

The Holy Spirit – 1:-

Back in the 1970's at college I remember reading a very old book called "The Office and Work of the Holy Spirit" by James Buchanan D.D. first published in 1843. Wonder of modern wonders! There is a very cheap Amazon 'Kindle' edition, which makes a useful point of reference if we go astray!

Read John's Gospel, chapter 16, verses 7 – 15. - These words are the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ himself, which I believe is where we should begin.

Verse 14 - This is of crucial importance! "*When the Spirit of truth comes . . . He will glorify me*". The Holy Spirit is **not** given to glorify individuals! When someone says "I did this" without acknowledging the power of the Spirit and giving Christ the glory, it should raise a question mark! **Who** is being glorified? (See Isaiah chapter 48, verse 11). In many of the recent cases of church leaders falling into sin, and bringing the gospel into disrepute, we can trace the roots of the problem to this simple fact. If we take away nothing else from these verses remember this, the Holy Spirit will always glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

Verses 8 – 11 - "*And when he comes, he will convince (reprove, convict) the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgement:*"

"*He will convince the world of sin*" - In all our teaching, preaching and outreach it is the work of the Holy Spirit to open hearts and minds. If we declare the truth that in Christ alone is the remission of sins, the Holy Spirit will reach out to convince open hearts. See John chapter 8, verse 24.

"*He will convince the world of righteousness*" - The whole of scripture speaks of the need for the 'People of God' to be Holy - "*For the Lord your God is holy*" see for example Leviticus chapter 11, verse 45 and 1 Peter chapter 1, verse 16.

"*He will convince the world of judgement*" - "*because the ruler of this world is judged*". Because the 'ruler of this world is judged' his followers are also judged and condemned along with him.

Those who are "*convinced*" and come to place their trust in the saving work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross of Calvary belong to Him. Their first and full commitment must be to Him. The power of the Holy Spirit opening hearts and minds to hear the Good News of Salvation brings true revival. For this we pray!

1) *Jesus, the name high over all
In Hell or earth or sky;
Angels and men before Him fall,
And devils fear and fly.*

3) *Jesus the prisoners fetters breaks,
And bruises Satan's head;
Power into strengthless souls he speaks,
And life into the dead.*

5) *His glorious righteousness I show,
His saving truth proclaim;
'Tis all my business here below,
To cry; Behold the Lamb!*

2) *Jesus, the name to sinners given
The name to sinners given:
He scatters all their guilty fear
He turns their hell to heaven.*

4) *O that the world would taste and see
The riches of his grace;
The arms of love that compass me
Would all mankind embrace.*

6) *Happy, if with my latest breath
I may be grasp his name,
Preach him to all and cry in death;
Behold, behold the Lamb!*

Charles Wesley