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Focus

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Teens



# Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Work of the Spirit – November 3, 2013

Lesson – “Convicted by the Spirit”

Scriptures – John 16:7-11

## Introduction to lesson

Conviction is an extremely important part of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Jesus taught that it was necessary for him to go back to the Father so that the Holy Spirit would then come to complete his work in the life of the believer. First of all, an essential point about conviction is that it comes by the agency of the Holy Ghost. The Spirit of God reproves or convicts the world of sin. Jesus departed, yet he did not leave us comfortless or without assistance, but gave his Spirit to us in order to move our missionary work forward through his conviction and reproof. Furthermore, conviction is God’s revelation in the heart of a sinner, causing him to see the error of his ways. The Holy Ghost shines light on one’s heart letting him know that he needs a Savior.

**Key Verse:** “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do” (Acts 2:37)?

## Questions to Discuss:

- + Why was it necessary for Christ to “go away”? (v.7)
- + Who is the Comforter?
- + Who sent the Comforter to us? (v.7)
- + The Comforter will “reprove” the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. What does it mean to reprove? (v.8)
- + Why does the Holy Ghost reprove of sin? (v.9)
- + Why does he reprove of righteousness? (v.10)
- + Why does he reprove of judgment? (v.11)
- + When the people heard Peter’s sermon in Acts 2, how did it make them feel? (v.37)
- + What does it mean to be “pricked in their heart”?
- + Have you ever felt conviction from the Holy Ghost? How did it make you feel? What did you do about it?

**Think about it:** Although conviction comes from the Holy Ghost, our Comforter, it will not make you feel comfortable. The Holy Ghost convicts us so that we may see that ways of our sinful life. Without that conviction, we will not know that we are wrong, and we will not be able to realize the salvation that Christ has provided for us through His death on the Cross. Therefore, we must experience Holy Ghost conviction in order to be saved. As the church, it is imperative that we continue to teach and preach the power of Holy Ghost conviction so we may see lost souls come into the Kingdom of God and then into the Church. Our walk with God begins with conviction. Have you begun your walk with Him?

Sunday  
School  
Services

Zion Assembly Church of God

Writer: Rick Ferrell

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# Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Work of the Spirit – November 10, 2013

Lesson – “Regenerated by the Spirit”

Scriptures – John 3:1-8

## Introduction to lesson

In Romans 5:12, the apostle Paul taught that because of Adam’s sin, all men born thereafter have been born in sin and will ultimately face the judgment of death – for the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23). Because of Adam’s sin resulting in our sin and death, we must look to Jesus Christ in order to receive new life. Regeneration is God’s solution to the problem of spiritual death. Jesus explained it to Nicodemus in terms of being “born again.” By the Spirit of God, a sinner is born again by faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, whereby, he becomes a child of God and “is passed from death unto life.” Clearly, regeneration means a completely new life in Christ – a fresh, new beginning in the Lord.

Key Verse: “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” (John 3:6).

## Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ Did Nicodemus have a prominent position among the Jews of that day (v.1)?
- ✚ When he questioned Jesus, how did he know that Jesus was sent from God and that God was with Jesus (v.2)?
- ✚ How do others know that God is with us?
- ✚ What is another term used in the Bible for regeneration?
- ✚ What must happen to a person in order for them to see the kingdom of God (v.3)?
- ✚ Do you think Nicodemus was surprised by Christ’s answer (v.4)?
- ✚ Explain what it means to be born of water and spirit (v.5).
- ✚ Flesh cannot enter the kingdom of God, so by what must we be born (v.6)?
- ✚ Have you been born again of His Spirit?

**Think about it:** After we are regenerated by the Spirit, we should “walk in the newness of life” in the Spirit, not walking after the sinful desires of the flesh. The spiritual evidence of a regenerated life is the fruit of the Spirit (Ga. 5:22-23; Ep. 5:9-10). Simply put, when a person accepts Jesus Christ as his Savior, his life will change. The way he talks and behaves will be transformed even as his soul has been transformed by the Spirit. However, one should keep in mind that regeneration is not the same as sanctification. We will discuss how we can live with victory over sin through sanctification next week!

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# Sunday School Services

Zion Assembly Church of God  
Writer: Rick Ferrell

# Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

## The Work of the Spirit – November 17, 2013

### Lesson – “Sanctified by the Spirit”

### Scriptures – Romans 7:23-24; 8:1-14

#### Introduction to lesson

It is God’s will that all believers be sanctified (1Th. 4:3). This lets us know that God has provided us a way to live a life victorious over sin. Sin cannot be allowed in the life of a believer. All of us are wrapped in flesh, therefore, the opportunity to sin will always be there; but as a sanctified child of God, we do not have to give over to that temptation. Through the work of the Holy Spirit in sanctification, the desire (drive) to sin is removed. We are then able to live righteous lives free from the pull that drags us back to our old sinful ways before accepting Christ. We can live a life free from sinning and be holy. Wow, doesn’t that sound exciting? A sanctified life doesn’t mean we won’t have struggles, but God has made a way of help for us through sanctification by the Spirit?

**Key Verse:** “For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live” (Ro. 8:13).

#### Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ In Romans 7, Paul details the struggle one will have after they have been converted. Why does that struggle take place (7:23)?
- ✚ Because you may feel the desire (drive) to sin again, does that mean you’re not saved?
- ✚ Who can deliver us from this inward struggle to sin (7:24, 25)?
- ✚ What does it mean to “walk after the flesh” (8:1)?
- ✚ What does it mean to “walk after the Spirit” (8:1)?
- ✚ Many today say that Christians can’t live without sin. Is this statement true or false? Why?
- ✚ Are you able to live a sin free life on your own strength? Then how can we live this sin free (holy) life?
- ✚ Can you please God by fulfilling your fleshly, sinful desires (8:8)?
- ✚ What does it mean to “mortify the deeds of the body” and how can this be done (8:13)?

**Think about it:** When we come to Jesus Christ as Savior and are born again, the conflict of the flesh and Spirit indwelling us must be resolved. The Spirit that regenerates us to new life also compels us to be sanctified – to be made holy. God will not allow a believer to continue sinning, but will by his Spirit sanctify the inner man and empower him to live holy and victorious over sin and unrighteousness. Have you experienced being sanctified by the Spirit?

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# Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Work of the Spirit – November 24, 2013

Lesson – “Fruit of the Spirit”

Scriptures – Matthew 7:15-23

## Introduction to lesson

Have you ever purchased fruit from the local grocery store? When you do, you should always inspect the fruit to see if it is ripe and ready, or rotten and ruined. Even if the fruit looks just fine at first glance, when you make a closer inspection you may find that it is too soft and mushy. If so, it may ruin before you're able to enjoy it. You must learn to recognize the bad fruit, so that you don't waste your money. Just because it looks good on the outside doesn't always mean that you should buy it. What's the inside like? Is it too soft and ready to ruin? The same can be said about people that claim to be children of God. Upon inspection, are they really what they claim to be? Does their inside (heart, soul, motives) look as good as their outside (appearance, personality, speech)?

**Key Verse:** “For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth” (Ep. 5:9).

## Questions to Discuss:

- + Matthew was very stern in his warning to “beware” in verse 15. Why is this warning so important?
- + What does “in sheep’s clothing” represent?
- + What does “inwardly...ravaging wolves” mean?
- + Are we supposed to inspect the fruit in others (v.16)?
- + Is it possible for a bad tree to bear good fruit? How about a good tree to bear bad fruit? (Spiritually speaking)
- + People who deceive others by appearing good but really being bad will be judged in the end. How did Matthew compare their judgment with trees (v. 19)?
- + How will we know if others are for real or not (v.20)?
- + What is the only way we will make it to heaven (v.21)?
- + The motives behind our actions will determine the fruit we bear. Even if things look great on the outside, what are our motives? Many seemingly work for the Lord while their motives are corrupt. What does the Bible say will happen to them (v.22, 23)?

**Think about it:** A tree is known by its fruit, good or bad. As we walk in the Spirit, we exhibit the fruit of the Spirit and establish ourselves as true children of God. When we bear the good fruit, we distinguish ourselves from all that is bad in the world, enabling us to discern between good and bad, right and wrong, and truth and error. Every one bears fruit. What kind of fruit are you producing: good or bad?

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