

Cooperating With the Holy Spirit
Understanding Our Spiritual Feelings

John 16:5-11

This series is on cooperating with the Holy Spirit who lives in us. My goal is that we live spiritually integrated lives, spiritual whole.

Last week we looked at the struggle of the flesh and spirit. The over-all statement of the goal of any successful believer is from **Galatians 5:5**, **"We, through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness."** *our theme verse.*

I want to address the side of Christianity seldom addressed, the feelings of condemnation and conviction. If we understand these feelings when we experience them, we will treasure them, knowing the Holy Spirit is still being active in our lives.

Scripture teaches conviction is the property of the Holy Spirit, and feelings of condemnation are not necessarily a sign that God has left us. Conviction and condemnation are radically different, yet may feel the same.

- I. What are condemnation and conviction?
 - A. Condemnation (*katakrima*) Romans 8:1, There is therefore now no condemnation
 1. Does not mean "no guilt feeling;"
 2. It is a compound word, the base word is "krino"
 - a) classical Greek: *to pick, to choose, to decide, to bring to trial*
 - b) Paul's use emphasizes that God will judge the world in righteousness, and will show his wrath against sin. Rom 2
 - c) Rom 14 says that judgement belongs to God and is not a community project. Each answers to his own master.
 3. "Kata" is usually a preposition -- down, throughout, against,
 4. The two together are strong; they mean reality of punishment and doom;
 5. Particular word used only three times
 - a) "For the judgement was by one to condemnation" **Rom 5:16 fr. Gen. 3**
 - b) "...judgement came upon all men to condemnation" Rom 5:18
 - c) "There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, for the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus... Rom 8:1
 - B. The second word is conviction, (*elegchein*), John 16:8 "When He (the Holy Spirit) is come He will convict the world;
 1. Meaning: A strong complex word: involves authoritative examination, unquestionable proof, decisive judgement;
 - a) Whatever the final issue, the one who convicts another places the truth of the case in dispute in a clear light before him, so that it must be seen and acknowledged as truth.
 - b) The one who rejects the proof rejects it with his eyes open.

- c) The process is first an examination, testing of the real nature of the facts, (Jh 3:20), then the application of the facts in terms of the one being convicted; (The one who hates the light, avoids the light -- exposure)
 - d) Finally, rejection is self-condemning;
2. Scripture: John 16:8 "When He comes he will convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgement; concerning sin because they do not believe in me; and concerning righteousness because I go to the Father and you no longer see me; and concerning judgement, because the ruler of this world has been judged."
- a) **He will convict the world of sin** because they do not believe in me.
 - Peter on the Day of Pentecost, days later before Sanhedrin;
 - b) **"... of righteousness** because I go to the father and you no long see me"
 - (1) The centurion, Mark 15:39, overwhelmed by conviction said, "Surely this man was the Son of God;
 - (2) Luke 23:47, "When the centurion saw what had happened, he began praising God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent;
 - (3) Just before, the thief on the cross -- "remember me" the conviction that He was the Son of God.
 - c) **"concerning judgement** because the ruler of this world has been judged."
 - (1) The judgement on Satan has already been declared.
 - (2) "... that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; and might deliver those, who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives; Heb 2:14,15
 - (3) Satan is no longer the ruler of this world. He will not admit it, but it is true -- demons asking Jesus to go into swine.
- II. How do we handle the feelings of condemnation and conviction when they come, i.e., what is called the darkness of the soul?
- A. If condemnation, examine the intent of the heart; Faith, not perfection.
 - 1. 1 John 3:18-21 condemnation may come from our own heart, not from God;
 - 2. Rom 14:1-4 condemnation may come from another (on the matter of eating and being censured.)
 - B. Conviction: remember, the feeling of conviction is the unsettling work of the Spirit. It is to be treasured, cooperated with until our hearts do not condemn us.
 - 1. Conviction must be recognized (it is sometimes gradual);
 - 2. Conviction must be resolved in obedience with Word and Spirit.