

Prophet's Column

"God's Necessity For Salvation"

By J. M. Little
Special To The Post



J. M. Little

First in series

at the taproot of all sins. Unbelief is so interwoven into the very fabric and fiber of your entire being that you cannot separate yourself from your unbelief. Under Holy Spirit conviction the Holy Spirit so convicts the sinner of his unbelief that he weeps night and day over it. Everywhere he goes, on the job or off the job or in church services he is moaning his hard heart of unbelief. The convicted sinner reads his Bible and

tries to believe some promise the Lord has given him, yes, you burn your brains out trying to believe God and His Word but find to your dismay that you cannot believe God nor His Word. Do you know what I'm talking about? Do you?

The greatest thing in all the universe is just to know Christ as your Lord and your Saviour. To know Him is the difference between life and death, Heaven and Hell. No sinner can come to know Christ apart from Holy Spirit conviction. No sinner has ever been saved apart from Holy Spirit conviction, and no sinner ever will be saved apart from Holy Spirit conviction. What is Holy Spirit conviction? First, let's look at what Holy Spirit conviction is not. Holy Spirit conviction is not turning over a new leaf, living the best you can, doing good religious works, living by the law, resting on religious feelings, or a multitude of other things that are passed off in our churches for Holy Spirit conviction. In John 16:7-11 we have the Words of the Lord telling us what Holy Spirit conviction is: "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged."

So we see from these Words of the Lord that Holy Spirit conviction is God the Holy Spirit convicting a sinner of sin, righteousness, and judgment. But before any sinner can be convicted by the Holy Spirit, that sinner must be awakened to his lost condition. We find that in these Words: "AND YOU HATH HE QUICKENED WHO WERE DEAD IN TRESPASSES AND SINS," (Eph. 2:1). The Word "quicken" means made alive, or awakened. Every sinner is dead in trespases and sins but does not know his dead and lost condition until he is awakened by the Holy Spirit. Let me state very emphatically, and with all the emphasis of my soul; no human being can awaken a dead sinner. Only the Holy Spirit can awaken a dead sinner. Then consider how foolish it is for a preacher to stand in the pulpit and say he can take his Bible and lead a sinner to Christ in 10 minutes. Since it is not in the power of a human being to awaken a sinner how could man have anything to do with a sinner's salvation? He cannot. The old prophet Jonah said: "SALVATION IS OF THE LORD." (Jonah 2:9).

After the sinner is awakened by the Holy Spirit he has to be enlightened, re-proved (Convicted), and convinced. What is the first thing the Holy Spirit shows you when He awakens you? (Verse 9.) "OF SIN, because they believe not on Me." So the first conviction is that you have not believed on Christ. You are lost. Yes, the first thing you see under Holy Spirit conviction is that you are a LOST SINNER. Have you ever seen that you are a lost sinner? If the Holy Spirit shows you that you are a lost sinner, that is the greatest thing that has happened to you in your life up to this point. It's grace upon grace when the Holy Spirit awakens a sinner to his lost condition. Salvation is an all inclusive term that includes many things; calling. Holy Spirit conviction, sanctification, justification, substitution, regeneration, forgiveness, and glorification. But I'll sum up salvation for you in these words; salvation is knowing yourself and knowing Christ. Before you can know Christ, you must come to know yourself. The only way you can know yourself is to be brought under Holy Spirit conviction.

"OF SIN, because they believe not on Me." Once the Holy Spirit awakens you to the fact of your lost condition, He shows you that you have a hard heart of unbelief. Have you ever seen your hard heart of unbelief? If not, then I warn you that you don't know Christ. And right now you are just one heart beat away from Hell. Unbelief is

No two sinners undergo the same degree of Holy Spirit conviction. Neither do any two sinners undergo the same length of Holy Spirit conviction. In some cases a sinner may undergo a very light degree of conviction, in others it may be a very deep degree of conviction, in some, it may be over a very long time, in others, a very short time.

In my own case, the Holy Spirit dealt with me over a long period of time. But let me hasten to say; even though you may be dealt with by the Spirit of God for a long time, you are only under Holy Spirit conviction a short time.

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You say you are saved, but if you have never known your hard heart of unbelief as I'm laying down here, you don't know my Lord. And even though you are on a religious profession, when you die it will be just one more face in Hell.

I'll never forget the time the Holy Spirit brought me under conviction. I would read the Word diligently, it was a matter of life and death, and every sinner comes to see that. No matter how much I tried to believe the Word, or the Lord, I couldn't. No matter how much I prayed, my unbelief was still gripping me. I told someone during that time; my heart of unbelief is so hard I couldn't dent it with a sledge hammer. Do you know what I'm talking about? You will before God saves you.



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