

John 16:7-8 (Jesus) **If I depart, I will send Him, the Comforter, (The Holy Spirit) to (into) you...He will convince the world of sin (of my doing my own will, because there is no sin, no other will but God's in Heaven, to get in I must be saved from my own) and of righteousness (of my doing God's will).** *words in parentheses added*

[Isa 53:6 **All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to our own way; And the LORD has laid on Him (Jesus) this sin of us all.**

Rom 6:16 **Do you not know that...sin (doing my will) **results in death** (to God), **or that** (my) **obedience** (to God's will) **results in** (my) righteousness? NASU]**

The close connection between the two statements in these words of our Lord is not always noticed. Before the Holy Spirit was to reprove or convince the world of sin, He was first to come into the disciples. He was to live within them, and then, through them, He was to do His work of convincing the world of sin. **“The Spirit will testify of me: and you will testify also** (together with, in and by the Holy Spirit)” John 15:26–27.

The disciples were to realize that the great work of the Holy Spirit, striving with man, **convincing the world of sin** (and of righteousness, freedom from sin), could be done only as He had a dwelling place **in them**. They were to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and with fire. They were to receive the power from on high with the one purpose of being the instruments through whom the Holy Spirit could reach (and save) the world.

The Holy Spirit comes to us so that through us He may reach others. When He enters us, He does not change His nature. He is still the Spirit of God striving with people and seeking our deliverance (from sin). Wherever He is not hindered by ignorance or selfishness, He makes the heart willing and bold to testify about sin (our will, and the righteousness of God's will). He does this as the Spirit of the crucified Christ. Why did Christ receive the Spirit without measure? **“The spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the meek; He has sent me...to preach deliverance to the captives** (of their own will)” (Isaiah 61:1).

This same Spirit Jesus sent down on His church. The Spirit would be in them as He had in Christ, as a light shining in, revealing, convincing, delivering and conquering the darkness, as **“by the Spirit of judgment, and by the Spirit of fire”** (Isaiah 4:4 NIV).

The Spirit can reach others through us only by first bringing us into perfect agreement with Himself. He enters into us to become one with us. He becomes the attitude and the life within us. His work in us and through us becomes our work. Complete surrender is needed if, by my life, He is to convince the world of the sin of unbelief (in our need to be saved from doing our will so as to do God's will). To do this, there must be intense, united, believing prayer that the Father would strengthen us all with might by His Spirit.

[Ro 6:7 **Those who have died** (in Christ, to their sinful self) **have been freed from sin.**

1 John 3:5-6 **You know that Christ was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. Whoever lives in Christ** (the sinless one) **does not sin.]**