

“The Holy Spirit’s Penetrating Testimony”

John 16:1-11

The Holy Spirit penetrates the darkness of unbelief with the truth concerning Jesus.

1. The Necessity of this Work of the Spirit **vv. 1-6**

(1) Because of the hatred and opposition of the world - cf. 15:18-19; 16:2

(2) Because of the blindness of unbelief - cf. 16:2b

(3) Because the world has no true knowledge of God cf. 16:3

2. The Nature of this Work of the Spirit **vv. 7-11**

(1) Convicting the World – Its Meaning **(v. 8)**

“And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.”

-1- The Spirit’s Action:

A Divinely-powerful Convicting

- “convict” - “to cross-examine for the purpose of convincing or refuting an opponent”
- used of the introduction of evidence by which the truth is brought to light and falsehood is unmasked

- The Spirit acts as “prosecutor” to bring about the world’s conviction.

- He proves the world to be guilty
- He brings the world’s guilt home to itself

-2- Those in whom the Spirit does this work: Unbelieving Men! “the world” cf. 15:18 ff.

-3- The Means the Spirit uses: The Apostolic Preaching cf. 15:26-27

(2) Convicting the World – In Three Aspects 22

-1- Convicting the World of Sin

“of sin, because they do not believe in Me”

- It is the Spirit who convinces men of sin

The primary demonstration of the world’s sin is seen in their rejection of Jesus Christ
– their refusal to believe in Him.

- At issue is Jesus Christ and His claims.

-2- Convicting the World of Righteousness *“of righteousness, because I go to the Father and you see Me no more”*

- It is the Spirit who convinces men of righteousness:

Their own *utter lack* of righteousness
The *perfect* righteousness of Jesus Christ.

-3- Convicting the World of Judgment *“of judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.”*

- It is the Holy Spirit who convinces men of judgment.

The sure judgment which is to come.
Because in Jesus’ death Satan has been judged; the present evil age is passing away.

Further Application:

1. These are the fundamental elements of gospel preaching!

2. The Holy Spirit demonstrates the same in every child of God:

- Trust in Christ alone
- Trust in the righteousness of Christ alone
- A life in which sin has been and is being judged