

**Victoria Fellowship Church**  
**International & Interdenominational**  
**Bible Study Worksheet – July 11, 2021**

**Theme:** The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit **Topic:** The Holy Spirit convicts of sin

**Main Text:** John 16:5 -15, Acts 2:37- 41.

**Key verse:** John 16:8: “And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment”(NKJV)

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**INTRODUCTION:** Last week, we kicked off this quarter’s sermon series with a look at “*the Person of the Holy Spirit*”. The main purpose of that study was to help us understand that the Holy Spirit is a Person – just like the Father and the Son. And as the third Person in the Trinity, that He has some distinct role in the purposes of God in the world. One of the primary roles of the Holy Spirit is that of conviction. Mostly, the New Testament speaks of the convicting role of the Holy Spirit among believers. But in John 16:8, Jesus said the Holy Spirit would convict the world of sin, and of righteousness and of judgement. The word which is translated as *Conviction* in the New Testament is derived from two Latin words which mean ‘to cause to see.’ Other usage of these Latin words found in the New Testament include ‘reproof’, ‘prove’, ‘illuminate.’ So, when it comes to sin, it takes the Holy Spirit’s power of conviction for the unbeliever to come to the realization that he/she is on the path to damnation and therefore requires to turn to God in repentance

- 1. Read John 8:46; Acts 2:37; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 4:17-18 (a) How do you think the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin? (b) Why do you think it is necessary for the world to be convicted of sin? (c) According to John 16:9, what is the principal sin which the world is guilty of?**

This role of the Holy Spirit in convicting the world of sin is not only to cause the world to see their sin. This is because, it is one thing to recognize one’s sin, and a different matter to see one’s guilt. But when a sense of guilt is triggered in a person, it can create a burden which weighs on a person’s heart, like we read in Acts 2:37, the people were cut to the heart. In Psalm 51:6-7, the Psalmist lamented his sinful condition, “*For I was born a sinner— yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. But You desire honesty from the womb, teaching me wisdom even there.*” Man’s sin nature makes it difficult for humans to readily recognize their sin and feel remorse for it. And *apart from the Spirit’s convicting work, people can never see themselves as sinners.* This is one problem Jesus often tried to draw the attention of the Pharisees and religious leaders to when He told them “*If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.*” (John 9:41).

- 2. Read Psalm 51: 1-5; Acts 2:37-41; 2 Corinthians 7:8-11. (a) What is the difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow? (b) Which do you think the Holy Spirit produces in a person? (c) What is the result of a heart convicted by the Holy Spirit?**

There is a huge difference between "conviction" and "condemnation." The feeling of remorse can either bring conviction or condemnation. It is like getting to a T-junction where a choice must be made to the left or to the right. So, it is not enough to bring someone to feel remorse for their actions. They also need to make a choice going forward. Judas and Peter, two of Jesus’ disciples are classic examples of worldly sorrow versus godly sorrow. On Jesus’ last night on earth, both Judas and Peter betrayed Him. And both felt remorse for their actions but their response to their sense of guilt was different. Judas hung himself; while Peter wept for his failure but stayed in the fold and was there to receive restoration upon Jesus’ resurrection (Matthew 27:3-5; John 21:7-19). Similarly, when the people heard Peter’s message, ‘... *they were cut to the heart*’ and asked what to do. Yet, at the end of the day, not all those who were cut to the heart accepted the message that day (Acts 2:37-41). Like the NIV study Bible note puts it, ‘*People who believe in Jesus believe what He says about their guilt and turn to Him. That is, the Spirit’s convicting work graciously helps the world recognize that they are sinners and need a Savior. Through this process they turn to believe in Jesus and thus stop being “the world.”*’

- 3. Read Ephesians 2:2; 2 Corinthians 4:4, 1 John 5:19 and Lk 13:16. (a) How does the convicting power of the Holy Spirit help us to understand how to reach out to unbelievers with the gospel? (b) What should be our reaction when those we witness to seem not to respond?**

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**Prayer:** Lord, we thank You for sending the Holy Spirit who convicts us of sin. Please raise in our country an increased awareness of our sinfulness and dire need of a Savior in the Person of Jesus Christ. In Jesus’ name. Amen.