



Sunday, September 04, 2011

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The Spirit-Filled Life

PART III: CONVICTED, YET FREE

📖 **SCRIPTURE:** JOHN 16:8-11; JOHN 3:16-21

key theme: We should be thankful when the Holy Spirit brings Godly conviction into our lives because it is a part of the process of true freedom, but, too often, we run away from the process because we are afraid of the vulnerability associated with being exposed.

- 1) To convict, or to *reprove*, is a legal word that means “to bring to light, to expose, to refute.” It could be translated as to “pronounce the verdict.”
- 2) The easy response when our deeds are exposed is to run AWAY from the light, but those who walk in truth, run TO the light. [John 3:20-21]

Why does the Holy Spirit bring conviction to our lives

- 1) The Holy Spirit exposes our true condition, so that we can get the help that we need.
 - a. As unbelievers, our condition is that the sin of unbelief presents an eternal separation from God.
 - b. As believers, our condition is that sin taints our relationship with God and causes condemnation to appear.
- 2) For the unbeliever, the Holy Spirit exposes 3 distinct areas of error: sin, righteousness, and judgment. [John 16:8]
- 3) For the believer, the Holy Spirit exposes the things that are contrary to God so that we are not tempted to return to our former ways/habits. [Galatians 5:17]

Why should we be thankful that the Holy Spirit brings conviction in our lives

- 1) First, because conviction is rooted out of love. God doesn't expose us to bring condemnation, He exposes us for us to come into the light.
- 2) Second, because true Godly conviction produces Godly sorrow that leads to repentance. We become more in the image of God. [2 Corinthians 7:10]

Mars Hill Fellowship Church is a diverse gathering of believers in the Metro Boston area. We come from a variety of cultures, ages, educational backgrounds, and family histories, but we share the common testimony of being transformed by God's everlasting love. We are living witnesses that the gospel is real and has the power to redeem all people. We strive to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

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