# The Convicting Work of the Spirit

Matt VanCleave May 28, 2023

#### **REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS**

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- □ I will expect the Spirit to manifest Himself in remarkable ways.
- I will look to the fruit of the Spirit for evidence of the Holy Spirit in someone's life.
- □ I will spend my life training to be like Jesus.
- I will pay attention to the Spirit who is with me all the time.
- I will listen for the Spirit's promptings, and I will say yes to him.
- I will ask for prayer for healing, believing we serve a healing God.

## THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

Have you made a mistake recently or in your past that you're not able to let go of? Maybe you think, "I don't want to walk through my life with this cloud of guilt hanging over me anymore," but you don't know what to do. Are you holding onto sin, but you're not sure what to do to let go of it? This week as we explore how the Holy Spirit sets us free from sin and regret.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Why is it difficult for us to discuss sin and conviction? What emotion or feeling do you connect with conviction?

2. Read together John 16:8. What does this teach you about the purpose and work of the Holy Spirit? Why do you think the Church needs the Spirit to work in this way?

3. The Spirit is with you right now, and is working in your heart and mind right now. But at times, the Spirit and the work of the Spirit can be misunderstood. Matt adds to this by noting that, "**Guilt is not an infallible sign of the convicting ministry of the Spirit.**" What do you think Matt means by this?

4. Matt continues, illuminating that "If you're weighed down by sin or regret what you do next, what you do today, will be a matter of life and death. You can beat yourself up, you can carry your sin and guilt around like a giant burden, or you can choose another way." We see this truth in 2 Corinthians 7:8-13. What stands out to you in this passage?

5. What does worldly sorrow mean to you and why do you think it brings death; What makes Godly sorrow different?

6. Godly sorrow is only temporary, it does not linger. Read Matthew 11:28; Can you share about a time when you were weary and burdened, and you went to God and he gave you rest?

7. Matt notes, "The role of this sorrow is to bring your attention to what needs fixing and then move on.Godly sorrow is non-toxic." We can engage with Godly sorrow through the act of repentance. How would you define repentance?

8. Repentance is not about beating yourself up, it is an exploration of your faith and formation with God. How does engaging with repentance help as you move through Godly sorrow?

9. What does it look like to examine your life for areas of conviction and worldly sorrow this week?

10. How can your community help you as you explore the Spirit this week?

### **NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)**

- □ I will stop carrying burdens that are weighing me down.
- I will examine my life to determine what burdens I'm carrying.
- □ I will choose Godly sorrow that leads to repentance, life and joy.
- I will come to Jesus and lay my burden down.

### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES**

- John 16:7-11
- 2 Corinthians 7:8-13
- Matthew 27:3-5
- Matthew 26:73-75
- Matthew 23:4
- Matthew 11:28

## Prayer Request(s)