

What the Holy Spirit and the Cross can do in our lives

- by Bro. Livingston

When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. – John 16:8-11

The context here is Jesus is going to depart from the earth and so the disciples were discouraged. Jesus was encouraging them in this chapter

In this particular verse, He describes about the three fold ministry of the Holy Spirit.

1. Convict the world concerning Sin
2. Concerning Righteousness
3. Judgement

While Jesus was on the earth, he fulfilled all these three ministries through his life. He not only just preached about Sin, Righteousness and Judgement. He demonstrated that in his own life and fulfilled all these ministries. It's always the life which gives light to the men in darkness. We see the same from the beginning. The very presence of God made the prophets fall face down. Why did they fall down? They felt so unworthy to stand before the Holy God. Peter pleaded Jesus to depart from him because he saw himself sinful before Jesus. The centurion said that he is not worthy. There are many such examples from the bible. One thing that is common in all is that the very presence and revelation of God's nature has made them to say that.

Jesus says in this verse that after he is gone, the Holy Spirit is going to carry out this work. But how is He going to do that without having a physical body? The only way is - Him dwelling in us and carrying out this work. It is one thing that we need the Holy Spirit to guide us into all the truth but this verse specifically talks about the world.

In my own life, I have met some people whose lives were very convicting. Just being with them has bothered my conscience so much. They would not have even talked anything about God. Just by being in their house and observing their life itself will be so convicting about Sin and Righteousness. Also I have met some Godly people who are not very famous nor gifted but when they speak, it was so refreshing and penetrates deep inside the heart. I believe it is very important who is speaking what. I can talk about anything I want about the new covenant truths but Life matters because that is what will make a difference. I imagine this way - if I bought a million dollar home and every day I go around house, stare at it, admire its beauty and feel so happy about its appearance and then come back and talk and talk for hours to my wife, children, friends about how beautiful the house and its interiors are but not having any interest to live in it, how foolish I would be? What is the use of having that house? Unless I live in that house there is no use of just having it and admiring its beauty. Do we realize that the truth that God entrusted us with is much more valuable than a million dollar home? Let's be honest here-

which one of these brings more joy to our heart - an increase in the property value/bank balance or an increase in Godly values in our lives. God doesn't want just admirers of truth. He wants people to practice the truth. If we claim to be His disciples, we should also be able to testify that the Holy Spirit is living in us and convicting the world around us concerning Sin and Righteousness. I am not saying that my life is completely like that but I desire such a life and I speak in faith that God will make it happen if we press on to it. I encourage you all to have the same faith and believe with me that God will make that happen in your lives too.

The last part of verse is about Judgement - Jesus crushed Satan on the cross. In **Colossians 2:15**, he disarmed the powers and authorities and he made a public display of them. He literally made Satan powerless by what He did on the cross. There is only one way for us to claim that victory i.e. through the cross. If I don't put myself on the cross when I am tempted to lust or crave to gossip or boss over my wife or exalt myself to create an identity, I have no part in Christ's victory. **Galatians 5:4** says that *"Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."* Only a man who yields himself to be crucified on the cross everyday can be alive to Christ. Otherwise Satan will always have something in us to claim as his own. Jesus said the ruler of the world is coming and he has nothing in me. We cannot be as bold as Lion to confess that if we are not on the cross. **Proverbs 28:1** says that *The wicked flee when no one is pursuing, but the righteous are bold as a lion.* **1 Corinthians 1:18** says that *for the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.* We will be powerful disciples only if we put ourselves on the cross during temptations. Sometimes when a more familiar temptation come we may hesitate to crucify ourselves rationalizing that we can handle that by our own strength and intelligence or may be by some confidence as a result of a past experience or victory but God's Power will manifest only on a disciple who consciously crucify his flesh in times of temptations. Only that alone can make Satan stand powerless against us.

I believe God wants to build the church with people having such determination to put ourselves continuously on the cross and allowing the Holy Spirit to live in us abundantly not restricting him to particular days like on a Sunday or a part of a day but fully allowing him to guide us through all in all. How glorious the church will be if it is full of people having such desire! Only when we are built like that we will be a Body of Christ that will convict everyone who comes as that verse says and we will be a Church which the Gates of Hell will not prevail against. May God build us. Amen.