

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK WITH THE UNSAVED

"And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged." John 16:8-11.

1. He bears witness to the truth regarding Jesus Christ. "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning." John 15:26-27.

"The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him." Acts 5:30-32.

2. He illuminates their understanding.
3. He convicts sinners.
"And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." John 16:8.

Of what does the Holy Spirit convict the unsaved?

- (1) Of sin committed.

Real conviction for sin can only be produced by the Holy Spirit. His convicting work is always identified with the gospel of Christ. Of what sin does the Holy Spirit convict men? It is the sin of unbelief. "Of sin, because they believe not on me." John 16:9. The Holy Spirit convicts men that rejection of Christ is sin.

- (2) Of righteousness imputed.

The Holy Spirit convicts men of their need of that righteousness which Christ alone can give. "Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more." John 16:10.

- (3) Of judgment accomplished.

"Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged." John 16:11.

God passed judgment upon Satan and sin in the death of Christ on the cross.

The Holy Spirit convicts the unsaved through believers in Christ using the Word of God. He is trying to reach someone through your lips and your life.

4. He strives with men.
"And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years." Genesis 6:3.
5. He persuades men to believe on Christ.
The Holy Spirit persuades those whom He has made conscious of their guilt of sin in not believing on Christ to trust Him as their Saviour and through doing so to receive the salvation which was planned by the Father and provided by the Son.

6. He regenerates the believer.

"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."
John 3:5.

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost." Titus 3:5.

Regeneration is the impartation of the divine nature to a human being. In regeneration man is given a new mind, a new will, and new affections. Man may convert, but only the Holy Spirit can regenerate.