



"The Significance of the Spirit's Coming–Pt. 5"

- I. The Spirit's Work is Manifestly Obvious–vv.1-13
- II. The Spirit's Work is Salvifically Driven–vv.14-21
- III. The Spirit's Work is Divinely Commissioned–vv.22-36

IV. The Spirit's Work is Powerfully Effective–vv.37-47

In vv.37-47, there are 3 ways the Spirit's work is demonstrated to be powerfully effective, which will provide us with an excellent assessment of the Spirit's activity in our lives:

1. Spirit Produced Conviction–v.37

2. Spirit Produced Reception–vv.38-41

John 15:26, 16:14, 8; Heb 4:12-13; Is 66:2; Mk 1:15; Lk 24:47;
Acts 26:18, 11:1, 18, 17:30, 34, 5:31, 11:18; 2 Tim. 2:24-25;
2 Cor. 3:18; Acts 26:20; John 3:36

Our culture has declared war on guilt. The very concept is considered medieval, obsolete, unproductive. People who trouble themselves with feelings of personal guilt are usually referred to therapists, whose task it is to boost their self-image. No one, after all, is supposed to feel guilty. Guilt is not conducive to dignity and self-esteem. Society encourages sin, but it will not tolerate the guilt sin produces... [Nevertheless] Guilt functions in the spiritual realm like pain in the material realm. Pain tells us there is a physical problem that must be dealt with or the body will suffer harm. Guilt is a spiritual pain in the soul that tells us something is evil and needs to be confronted and cleansed. [Thus] To deny personal guilt is to sacrifice the soul for the sake of the ego. (1)

From *The Doctrine of Repentance* (2):

1. Sight of Sin;
2. Owning the Sin;
3. Sorrow/Shame/Guilt of Sin;
4. Hatred of Sin;
5. Confessing the Sin;
6. Turning from Sin.

[Repentance] is when God gives us the grace to bring all our desires into captivity, when all that makes up our human nature is conquered and we are so governed by his Holy Spirit that our lives are completely ruled by his word, whereas formerly we were devoted to evil. (3)

1 John MacArthur, *The Vanishing Conscience*, 19, 32.

2 Thomas Watson, *The Doctrine of Repentance*, "The Nature of True Repentance."

3 John Calvin, *Sermons on the Acts of the Apostles-Chs.1-7*, Banner of Truth, 29.