The Indispensable Agency of the Holy Spirit
John 16:4b-11

BIG Idea: It is necessary for Jesus to return to the Father so the Holy Spirit will come to convict the world of its sin and need of a Savior.

Jesus Teaches His Apostles so They Will Remember His Words

4 "But these things I have spoken to you, so that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them.
These things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.

Luke 19:11 – While they were listening to these things, Jesus went on to tell a parable, because He was near Jerusalem, and they supposed that the kingdom of God was going to appear immediately.

Jesus Must Go Away So the Helper (Holy Spirit) Will Come

5 "But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?'
6 "But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.
7 "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

John 6:38-40 – "For I have come down from heaven [Incarnation], not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes [has faith] in Him [object of faith] will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

Acts 2:32-33 – "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear."

The Holy Spirit Will Convict the World Concerning Its Sin and Need of a Savior

8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;
9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;
10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me;
11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

convict – "to bring a person to the point of recognizing wrongdoing, *convict, convince* someone of something" (BDAG Greek Lexicon).

Conviction concerning sin – Because of sinful man's unbelief concerning the Person and work of Jesus Christ, the conviction of the Holy Spirit is essential for sinful man to admit he is a sinner in need of a Savior.

Conviction concerning righteousness – Scripture teaches that when an individual trusts Jesus alone for salvation, not only are their sins forgiven, but by God's grace, the perfect righteousness of Jesus is imputed to them—credited to their account (doctrine of justification).

Philippians 3:8-9 – More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith,

Conviction concerning judgment when the devil and all who reject Jesus as Savior will be thrown in the Lake of Fire where they will be "tormented day and night forever and ever" (Rev. 20:10-15).

Understanding and Applying God's Truth

1. Understand the necessity of God's work in the salvation.

   From beginning to end, the work of salvation is a divine work of the **Triune God**. The **Father** is the architect of salvation and the One Who orchestrates it; the **Son** accomplished the work necessary for salvation through His substitutionary death on the cross and resurrection; and the **Holy Spirit** is the agent through Whom

salvation is effectually applied and secured. The Holy Spirit's work is indispensable for the salvation of a sinner.

2. Rely upon the agency of the Holy Spirit when sharing Christ.

   It is essential to remember that you and I cannot save anyone. Only God through the agency of the Holy Spirit can save a sinner and give them eternal life.