

PNEUMATOLOGY

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit
Bible Institute - *Winter 2025-26*
Gulf Coast Baptist Church

I. The Convincing Work of the Spirit in the World

- A. Jesus promised that the Spirit would come after His departure and would convince the World (John 16:8ff)
 - 1. Context of John 16 - “you, you, you....the world...you, you, you”
 - 2. This work is to the world and not to believers in Christ
- B. The New Testament makes a distinction between the world and the Church
 - 1. The Son’s sacrifice provided salvation to the world
 - a) God loved the world by sending His Son (John 3:16)
 - b) Christ’s ministry consisted of reconciling the world to Himself - 2 Corinthians 5:19
 - 2. As the result of salvation, a believer is no longer “*ek*” (out from) the world
 - a) The disciples were no longer out from the world (John 15:19; 17:14, 16)
 - b) God would go on calling people out from the nations of the world (Acts 15:14)
 - 3. Salvation sets believers apart from the world
 - a) Paul makes a distinction between the spirit of the world and the Spirit of God - 1 Corinthians 2:12
 - b) From God’s perspective there is a clear distinction between the Church and the world - 1 Corinthians 5:10
 - c) Believers in Christ will not share the same fate as the world - 1 Corinthians 11:32
- C. The Spirit’s ministry consists of conviction of the lost
 - 1. The meaning of “reprove” or “convict”
 - a) Reprove - *elegcho*
 - (1) To convince of a reality (John 8:46; Hebrews 11:1)
 - (2) The presentation of facts in a way the mind will receive them (John 8:46; Luke 3:19; Matthew 18:15; 1 Timothy 5:20)
 - (3) The word means: to put to proof, to get, to convict, refute, confute, detect, expose, reprove, persuasion, unquestionable proof
 - b) *Elegcho* - Conviction is the convincing of the mind of the reality of certain facts or the evidence to support those facts
 - 2. The need to convict the world - Why?
 - a) The world is blind to the gospel (2 Corinthians 4:3-4)
 - b) Their minds are utterly useless in respect to spiritual truths (Ephesians 4:17-18)
 - c) The gospel is the inherent power of God with reference to salvation (Romans 1:16)
 - d) Presentation of the gospel is the human means and conviction because of the gospel is the divine means (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)
 - (1) The believer simply needs to present the gospel not to convince
 - (2) Change of evangelism in mid-1800s - Charles Finney
 - (a) Appeal to emotions; pushed for decisions; heightened urgency
 - (b) “Conversions” produced through manufacturing feelings

D. The areas of the Spirit's conviction

1. Of one particular sin - that of unbelief in Jesus Christ (John 16:7-8)
 - a) John's use of the article indicates that the Spirit convinces of a singular sin
 - b) This was not possible before Christ was offered as Savior (John 15:22-25)
 - c) Faith is based upon God and Jesus Christ (Romans 9:33; 10:11)
 - (1) Some believed upon Jesus Christ (Acts 11:17)
 - (2) The ones Paul had previously persecuted had believed upon Christ (Acts 22:19)
 - (3) People believe upon the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead (Romans 4:24)
 - (4) Many believed upon Jesus
 - d) This is the basis from the human side of judgment of the lost (John 3:17-18)
 - (1) If one does not believe upon Christ they are already condemned
 - (2) Faith in Christ results in no condemnation
 - e) Christ stated that the Holy Spirit is not convincing the world of all their personal sins (John 16:9)
2. Of righteousness - because Christ went to the Father and is no longer on earth
 - a) Christ's righteousness allows Him the Father's presence
 - (1) He is the Righteous One (Acts 3:14; 7:52; 22:14; 1 John 2:1) Christ is the only One who always does right or that which is in God's character
 - (2) He is the end of the law in view of righteousness for all who believe (Romans 10:4)
 - (3) The unsaved one needs to know that He is not righteous, no one but God is by nature (Romans 3:10)
 - (a) The lost are lacking the necessary righteousness to come into God's presence
 - (b) "I'm not righteous like Christ"
 - (4) This is applied to the one being convicted by causing a realization of their need of this righteousness and a desire for it. The one who believes receives this righteousness (Romans 5:18; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 2:21)
 - (5) The gospel holds out the promise of righteousness to those who will believe in Christ as the crucified and resurrected One (Acts 13:39)
 - (6) He was raised for our justification (Romans 4:25)
 - (a) By rising again, ascending, and sitting in heaven, He is now the person in Whom we are declared righteous.
 - (b) His righteousness is applied to the one believing upon Him as part of their spiritual union with Christ
3. Of judgment - The Spirit convinces the world that their case is lost.
 - a) The prince of the world is Satan, and he was cast out (John 12:31)
 - b) The one who does not believe will be cast into the same Lake of Fire in which Satan will be cast (Revelation 20:10, 14)
 - c) The unsaved world will not escape judgment, demonstrated by the fact that the greater and more powerful angels will not escape judgment (2 Peter 2:4, 9, 11)
 - d) No one escapes, God has appointed that every unbeliever will die and face judgment in the resurrection (Hebrews 9:27; John 5:29)
 - e) The one believes does not come into judgment (John 5:24)

