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### *Pastors — It's Time for Scheduling*

The months of October and November are open. If you are interested, please contact me by e-mail at [devotedword@hotmail.com](mailto:devotedword@hotmail.com) or by phone, 972-310-8982.

Now is also a great time to schedule conferences for 2009.

### **Devoted to the Word Ministries**

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"The marks of the Spirit's presence...biblical teaching, loving fellowship, living worship, and an ongoing, outgoing evangelism."

John Stott

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Written by Michael Taylor, Bible Teacher

## For Personal Study

Chapters 13-16 of John occur the evening before the crucifixion of Jesus. Please read these chapters slowly and prayerfully. Reread John 15:18-16:11. Then focus on John 16:7-11, realizing that "Counselor" or "Comforter" is another name for the Holy Spirit.

One of the jobs of the Holy Spirit is to convince unbelievers of their lostness and need for Christ. As John 16:8 teaches, He does this in the areas of sin, righteousness, and judgment. No one can receive Jesus as Savior without first being convinced by the Holy Spirit that he/she is separated from God by sin. All the sin it takes to be eternally lost is to not believe on Jesus Christ for salvation. The Holy Spirit also convinces unbelievers that only Jesus Christ can give them right standing with God. Thirdly, the Holy Spirit convinces unbelievers that heaven and hell are real and that God will judge every person. Only those who have repented of their sin and received the righteousness of Christ have eternal life.

Often the Holy Spirit brings conviction on unbelievers through the teaching and preaching of the Word; through the spoken testimonies of believers; and through godly lifestyles of believers, particularly when we respond in a Christ-like way to suffering and persecution. The Lord may speak directly to a lost person as He did to Saul on the road to Damascus. He may speak in a dream as He did to Cornelius in Acts 10. Recently, missionaries report that many Moslems have been converted because the Lord spoke to them in a dream. Regardless of the manner in which the Holy Spirit brings conviction, no one is saved apart from the convicting power of the Holy Spirit.

*Mike*

**Study Question:** In Acts, what are some ways that people respond when the Holy Spirit convicts them? See Acts 2:36-41; 7:51, 54-60; 24:24-26; 26:19-31.

## 2008 Upcoming Conferences . . .

- Sept. 7–10 Short Baptist Church  
Muldrow, Oklahoma
- Sept. 14–17 Temple Baptist Church  
Canton, Illinois
- Sept. 21–24 Dayton Avenue Baptist Church  
Peoria, Illinois
- Sept. 28–Oct. 1 Rome Baptist Church  
Chillicothe, Illinois
- Nov. 16–19 First Baptist Church  
Coal Hill, Arkansas

## Recent Conferences . . .

What a joy to be back with Pastor Max Briley and the wonderful people at North Tenth Street Baptist Church of Blytheville, Arkansas, for the third time. The dates were July 27-30. The main conference was *The Early Ministry of Jesus: John 1:19-4:54*. The topic of the noon conference was *Elisha*. This church has invited me back for revival services in March 2009 and a Bible Conference in July 2009.

## Answers to June Study Question. . .

Following are some of the truths about God in 1 Samuel 17:

1. God allows those who fear the enemy rather than trust in the power of God to cower in fear.
2. God honors the person who does not want the name of God to be disgraced.
3. Those who defy God are doomed for destruction.
4. Because God had delivered David from the lion and bear, David trusted God to deliver him from Goliath.
5. God often chooses the least likely person(s) to accomplish his purposes.
6. God uses those who realize the battle is the Lord's.

## Recent Mission Trips . . .

**June 20–25**, along with members of Northlake Baptist Church of Garland, Texas, I was privileged to serve in Cincinnati, Ohio. The primary purpose of the trip was the repair, cleaning and painting of the Ohio Valley Baptist Chapel in inner city Cincinnati. The four story building is over 100 years old. The entire team worked hard. My physical job was powerspraying and painting. My joy on the trip was preaching at McKelvey Road Baptist Church in Cincinnati, and at First Mill Valley Baptist Church in Hamilton, Ohio.

**July 16–23**, along with members of First Baptist Church, Bastrop, Louisiana, I was tremendously blessed to serve in Doaktown, New Brunswick, Canada. The focus of this trip was entirely spiritual. Pastors Dave Storey of Miramichi Valley Church in Doaktown and Jim Ingram of First Baptist Church, Bastrop, are godly men. It was my great honor to preach and teach in situations like you would find in the Book of Acts. I have never before seen the Holy Spirit bring such heavy conviction on lost people. We saw people saved every time the Word was preached. Their ages ranged from the 20's to the 80's.

Bro. Dave had planned to baptize a dozen people in the river on Sunday afternoon. One of the men who was saved Sunday morning decided to also be baptized. After the thirteen had been baptized, Bro. Dave was about to come out of the water, when a man came forward professing Christ and asking to be baptized. Four more adults followed. Eighteen were baptized!

Space will not permit all the testimony I would like to give about this moving of the Spirit. Rest assured I am eagerly anticipating returning to Doaktown and all the people of Miramichi Valley Church.

"There is not a better evangelist in the world than the Holy Spirit."

Dwight L. Moody

