

## Series: The Gift of the Holy Spirit

# The Spirit of Judgment and the Spirit of Burning

June 11, 2023

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The Holy Spirit is a Person, holy and without sin, who functions in a conscious state of mind and who expresses emotion in righteousness. The Holy Spirit has mind, will, and emotions.

As we delve into the heart of the Holy Spirit, we will be describing particular frames of mind that He uses to express Himself in order to reveal His divine purpose for a particular situation. The Holy Spirit responds differently, depending upon a situation. The ultimate purpose is to reveal Jesus, to reveal truth, and to fulfill the Father's eternal plans.

We are temples of the Holy Spirit as believers (2 Cor. 3:16) in the Body of Christ and so the Holy Spirit works in us and through us for His purposes. We can cooperate better as we know more about who the Holy Spirit is and what Scripture tells us about His frame of mind.

For example, the Holy Spirit exalts Jesus Christ, and so does not call attention to the vessel through whom He works. His purpose is to glorify Christ and reveal truth. So we need to learn to get out of God's way.

Just as Jesus made Himself of no reputation but walked in humility, so also the Holy Spirit is the spirit of humility revealing His devotion and love for the Father. The Holy Spirit does not make a reputation for Himself or for our flesh. Others should see Jesus in us and should God choose to use us, we want people to glory in the Giver and not that we have certain gifts or callings.

**Conviction.** Today I want to talk about **the convicting frame of mind of the Holy Spirit**. Conviction can mean a firmly held belief, opinion, view, thought, persuasion, idea, position, or stance. It can also mean a formal declaration that someone is guilty in a court of law. Conviction is an act of pleading, beseeching, or reproof.

When the Holy Spirit is in the frame of mind to convict someone, He comes to make us conscious of the one true and living God and to make us conscious of our human nature, our sinful ways and deeds. John 16:8-15.

**And when He [the Holy Spirit] has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: <sup>9</sup>of sin, because they do not believe in Me; <sup>10</sup>of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; <sup>11</sup>of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.**

<sup>12</sup>“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now.

<sup>13</sup>However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth;

for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. <sup>14</sup>He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you. <sup>15</sup>All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare *it* to you. John 16:8-15, NKJV

G1651: *elegchō* [*e leg HO*]

1. to convict, refute, confute
  - a. generally with a suggestion of shame of the person convicted
  - b. by conviction to bring to the light, to expose
2. to find fault with, correct
  - a. by word
    1. to reprehend severely, chide, admonish, reprove
    2. to call to account, show one his fault, demand an explanation
  - b. by deed
    1. to chasten, to punish

**In conviction, the Holy Spirit comes irresistibly** in love and power to show people their guilt before a holy God and to point them to Jesus Christ, who alone can deliver from guilt by paying the debt note of sin in their behalf and to the Father's satisfaction sufficiently.

**Conviction is not condemnation.** Condemnation accuses and speaks of failure and defeat. Christ did not come to condemn the world but that the world might be saved through Him. There is no condemnation in Christ Jesus. John 3:17; Romans 8:1. The Holy Spirit starts a process of repentance unto life and inner change with His convicting power. **He convicts until a person is convinced and finally repents and converts to take up Truth.**

The convicting power of the Holy Spirit brings a person closer to Christ and away from dysfunctional despair. The Holy Spirit through this process brings a person out of learned helplessness and hopelessness to help and hope in Jesus Christ.

**Conviction produces true repentance**, not just crying over getting caught; but completely turning away from revealed sin. Repentance unto life is a way of life, not a one-time act. With new revelation of truth, the Holy Spirit convicts and brings us to righteousness through repentance. The convicting power of the Holy Spirit should be welcomed in our lives as the Holy Spirit guides believers into all truth and leads them out of darkness into God's marvelous light.

Even though natural man is dead in trespasses and sins, devoid of any true holiness, and by nature a child of wrath, yet he is still a rational being with a conscience. Romans 1:32; 2:15. The Holy Spirit brings sins clearly to a person's mind and conscience and makes him realize the true condition of his soul as a transgressor of God's holy law. The Holy Spirit changes the heart first through regeneration and arouses someone from moral stupor.

**Ephesians 5:14 Wherefore he says, Awake you that sleeps, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. KJV**

**“Wake up, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” ESV**

Even the unregenerate will have their own consciences condemn them as they stand guilty before God. (Romans 3:19). But those whose hearts have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit in the work of salvation will experience how powerful those convictions can be.

My personal salvation testimony is one of alarming apprehensions of danger, frightful images of terror, Hell becoming real, fear of dying without Christ, a real spiritual conviction of the exceeding sinfulness of sin. I was especially convicted and indicted for unbelief.

**Beyond conviction is being convinced and truly converted.** We must remember this. A person can acknowledge Hell, experience deep conviction of sin, be quite conscious of their rebellion against a holy God, be convinced of the justice of God, and become very zealous to escape the torments of Hell under self-preservation and take up “religion” but never surrender to Jesus as LORD and so continue in a false peace. The Holy Spirit regenerates the heart. Titus 3:4-7.

**The Holy Spirit in conviction is occupied more with sin itself than with punishment.** Better to be honest, humble, and without presumption. It is Satan who wants to beat people up with condemnation. Luke 11:21. God is after the true repentance that follows true conviction of sin. Psalm 51:3. God reproves (Psalm 50:21). The Holy Spirit pierces the heart (Job 6:4; Acts 2:37)

**The Holy Spirit in conviction unveils the evil nature of sin.** He gets specific, not general as in anxiety. E.g. Jeremiah 32:33. The Spirit causes a person to see and feel that he has forsaken the way of life and preferred to worship the creature rather than the Creator and has wanted to indeed kill the Creator and take His place. A person’s soul becomes overwhelmed with the multitude of sins committed until it breaks under the “weighing” process. (Isaiah 1:6) A person comes to see himself as the Word declares him to be without Christ—a dirty, rotten scoundrel, sinner, worm and no man, and dust. The soul that sins must surely die. Sin is proud rebellion against God, cosmic treason, an offense deserving of death and eternal separation from life and blessing.

**Then the Holy Spirit convicts a person of the character and nature of God.** The pure light of God shines upon the soul and into the conscience over against the darkness that horrifies the soul. God is holy; I am undone, unclean, an ingrate, abusing God’s goodness, spurning His grace and mercy, perverting His truth, on a collision course headed for destruction.

The Holy Spirit uses the sharp knife of the Law to circumcise the heart, pierce the conscience, and convict until all iniquity is laid bare. Corruption is uncovered, putrefaction can no longer be covered by incense and perfumes, and the light of God reveals a core of evil hiding in the darkness. We see and feel our wretchedness. We smell the stench. We hear the Word. We taste the gall.

**When the Holy Spirit moves to salvation, a person cannot resist His grace.** The Holy Spirit humbles Himself to enter our depraved hearts and to cause us to be born-

out-of-God ones. He endures who we are in order to apply the accomplished work of Christ to our souls. He stoops to convict us of sin. He is the Spirit of judgment and the Spirit of burning. (Isaiah 4:4)

Isaiah 4:3-6 NKJV

**<sup>3</sup>And it shall come to pass that *he who is* left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy—everyone who is recorded among the living in Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup>When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and purged the blood [or bloodshed] of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and by the spirit of burning, <sup>5</sup>then the LORD will create above every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and above her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night. For over all the glory there *will be* a covering [or canopy]. <sup>6</sup>And there will be a tabernacle for shade in the daytime from the heat, for a place of refuge, and for a shelter from storm and rain.**

**The Spirit of Judgment meets with and detects sin, condemns it, and flames forth to consume it.** What the Spirit of Judgment condemns, the Spirit of Burning sets on fire and consumes the filth exposed; it is unable to stand before His devouring flame.

**2 Corinthians 7:10-11: <sup>10</sup>Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation without regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. <sup>11</sup>Consider what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what zeal, what vindication! In every way you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. Berean**

Earnestness, eagerness, indignation, alarm, longing, and concern are all produced by the flaming forth of the Spirit of Judgment under the gospel as attending godly sorrow for sin.

**John 15:1-3: <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. John 15:1-4 NKJV**

“By the word of the Lord, the soul is cleansed; for with the word of the Lord goes forth the spirit of judgment. But with that spirit of judgment, and following close upon it, is the spirit of burning in a holy indignation and fiery zeal against that filth which is thus discovered.” (J. C. Philpot, 1869)

The convicting process of the Holy Spirit defends against error, evil, temptations, and enemies. Until sin is seen, acknowledged, confessed, mourned, and repented of, one does not sense the glorious Presence of the Holy. Then the glory shall be a defense as God guards and defends His own gracious work. Our God is a consuming fire. It is to be welcomed by those covered by the blood of Christ, covered by His righteousness. Perfect love casts out fear.

**Unbelief is the root of all sin.** The Holy Spirit moving in conviction helps us battle unbelief and fight the good fight of the faith. 2 Corinthians 7:1-7, Hebrews 10:19-25.

**<sup>1</sup>Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**

### **The Corinthians' Repentance**

**<sup>2</sup>Open *your hearts* to us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have cheated no one. <sup>3</sup>I do not say *this* to condemn; for I have said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together. <sup>4</sup>Great *is* my boldness of speech toward you, great *is* my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort. I am exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation.**

**<sup>5</sup>For indeed, when we came to Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were troubled on every side. Outside *were* conflicts, inside *were* fears. <sup>6</sup>Nevertheless God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, <sup>7</sup>and not only by his coming, but also by the consolation with which he was comforted in you, when he told us of your earnest desire, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced even more. 2 Cor. 7:1-7 NKJV**

Hebrews 10:19-25 - **<sup>19</sup>Therefore, brethren, having boldness<sup>[f]</sup> to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, <sup>21</sup>and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. <sup>24</sup>And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, <sup>25</sup>not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:19-25 NKJV**

**Finally, 1 Timothy 1:5. The end [telos] of the commandment is love out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned [G505-without hypocrisy, sincere, without disguise].**

The end [G5056] is that by which a thing is finished, the limit at which a thing ceases to be, the end to which all things relate, as purpose and/or aim. So that's the purpose, the goal—of the commandment, namely, love out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned, a faith that is without hypocrisy, that is sincere, and that is without disguise.

Our lives as true believers simply go better when we understand what the Holy Spirit's up to and we cooperate, or get with the program. May we not have to go "around the mountain" again and again before we get the pattern. Everything we need for life and godliness is in the Word of the Living God. Amen.

<sup>2</sup>Grace and peace be multiplied to you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. <sup>3</sup> His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. <sup>4</sup>Through these He has given us His precious and magnificent promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, now that you have escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires....2 Peter 1:2-4 BSB

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