

Wheelersburg Baptist Church 12/19/12 Wednesday evening  
"Let the Wind Blow: A Doctrinal Study of the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit"  
part 9—The Ministry of the Spirit in the World

Outline of Study of the Holy Spirit

- I. The Person of the Holy Spirit
  - A. Who is He?
  - B. What is He like? (His attributes)
- II. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit
  - A. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Church
    1. In Worship (Jn 4:23-24)
    2. In Unity (Eph 4)
    3. In mobilizing for outreach ("filling")
  - B. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian
    1. In salvation (regeneration--John 3) (baptism--I Cor 12:13)
    2. Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)
    3. Filling of the Spirit (Eph 5:18)
    4. Sanctification (II Cor 3:18)
    5. Sets free from Habits (Eph 4-5)
  - C. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the World
    1. Convicting of sin (John 16)
    2. Restraining (II Thes 1)

Current Series: "Let the Wind Blow: The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit"

We've been learning about the ministry of the Spirit. We've considered what He does in the Church. Recently, we've explored what He does in the life of the Christian (the last two times on the subject, "The Spirit's Power over Destructive Habits"). Tonight, we're going to launch into a third major area.

**The Ministry of the Holy Spirit in the World**

What does the Holy Spirit do in the world? (see Elwell, 160)

1. The Spirit created.  
Key Texts: Genesis 1:2; Job 33:4, 6; Ps 104:30
2. The Spirit convicts.  
Key Text: John 16:7-11
  - a. Convicts of sin
  - b. Convicts of righteousness
  - c. Convicts of judgment
3. The Spirit testifies and converts.  
Key Texts: John 15:26; Rom 8:16; 1 Cor 2:11-14; Gal 3:3

What does the Holy Spirit do in the world? (see Elwell, 160) The Bible mentions at least three activities...

**1. The Spirit created.**

**Key Texts: Genesis 1:2; Job 33:4; Ps 33:6; Ps 104:30**

To do: Have different people look up these verses, and read them. Then ask the group the following questions.

Q: Acc. to Gen 1:2, Who was present at the creation event?

Q: What did Job testify about the Spirit, in Job 33:4? He has made me.

Q: Acc. to Ps 33:6, how did the stars come into existence? By the Word...

Q: In Ps 104:30, we are told "they are created" by the Spirit. Who are "they"?

See v 4 (angels), v 12 (birds), v 14 (grass, cattle), v 16 (trees), v 18 (high hills), v 19 (moon), v 20 (darkness), v 21 (young lions), v 26 (leviathan).

The key word is "involvement." The Spirit was (and is) involved in creation.

Discuss: What encouragement does this truth give us?

**2. The Spirit convicts.**

**Key Text: John 16:7-11**

Context:

--Upper Room Discourse

--Jesus warned his disciples that danger was ahead. He was leaving. After He left, the world would do what to them? V 2 "kill"

--What kind of impact did these words have on the disciples? V 6 "Sorrow"

Q: Why did Jesus say it would be to their benefit if He left? V 7 "I will send the Comforter."

Q: What did Jesus say the Holy Spirit would do when He came? V 8 Reprove/convict the world. It's a legal word (Wiersbe, 362) that means "to bring to light, to expose, to refute, to convict and convince." It could be translated "pronounce the verdict." As Wiersbe says, "Believers are witnesses, the Holy Spirit is the 'prosecuting attorney,' and the unsaved are the guilty prisoners. However, the purpose of this indictment is not to condemn but to bring salvation."

Of what does the Spirit convict the world?

a. *Convict of sin*

What sin? V 9 "Because they believe not on Me" (the sin of unbelief, Jn 3:18)

b. *Convict of righteousness*

Not UNrighteousness, but righteousness. Whose? Jesus Christ's (see v 10)

c. *Convict of judgment*

See v 11--Satan has been judged, and all who reject Christ will be judged.

Discuss: What's the connective word "because" indicate here (used 3 times)?

Jesus says the Spirit will convict of sin *because* men do not believe in Him, of righteousness *because* He is going to the Father and will no longer be seen, of judgment *because* the prince of the world stands judged. The Spirit is Jesus' "right hand associate." He represents Jesus, doing the ministries Jesus did while on earth. The Spirit also does ministries that exalt Jesus.

Think about this. The Spirit has come to engage in the ministry of conviction...

Discuss: What are the marks of genuine conviction? How can we tell if a person is under the conviction of the Holy Spirit? His conviction is related to these three areas.

Caution: We need to be careful not to try to do the Spirit's work. We can use "manipulation" as a substitute for true "conviction"

Discuss: How so? E.g.--using emotional stories to scare people into "making a decision"

### **3. The Spirit testifies and converts.**

**Key Texts: John 15:26; Rom 8:16; 1 Cor 2:11-14; Gal 3:3**

Q: What is the #1 aim of the Spirit in the lives of people? Jn 15:26 Testify of Christ  
The Holy Spirit brings a lost person to Christ. He convicts the lost person of his/her need for Christ. What else does the Spirit do, acc. to Rom 8:16? "bears witness (testifies) with our spirit that we are the children of God"

Q: What does this mean practically as it relates to our evangelism? See 1 Cor 2  
--What should we not use to reach lost people? V 4 "enticing words..."  
--What must we depend on? V 4 "the demonstration of the Spirit and power"  
--What alone can the Spirit do? V 11 Reveal the "things of God" to a person  
--What are the "things of God"? NIV "thoughts of God"  
--What is indispensable if a person is to come to know the things of God? V 12  
The presence and working of the Spirit of God.  
--Who is the "natural" man in v 14? The unsaved person  
--What is true of the "natural" man? He doesn't accept the things of God. They are foolishness to him. They are "spiritually" discerned.  
Illust: We have to have the right kind of "antenna" to pick up a message via the air waves. Otherwise, those radio waves go right by us, unnoticed, unappreciated, unapplied. The Spirit is the antenna.

Q: How does the Christian life begin, acc. to Gal 3:3? With the ministry of the Spirit

#### Application:

1. What does the Holy Spirit want to accomplish in Wheelersburg?
2. What part do we have in the ministry of the Spirit in Wheelersburg?
3. What would be the evidence of a genuine "spiritual" awakening if it were to occur in southern Ohio?