

8 Vital Signs for Spiritual Health

“Vital Sign 7: Conviction – Choosing a Changed Life”

Steve Cox November 6, 2016

.....yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. 2 Cor 7: 9-10

1. What is conviction?

- State of being **convinced** and **confident** that something is true.
- Biblical conviction means beliefs derived from or based on a **commitment** to scripture. Romans 4: 18-25
 - What conviction of sin is not:
 - Not simply a **guilty conscience** or even shame over sin.
 - Not merely **knowledge** of right and wrong.

2. How does it work?

- The Holy Spirit exposes our **wrongdoing and convinces** people that they need a Savior.
- To be convicted is to feel the **sheer awfulness** of our sin.
- We are convicted when we become mindful of how much our sin **dishonors** God.
- The Holy Spirit not only convicts people of sin, but their willingness to change will bring them to **repentance**.
- Biblical conviction is the product of three things that characterize a spiritually mature person:
 - A commitment to use **scripture** as their authority.
 - A set of specific **beliefs and convictions** based on that authority.
 - The **courage** to act on those convictions by faith.

3. What is the goal from the mind of the Holy Spirit?

- Produce **change** in us – **transformation**.
- Produce **spiritual maturity** which reflects our consistent Christ-like behavior and attitudes.
- **Obedience** to the Word of God

4. How do we respond to the Holy Spirit?

- Three incorrect responses to the Holy Spirit:
 - Do not **resist** the Holy Spirit. Acts 7:51
 - Do not **grieve** the Holy Spirit. Eph 4:30
 - Do not **quench** the Holy Spirit. 1 Thes 5:19
- Four correct responses to the Holy Spirit
 - Learn to **listen**.
 - Learn to **trust**.
 - Mourn your actions and **repent**.
 - Choose to **change** and **obey**.

The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Romans 6:10-12

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9