

Where the Spirit of the Lord Is Pt 2

Central Passage: 2 Corinthians 3:17

Big Idea: The Holy Spirit is the personal, divine presence of God; where He is, there is freedom. Today's focus is on His gift of conviction that draws us to repentance and life, not condemnation.

I. Introduction and Series Setup

- A. Returning to 2 Corinthians 3; beginning a multi-week series on the Holy Spirit
- B. Brief notes: baptism today; school starting; prayer for students and staff
- C. Cultural note: telling the truth is often mistaken for hate; commitment to speak truth in love

II. Reading of the Text

- A. 2 Corinthians 3:17 repeated for emphasis
- B. Context: Paul contrasts the bondage of the law with the liberty of the Spirit

III. Common Misunderstandings About the Holy Spirit

- A. Not an impersonal “it”
- B. Not “the Force” (Star Wars) or a paranormal ghost
- C. He is a person: the third person of the Trinity, equal with the Father and the Son

IV. Who the Holy Spirit Is: Divine Characteristics and Roles

- A. Called God; eternal; self-existent; omnipresent; sovereign
- B. Present at creation; “the Spirit of God moved upon the waters”
- C. Inspired Scripture; enables us to recognize and confess Jesus as Lord

V. A Pastoral Observation: Craving Entertainment vs Seeking the Spirit

- A. Youth conference anecdote: many left when the message turned to the Holy Spirit
- B. Exhortation: seek the “meat” that keeps us, not just music or hype

VI. The Spirit's Work in Us: Conviction vs Condemnation

- A. Conviction defined: the Spirit reveals sin and invites repentance
- B. Condemnation contrasted: shames, paralyzes, and says “you're hopeless”

- C. Indwelling presence: the Spirit wants a surrendered and “remodeled” inner life
- D. Conviction includes both sins of commission and omission

VII. Practical Examples of Conviction

- A. Words spoken in haste; immediate unease and confession
- B. Media, humor, and conversations to avoid
- C. Promptings to witness or encourage; obedience vs reluctance

VIII. Case Study: David, Bathsheba, and Nathan (2 Samuel 12)

- A. David’s sin, concealment, and attempted cover-up
- B. Nathan’s parable and the moment of truth: “You are the man”
- C. David’s response: confession, fasting, and repentance
- D. The child’s death and David’s worship; conviction drew him back to God

IX. How to Respond to Conviction

- A. Listen and agree with God quickly; turn from sin and toward God
- B. Make practical changes; cooperate with the Spirit’s leading
- C. Grow into maturity; stand firm when trials come
- D. Discern the voices: the Spirit invites and restores; the accuser condemns (Romans 8:1)

X. Worship and the Spirit

- A. Why expressive praise is fitting when we remember God’s deliverance
- B. Scriptural basis for joyful, embodied worship (make a joyful noise; instruments; dance)
- C. Gratitude fuels worship; testimony turns into praise

XI. Closing Encouragement and Next Steps

- A. Conviction is a gift of love meant to restore, not destroy
- B. Prepare for baptism; commit to the weeks ahead in this series
- C. Pray for students and staff; ask for a fresh relationship with the Holy Spirit

Key Takeaway

The Spirit brings liberty by lovingly convicting us of sin and leading us to repentance, not by condemning us. His goal is our restoration and maturity in Christ.

Reflection Questions

1. Where have I sensed the Spirit's gentle conviction recently, and how did I respond?
2. What practical "remodeling" does the Spirit want to do in my inner life?
3. How can I better discern the difference between conviction and condemnation in my thoughts?
4. Who might the Spirit be prompting me to encourage or witness to this week?

Scripture References for Further Study

2 Corinthians 3:17

John 14:16-18

Genesis 1:2

2 Samuel 12:1-23

Psalms 100:1; Psalm 150:1-6

Romans 8:1