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THE HOLY GHOST: GOD'S CHANGE AGENT (PART 3)

"And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged." John 16:-11, NKJV

I felt compelled today to share with you the difference between convict and condemn. Perhaps in your time of sharing the gospel with someone who does not believe in Jesus this understanding may help.

The word condemn is to express adverse judgment on someone or something. It also includes being pronounced guilty and then to sentence to punishment. In a religious context God does not refer to the Holy Ghost coming to condemn the world of sin. If the world is condemned then there would be no need for the gospel of Jesus Christ. Christ came into the world and took on our sin, and then He died to fulfill the sentence of death which is the punishment for sin. Romans 3:23 declares specifically "for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God;" But praise the Lord we all do not have to live out the sentence for sin which is declared in Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death..."

To convict is to prove or declare guilty of an offense and to impress with a sense of guilt. Paul shares in Romans 7:13, "...that through the commandment sin might become exceeding sinful." The objective in his writing was to explain the law of God spotlights sin and in doing so reveals how awful it really is. Death is in our world because Adam did not believe God's command. Each time someone dies it verifies that Adam sinned. However, the ultimate death the Lord's referring to is not centered on the physical body but the eternal status of one's life. When you finish reading the rest of Romans 6:23 it concludes with, "but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." The **Holy Ghost comes to** impress the sense of guilt (convict) so one can **change their mind** and decide to believe on Jesus and have eternal life!

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