

# HOLY SPIRIT IN CONVICTION AND CONVERSION

## INTRODUCTION

- A. There has been much theorizing and speculation concerning work of the Holy Spirit in conversion
- B. The question is not, does the Holy Spirit have a part in conversion, but rather how does the Holy Spirit convict and convert the sinner.
- C. This will be our task in this study, to determine just HOW or the MEDIUM which the Holy Spirit uses to convict and convert the sinner.

## DISCUSSION:

### I. WHAT IS CONVICTION AND CONVERSION?

- A. Conviction means to cause to feel shame for deeds to make one realize he is in sin; to find a person guilty
  1. By its very definition it must come first in this process of conviction and conversion
  2. Unless one is made to realize their sins, conversion will never take place.
- B. Conversion means to turn from one thing and to turn to something else, to change a course of action.
  1. This necessarily follows conviction
  2. When made aware of sin one either turns from sin or becomes hardened so they no longer care.
  3. Conversion is not salvation - It is a moral process which takes place within the person - salvation or remission of sins takes place in the mind of God.
- C. How is conversion accomplished?
  1. There is a change of heart produced by faith.
  2. Then a change of life produced by repentance
  3. Last a change of state produced by baptism

### II. HOW IS HOLY SPIRIT INVOLVED IN THIS PROCESS?

- A. Does the Spirit operate in some mysterious mystical way and make us conscious of our sins?
- B. Does He change our heart and life by same process and miraculously admit us into the family of God?
- C. If this is true then:
  1. Why no evidence of a single person who became a Christian to whom the gospel was never preached?
  2. Why is it that direct spiritual influence never changed anyone's character?
  3. Why did Paul say: "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Phil 2:12
  4. God would be respecter of persons if he did not save everybody - since according to this theory, man has nothing to do with his salvation, the Holy Spirit would be duty bound to miraculously save every person.
- D. Apparent this reasoning is not correct, so how does the Holy Spirit work in conviction and conversion?

### III. SPIRIT CONVICTS AND CONVERTS THROUGH MEDIUM OF WORD

- A. Whatever the Spirit is said to do in convicting and converting, the Word of God is said to do also.
- B. Scholars suggest at least 25 different workings of Holy Spirit also attributed to the Word. These ten are listed and should be sufficient to substantiate this point.

ACTION	SPIRIT	WORD OF GOD
Witnesses	Rom 8:16	Jhn 5:39
Instructs	Neh 9:20	2Tim 3:16,17
Convicts	Jhn 16:8	Tit 1:9
Begets	2Cor 3:6	Jas 1:18
Born of	Jhn 3:5,8	1Pet 1:23
Saves	Tit 3:5	Jas 1:21
Sanctifies	1Cor 6:11	Jhn 17:17
Cleanses	1Cor 6:11	Jhn 15:3
Indwells	Rom 8:9	Col 3:16
Washed by	1Cor 6:11	Eph 5:26

- C. Examples of conversion - in every case the Word of God was preached, heard, believed and obeyed
  1. Conversion on Pentecost Acts 2:36,37,38,41,47
  2. The Samaritans Acts 8:5, 6, 12
  3. The Ethiopian Acts 8:35-38
  4. Saul of Tarsus Acts chapters 9, 22 and 26
  5. Cornelius Acts chapter 10
- D. There were miracles involved in all of these cases but not in the actual conversion process of any of them.
  1. The heart was changed by faith Acts 15:9 and faith comes by hearing the Word of God Rom 10:17
  2. Manner of life was changed by repentance Lk 13:3; Acts 2:38 - there was no miracle in this change.
  3. State changed by baptism Rom 6:3; Gal 3:27. Sins are forgiven God recognizes them as His children.

## CONCLUSION:

- A. God loves the sinner Jhn 3:16 and because he loved the sinner, He sent His Son to die for them.
- B. After returning to God, Christ sent the Comforter (Holy Spirit) to guide the apostles into all truth Jhn 16:7-13. Which they wrote down for us.
- C. Sinners, hearing, believing, repenting, and being baptized were saved and added to church by the Lord Acts 2:22-47
- D. No person in apostolic age or since ever received direct operation of the Holy Spirit to make them a Christian.
- E. Foolish to wait for some mysterious, miraculous, "better felt than told," operation of the Holy Spirit (which is not commanded and of which there is no Bible example) and neglect to obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ. 2Thess 1:6-9