

John 16:12-15 (NIV)

12 “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.”

43-16-03-The Comforter’s Conviction

Lent, repentance, Holy Spirit, conviction, change.

John 16:12-14

The Spirit convicts us to change our wrong attitudes to right ones.

INTRODUCTION: (Acts 6:8-15 for Scripture Reading)

–Today’s reading offers a transition in our exploration of repentance. Stephen used God’s Word to confront complacent religious leaders who were self-satisfied with their relationship with God. It gave them an opportunity to respond to the work of the Holy Spirit as described by Jesus in John 16:7-8, “But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.” But they rejected the Comforter’s conviction, as Stephen declared in Acts 7:51, “You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit!” –But the Comforter’s convicting work isn’t just for unbelievers still in “the world,” it’s for believers with “the world” still in them. This ministry of the Holy Spirit is ongoing in our Christian lives, as the rest of Jesus’ description in John 16:12-14 shows: “*I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.*” **HOM.idea.** Let’s see how this process works...

I. Jesus Knows How Much Conviction We Can Take– v.12, “*I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear.*”

- A. He said this to *the Twelve*, but it applies to all disciples.
1. Jesus taught His 12 disciples much about *Kingdom living*, but He had “*much more to say.*” (They had more to learn, and *so do we.*)
 2. We are all works in progress, even if we’re already on display. (Jesus enlists us into service while giving us *on the job training.*)
 3. This fact eliminates spiritual boasting, because, if ever we think we’ve arrived, we really *haven’t*. [Remember “**PBPWMGINFWMY**” buttons and T-shirts? They reminded us and others that *we still had far to go.*]
- B. Jesus knows exactly how far we do have to go, but He also knows the best timing and the right steps for us to take to get there.
1. He told His disciples, “*I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear.*” (He has a storehouse of guidance for our *spiritual*

growth, but He also knows our *readiness* and our *limitations*.)

2. By the Holy Spirit, Jesus brings conviction in our lives based on knowing *our needs as individuals*. [**GOD'S CLASSROOM**: We are students in the schoolhouse of the Master, / Safely seated in the classroom of the King, / And the pace is never harder, never faster / Than the learning speed and study skills we bring. // God has placed us in the courses we are taking / For specific needs we may not even know. / He arranges private lessons for our breaking, / To uproot the pride that will not let us grow. // God's curriculum is thorough for our training. / We can trust the wise assignments He has planned. / He has teaching methods far beyond explaining, / And no "failing grade" will issue from His Hand. // We should never focus on the work of others. / We must study the material we're shown. / He is tutoring our sisters and our brothers / In a special pattern known to Him alone. // We must free our friends and relatives for learning, / Knowing that His course design is right for each. / We can rest, for He is perfectly discerning / When it's time and what is best for Him to teach.]

TRANS: The whole Trinity is behind this "classroom" process, but the Spirit is our resident Instructor who **convicts us to change our wrong attitudes to right ones**. Because Jesus is wise, loving and trustworthy, He will not to overload us. But, indwelling us *through* the Holy Spirit, ..

II. Jesus Uses the Truth to Bring Conviction— v.13a, "But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth."

A. The target of conviction is the human conscience:

1. But only when the conscience is properly instructed can a person recognize wrongdoing or the *neglect of duty*.
2. When truth hits its mark, *true guilt* is experienced. (If a *lie* is fed to the conscience, a person can be misled with false guilt.)

B. When God's people in the OT went astray, He sent them prophets:

1. He anointed them with the Holy Spirit to bring *conviction* about both *attitudes* and *actions* (*sins committed* and *duties omitted*).
2. Example— Isa 1:16-17, wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing wrong, learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow. (The Spirit confronts our failures, **not** to *condemn* us but to *convince* us to *change our mind* and *our behavior*.)

TRANS: Being created in the "*likeness*" of our Creator, our true destiny is to live like our Creator, walk in His wisdom and ways, have His mind

and *manner*, and *serve others* by following Christ's example of *servant-leadership*. That dynamic, ongoing growth in our lives comes by **the Holy Spirit convicting us to change our wrong attitudes to right ones**. It's a *step-by-step* process, one step at a time— v.13b. *He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come*. The *Comforter* is our built-in GPS, getting His directions from Jesus, Who knows the best next individual step we each need to take, but also "*what is yet to come*" in further steps for *change*. This makes this our *spiritual growth*, from start to finish, a *Jesus-project*...

III. Jesus Is Glorified by Our Changed Lives— v.14, "He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you."

A. Remember that *repentance* is not a static "*change of mind*" but a dynamic step-by-step process resulting in a *changed life*.

1. The object of change is for us to be *more like Jesus*. (Words from or about Jesus can confront our spiritual complacency, but it's *His life*, when held up to ours, that brings *conviction*....)
2. In our union with Christ by faith His divine nature is now ours— 2 Pet 1:3-4, His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by **his own glory** and **goodness**. Through **these** he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you **may participate in the divine nature** and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

B. Salvation puts "*the divine nature*" of Jesus into us; sanctification is the Holy Spirit working Christ's nature out into our daily lives.

1. The Spirit does this, Jesus says, "*by taking from what is mine and making it known to you*." (We are sanctuaries housing the unseen treasure of Christ's *glorious life* and "*divine nature*.")
2. The Holy Spirit takes us on a journey inward to bring the glory of our divine-union life outward— 2 Cor 4:6 (ESV), For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION:

— *Praise the Lord!* He didn't leave us *alone* but sent us the *Comforter!* What a comfort that He doesn't leave us alone either! He **convicts us to change our wrong attitudes to right ones**, so we'll be more like the One Who indwells our hearts. That's the *goal*. But will that *conviction* bring our hearts to *contrition*? That's what we will look at next Sunday.