

## HOLY SPIRIT: IN THE WORLD (PART II)

If it were not for the work of the Holy Spirit before salvation, no one would be saved. The Holy Spirit must convict us before we can believe to salvation. There can be no salvation without the preliminary enlightenment of those whose minds who are blinded by Devil. "If our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel...should shine on them" (II Corinthians 4:4). "The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them because they are spiritually discerned" (I Corinthians 2:14). Jesus said, "No man can come to me unless the Father who sent Me draws him" (John 6:44). The Father draws people to Himself through the work of the Holy Spirit. The Jews consider the cross a "stumbling block," and to the Gentiles it is "foolishness" (I Corinthians 1:23-24). The Holy Spirit must work in those who will be saved. Every true believer realizes he or she was moved by the Holy Spirit resulting in a conversion to Christ. The Holy Spirit enlightens the mind to reveal Christ in order to create an inner conviction of the need to be saved. "When He (the Holy Spirit) has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment" (John 16:8). When the Holy Spirit works in the heart of a person He convicts of three things (John 16:9-11): 1. SIN. Not sins. The sin is the failure to receive Christ for salvation. The conviction of sin brings the realization to people that Jesus is the only way of salvation. 2. RIGHTEOUSNESS. Jesus is speaking of imputed righteousness. Christ offered Himself to God as a substitute sacrifice for sinners who believe in Him. 3. JUDGMENT. As Chafer aptly puts it, "The individual may well conceive of himself as having been...drawn before the tribunal of divine judgment, as having been justly sentenced to death, and as having been taken out and executed – except for Another who stepped in and was executed in the sinner's room and stead." Satan has been judged. The saved are no longer his prisoners (Isaiah 61:1).