

## LIFE CHANGING STORIES FROM THE BIBLE

### HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTION

The big need in the world today is Holy Spirit conviction. That is, the Holy Spirit convicting a person of their spiritual need of Christ. Jesus told his disciples that he was going to send the Holy Spirit to convict people. John 16:7, 8 "I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin. V 9) "In regard to sin, because men do not believe in me."

We see this happening on the Day of Pentecost when Peter preached to the crowds and we read in Acts 2:37. "When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

As they heard the message they were cut to the heart or convicted of the fact that they were rejecting Jesus Christ their Messiah and Saviour. They suddenly saw it as a big sin they were committing and cried out "What shall we do?" Peter and the other apostles gave them instruction and about 3000 came to the Lord.

Notice, Peter didn't ask for a show of hands of those wanting to accept Christ, he didn't ask them to come to the front, they were so convicted by the Holy Spirit that they cried out to him, "What shall we do?"

We live in a society that is very secular, totally absorbed in getting all they can out of this life, leaving no room for God. Some are immersed in a religion, or a philosophy, or some kind intellectualism. Still others have new age ideas, spiritualism and a host of other things that insulate them from the message of the Gospel.

Paul expresses it like this, "The god of this age (Satan) has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ. 2Corinthians 4:4.

This is why a person can hear the gospel message and it makes no impression on them at all. It is like water on a duck's back as the saying goes. This is why secular people can go to a funeral service, be sad and during the service hear the gospel but let it slide over them and walk out without the slightest thought of getting right with God. They will carry on like this unless the Holy Spirit comes and convicts them. You see now why we need the Holy Spirit in our work for God.

When I first started attending a church I thought I was okay until the Spirit of God began to convict and convince me that I needed Christ in my life in a personal way. This was the means of bringing me to the Lord.

A boy who used to laugh at and mock the Christian message came to me one night and said he wanted to accept Christ. At first I thought he was joking, but then I realized that he was deadly serious. What had made him serious? Why the Holy Spirit had convicted him of his need.

Getting a guilty conscience is not the conviction of the Holy Spirit. Secular people can get a guilty conscience, even have agony of conscience but they have no concept of giving their life to God and living for him, they just want relief from their guilty conscience. When the Holy Spirit convicts us, he not only convicts us of our need of forgiveness, but also of our need of Christ in our life.

What do we have to do to see the convicting power of the Holy Spirit at work? First we need to realize it is impossible for us to convict anyone without the Holy Spirit working. Then we must pray for him to come with his convicting power. The Holy Spirit, who is in our hearts, if we have accepted Christ for ourselves, works in answer to prayer. Listen to what Jesus says,

“So I say to you: ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?” Luke 11:9-13.

We already have the Holy Spirit but Jesus is telling us if we want to see the Spirit working in other people's lives, people convicted, converted and changed we need to get down to, asking, seeking, knocking, in other words, persisting in prayer until we see the convicting power of the Holy Spirit at work.

In answer to prayer the Holy Spirit will convict in many places and in many ways. I remember reading of a prayer meeting being held in a church opposite a hall where a dance was being held. As the Christians prayed about nine people in the dance hall were convicted by the Holy Spirit and as a result came to Christ.

Let us pray for the Holy Spirit to come in convicting power and bring many to Christ.

INSULATED FROM THE GOSPEL AND ALL ATTEMPTS  
TO WIN FOR CHRIST.



ONLY THROUGH PERSISTENT  
PRAYER FOR THE CONVICTING  
POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
WILL THE BUBBLE BURST  
AND SECULAR MAN BE SAVED.

FRANK HUTCHINSON