction? Are you a member of God’s Family?