

## ***Be Filled With The Spirit.* – Dr. Lee Roberson**

### **Chapter 10**

#### **The Holy Spirit And Lost Sinners**

**“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you.**

**“And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:**

**“Of sin, because they believe not on me:**

**“Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;**

**“Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.” (John 16:7-11)**

In previous messages we have discussed the work of the Holy Spirit in relation to the child of God. We have studied how He fills us, uses us, and brings forth fruit in our lives.

In this message, we are thinking of the Holy Spirit and His work with the lost. This message is given to impress on Christians the need to depend upon the Holy Spirit to do His work, and it is given with the prayer that lost sinners will read and be convicted of their sins.

What does the Holy Spirit do to lost men?

#### **I. He Convicts Them Of Sin.**

There is no salvation without conviction. Man must be brought to realize that he is lost and condemned. He must see that he is bound for Hell, and that his condition is helpless, hopeless, and Godless. He must be convicted of his sinfulness before God. He must be brought to know that all of his self-righteousness is as filthy rags in God's sight.

The Holy Spirit is the agent of conviction. **“And when He is come, He will reprove, (or convince) the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment” (John 16:8).**

The Holy Spirit works through believers. Jesus said to His disciples, **“If I depart, I will send Him unto you” (John 16:7).** As a usual way, the Spirit works through believers to the unsaved. This places a heavy responsibility upon the children of God. We must be obedient to the Lord's will. We must be submissive unto Him, and we must be clean channels for the Lord to use. The Holy Spirit cannot work through dirty, vile vessels. Paul said to Timothy, **“But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honor, and some to dishonor. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work” (II Timothy 2:20, 21).**

Child of God, let the Holy Spirit work through you that conviction might be produced in the hearts of those who are lost and bound for destruction.

Notice again, the Spirit uses the Word of God. He is the author of it, and He uses the sword to bring conviction. The Word is preached or taught by God's servants, and the Spirit drives it home to the hearts of those who are lost. The Word declares that sin brings death, and that sin condemns. The Spirit takes such a word and brings conviction to the unredeemed.

Jesus said, **“And when He is come, He will reprove (convict) the world of sin”** (John 16:8) Of what sin does He convict? **“Of sin, because they believe not on me”** (John 16:9). Unbelief is the great damning sin. The Holy Spirit alone can show man the enormity of this sin. All about us are men who argue that they are good and have no need of salvation—Why? Because they do not see that they are guilty of the greatest sin of all, the sin of unbelief.

**“He that believeth not is condemned already”** (John 3:18). Unbelief on the part of good men or bad men is all the same.

Before salvation there must be conviction. This conviction may express itself with tears or without tears. That is not important, but it is important that men be convicted.

Still again, it is well for us to notice that conviction does not always result in salvation. Felix trembled and apparently was under conviction, but he was not saved. He said to Paul, **“Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee”** (Acts 24:25).

Sinner friend, do not stop short of the gift of eternal life. If you are conscious of your sin—the sin of unbelief—then fall down before the Lord, and let Jesus come into your heart.

## **II. He Regenerates.**

Jesus said, **“Ye must be born again”** (John 3:7).

How does this new birth take place? On man’s side, by repentance and faith. On God’s side, we are born again by the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit makes us new creatures in Christ Jesus.

When Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again, he was mystified. But then in plain and simple terms, He said, **“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up; That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life”** (John 3:15).

The sinner’s part is to repent of his sins and to believe on Jesus Christ. When this is done, then we are born again by the Spirit of God.

The new birth is not reformation, church membership, baptism, Lord’s Supper, good works, or morality. The new birth is the work of God, not the work of man.

**“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration”** (Titus 3:5).

## **III. He Comes In To Abide.**

When we are saved, the Holy Spirit comes in to abide with us forever.

Our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit. **“What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your Spirit, which are God’s”** (1 Cor. 6:19, 20).

1. *When He abides, He guides.*

**“I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.**

**“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will shew you things to come.**

**“He shall glorify me: for He shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.**

**“All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I that He shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you” (John 16:12-15).**

2. *When He abides, He comforts.*

**“And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever.**

**“Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you and shall be in you” (John 14:16-17).**

3. *When He abides, He helps us to pray.*

**“Likewise the spirit also helpeth our infirmities, for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit Himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.**

**“And He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God” (Romans 8:26, 27).**

4. *When He abides, He brings forth fruit.*

**“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith;**

**“Meekness, temperance, against such there is no law” (Gal. 5:22, 23).**

May we recognize the indwelling Guest. May we see that we are dependent upon Him for guidance, for comfort, for assistance in prayer, and for fruitful living. May we recognize that our labor is in vain without Him. He does the work, we are the instruments and the channels.

“Holy Spirit, faithful guide,  
Ever near the Christian’s side;  
Gently lead us by the hand,  
Pilgrims in a desert land.  
Weary souls for e’er rejoice  
While they hear that sweetest voice,  
Whispering softly, “Wanderer, come,  
Follow me, I’ll guide thee home.”

“Ever present, truest Friend,  
Ever near thine aid to lend;  
Leave us not to doubt and fear,  
Groping on in darkness drear;  
When the storms are raging sore,  
Hearts grow faint and hopes give o’er  
Whisper softly, ‘Wanderer, come,  
Follow me, I’ll guide thee home.’ “

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