

The Holy Spirit: Convicts & Instructs

Scripture Focus: John 14:26, 16:4b-15, Matthew 10:19-20, 2 Cor. 3:17-18

The beautiful promise of the Holy Spirit coming to us includes the supreme privilege of being convicted and instructed by the Spirit so we might become more like Jesus. Created in God's image and then guided by the Holy Spirit, we can be changed, little by little, into the likeness of Christ Jesus. (2 Cor. 3:17-18) The Holy Spirit is there to remind (convict) us when we are NOT like Jesus and then gives us the instruction and tools to become more like him.

- What, if any, is the difference between the verbs convict and condemn?
- Jesus makes clear that the Spirit “**...will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment...**” (John 16:8) What do you think this means?
- How does the Holy Spirit prompt us to be more like Jesus? What does this require of us if indeed it is the ultimate goal of our life in Christ?

Consider that Jesus wanted his disciples to be sure the Spirit would be faithfully persistent and indispensable in reminding them of everything Jesus had said to them. By so doing, the disciples would have a much better chance of remaining faithful to the mission and ministry Jesus was calling them to.

- Name a few of the sayings/teachings of Jesus that you think his disciples might have found particularly encouraging as they began their work, those words they would have been very glad the Spirit reminded them of? Might Matthew 10:19-20 have been one of them?
- Consider the example of Stephen, a man “**...full of faith and the Holy Spirit...**” (Acts 6:5c). Stephen was also described as “**...full of grace and power...**” (v. 8). Take some time and read through Acts chapter 7 to know what Stephen said and did when he was brought before the Jewish Council. Look especially at his words in Acts 7:59, 60. Who does he sound like?
- What must we do to be more like Jesus? **Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus...** (Philippians 2:5) How might this be realized in our daily lives? How do we cooperate with the Holy Spirit to accomplish this?