

Lesson 6: Conviction

We are going to begin this next step of the gospel along with the next three steps, by studying Acts Chapter 2. Acts Chapter 2 is very detailed in how the gospel order works.

First, let us look at **Romans 10:13-15**. In this text from Romans, there is a call given to whoever hears and the call is the proclamation of the gospel. In fact, the previous 10 chapters of Romans contain the explanation of the gospel as we have studied up to this point. Now we are going to turn to Acts Chapter 2, and see what should happen after a person has responded to the first four steps.

1. In **Acts 2:1-36** it is clear the disciples are preaching the gospel. They are telling the story of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. After they had presented the gospel, there was a group of men that came to the disciples (come unto me).

What is the next step in the gospel once a person has come to Jesus?

Acts 2:37 - Now when they heard this, they were _____, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

- A. What does this idiom cut to the heart mean?

κατανύσσω: 2 aorist passive κατενύγην (Buttmann, 63 (55)); to prick, pierce; metaphorically, to pain the mind sharply, agitate it vehemently: used especially of the emotion of sorrow; κατενύγησαν τῇ καρδίᾳ (τὴν καρδίαν L T Tr WH), they were smitten in heart with poignant sorrow (A. V. literally, pricked), Acts 2:37 (κατανευγμένον τῇ καρδίᾳ, Psalm 118:16 (Ps. 119:16); add, Genesis 34:7; Sir. 12:12 Sir. 14:1, etc.; of lust, Susanna 10; of violent pity, John Malalas, chronogr. 1, 18, Bonn. edition, p. 460). Cf. Fritzsche on Romans, ii., p. 558ff

- It means to feel an intense sorrow of the heart.

- B. Where does conviction come from?

John 16:8 - And when He has come, He will _____ the world of _____, and of _____, and of judgment.

- What does the word conviction mean?
ἐλέγχω elénchō, el-eng'-kho; of uncertain affinity; to confute, admonish: - convict, convince, tell a fault, rebuke, reprove, to find fault with, to correct, to expose, to chide, to find fault with.

To get a clearer idea on what conviction is, read the following:

John 3:20 _____

John 8:9 _____

- C. At this point it is extremely important to note that once we answer the call to come to Jesus after having heard the gospel story and the invitation to come unto me has been extended, then comes this moment of conviction. Conviction comes from God by the Holy Spirit and it is an attempt by God to bring you to our next step (repentance), which is the condition to being saved. Read this following statement then discuss.

The office of the Holy Spirit is distinctly specified in the words of Christ: "When He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." John 16:8. It is the Holy Spirit that convicts of sin. If the sinner responds to the quickening influence of the Spirit, he will be brought to repentance and aroused to the importance of obeying the Divine requirements. AA52.1

- What must happen after conviction and before the sinner can be brought to repentance? The sinner must _____.
- D. How do we know if a person has rejected or accepted conviction? This is extremely important to understand. And the answer will be clearer as we study in future lessons, but the brief answer is simply this; we know that they have responded to conviction if they receive repentance, or if they demonstrate a willingness to turn away from sin, and do what is right. If there is a desire to learn and be taught which is back to our study on come unto me in Matthew chapter 11 then we can know that this person is ready for the next step.

Class exercise: Read Psalm 139:23-24. Pray this prayer tonight. What essentially are you asking God to do?
