

ME-

Do you remember your first job?

First job –Mine, Katie & Emily and on-boarding.

They were joining a company that had many people working together, so the organizations took 2 weeks to train my daughter so that she would not make mistakes with other people's money.

Her role impacted her,
the people who worked at the credit union,
the people who kept their money in the Credit union

So it was really important that everyone is clear about what their job is and what it is not..

Last summer I became our XP-

Thankful elder team got a mentor for me, my friend Matt serves in a local church as an XP and met with me to help me learn how to do this job.

With the help of people who had done this job, my mentors helped me see what my job was... and was not...

And I have learned a lot this year...

It was hard because in my life, I have a few roles—I am a wife, a daughter, mom, friend and leader...and I had to learn how to stop being a children's pastor...and stop trying to be the mom of my staff...

Those were jobs I had done for a long time and knew how to do them. I did not know how to be an XP...I needed clarity on what my job was, or I would keep doing the wrong things.

I realized that a key piece of success for our teams is to know what they are supposed to do, and what others on the team do.
Then we can rest and do our own roles. Clarity also helps us work well together.

As we look at the trinity- we see that the Holy Spirit has a role.
Scripture says Jesus calls the Holy Spirit, the comforter.
But in John 16, Jesus describes the role of the Holy Spirit in a different way-
Jesus says when the Holy Spirit comes,

John 16:8b *"he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment. ⁹The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me."*- Jesus says our sin is we refuse to believe in Jesus. Our faith matters

The Holy Spirit connects us to God.
The role of the Holy Spirit in our lives- is to convict us of sin.

Have you ever met anyone who thought it was their role to point out sins in others?

When as a team we talked through this series, I chose to talk today- because this is an area that I struggle with.

I love to be right- and an area of my life where I can be wrong, is when I think it is my job to point out the wrong in others.

But that is not my role- to convict the world of sin

So why do I feel like it is? Have you ever done that?
Listened to a sermon knowing the whole time how much it could help that friend of yours??

Why do I feel compelled to point out others sins...is it because I want people to be like me- to get a Gold star in heaven, because I am so right?

Or do I understand that the Holy Spirit is who will convict us of sin.
That is my prayer- God help me to believe you –when you say my job is not to convict,

MY job is to love- I JOHN 4:7,8
Do we know that we were created to draw near to God-
So was each and every person- we made by God
And God loves us all...
He loves us enough to send the Holy Spirit and tell us when sin is getting in the way of our relationship with him.

And we as a church get to be the loving hands and feet who help our friends and neighbors know that they belong in the family of God-there is room for everyone-

We do this when we love, and allow the Holy Spirit to do what only he can do

When we point out sin, we put the Holy Spirit on the spot

As I say “you should not do this”...I am expecting the HS to work right then and there to convict someone of their sin.

Maybe this happens, because when I can point out the sin in another, it allows me to play God

Conviction has a negative connotation- but having the Holy Spirit speak to us is no more negative than having guard rails on a highway

Guard rails, are not bad- they are good (Vermont story)
When we travel on a mountain, I do not see the guardrail as restrictive, I see it as something that helps me stay safe and alive.

The Holy Spirit does not simply tell us what not to do, the Holy Spirit reminds us who we are and why we are here

Another way to think of the Holy Spirit is like a roller coaster track.

How many of you like Roller coasters – do you like them?

I am not a fan - I struggle with a spirit of fear. I am incredibly good at thinking of the awful things that can happen- I hated them, til I took physics class in high school and began to understand the forces that were keeping me in the roller coaster car.

At the top of a hill, inertia may carry you up, while the coaster car has already started to follow the track down. Let go of the safety bar, and you'll actually lift up out of your seat for an instant. Coaster enthusiasts refer to this moment of free fall as "air time."

I hate that feeling...isn't that sad??

But when a coaster is designed, great care is put into the tracks that keep the car going where it supposed to go.

The Holy spirit does the same for us, if we listen to the still small voice..

Whether it is a highway with guardrails for the track of a roller coaster, their job is to keep us where we are supposed to be

The roller coaster was designed to give the force needed to keep everything running, without applying too much force.. where it might be dangerous.

That is why we should not convict each other...what if the force we use is wrong...

Only God can do, God the Holy Spirit can convict, because only He knows how to convict without injuring a heart. He alone can see inside of us...knows our past and future and loves in spirit and truth.

The Holy Spirit's job is to remind us we are created on purpose

And to convict us, keep us away from where we are not supposed to be-

Like a shepherd, the Holy Spirit guides us, with a still small voice calling us back to God and His great love.

So maybe you sit here today, and you have never heard that you were made by a loving God on purpose, for a purpose...and that He wants you to live a life free from the entanglement of sin-

The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, we have a different job. not to convict or condemn one another, but to love one another

Love is speaking truth- and love is grace

The Holy Spirit speaks truth and convicts **me** of **my** sins-the things that keep me from drawing near to God.

Love speaks truth

AND Love is Grace-When we realize that we have been forgiven of much- we stop judging each other, and instead we pray for the Holy Spirit to help others- find their way back to God.

We don't judge each other-
We pray for each other
We love one another

The good news we celebrate together each week is simply this
God is with us and in us...and for us.
He has rescued us and bought us back- redeemed us.

The Holy Spirit - connects us
Connects you and me to God!

Today we are in week 2 of this series- Connected
The spirit of God within us

Over these 4 weeks we will look at the work of the Holy Spirit in us.

Convicting others is not our job. Our job is to love others.

As the bumper reminded us, the Holy Spirit allows us to see the beauty of God's love

I love how John Emery described God's Heart a few weeks ago
"What can I do to help these broken children of mine become whole and loved?"
So who is the Holy Spirit? We know God the Father- made the heaven and
earth...That Jesus is his only son.

For three years the disciples had been with Jesus, walking with Him and hearing
everything He had to say.

Yet Jesus told His closest friends- these 12 disciples, that He needed to leave
them so that the Holy Spirit could come—and that they would be better off
because of it.

John 16:13-15 The Message (MSG) Jesus said

*12-15 "I still have many things to tell you, but you can't handle them now. But when
the Friend comes, the Spirit of the Truth,*

He will take you by the hand and guide you into all the truth there is.

*He won't draw attention to himself, but will make sense out of what is about to
happen and, indeed, out of all that I have done and said.*

The Spirit will take us by the hand and guide us.

When the disciples walked with Jesus, and heard him speak, they still did not
understand what he meant-

If this was true of the disciples, who spent every day with Jesus, how much more
do we need the Holy Spirit actively involved in our lives today?

The Holy Spirit – is a still small voice speaking truth To me- to you

So leave today knowing this truth:

The Holy Spirit allows us to see the beauty of God's love

The Holy Spirit's job is to convict us of our sin

Convicting others is not our job....Our job is to love others.

We can pray for God to give us eyes filled with love and compassion

God wants to help His broken children become whole and loved? How does He
do that?

By the Holy Spirit- He does not want us to stay broken and chained to sin. He
can to set us free from sin.

Let's look at John 16
Bible's in the back, take one home as a gift
Also on screen-

JOHN 16 The Work of the Holy Spirit

⁵ *"But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going. ⁶ Instead, you grieve because of what I've told you. ⁷ But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you.*

Jesus is telling his close friends, IT IS BEST FOR JESUS TO LEAVE
So the Holy Spirit will come

⁸ *, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment.*

When we started to plan for this series – this is the phrase that jumped out at me.
And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin

THE HOLY SPIRIT convicts the world of sin...Imagine this... How we would be able to live lives of joy if we really believed that God is with us – all the time!!

It is not my job...and that is hard for me...
But what is the Holy Spirit pointing out to us?

⁹ *The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me.*

DID you see that?

The sin is we refuse to believe.

My life really changed in 2001- with Beth Moore Believing God (story) I believed in God, but I did not believe him---I forget that I am loved, or that I do not have to be afraid..or to love those who hate me...But God never asked me to do that in my power..it is Christ in me

Look at VS 13..

¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.

The Holy Spirit convicts you and me, by guiding us to truth.

What does a guide do? Points out the things you may not notice

(

John Stark....Molly Stark everywhere)

And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin

The Holy Spirit Convicts us

He refines...removes the sin to make us holy

In ancient times, this form of refining involved a craftsman sitting next to a hot fire with molten gold in a crucible being stirred and skimmed to remove the impurities or dross that rose to the top of the molten metal. ... The resulting product is a muddy substance that is almost pure **gold** (99.999% or 24K)

What do you need God to remove today? Ask God to show you..
Holy Spirit you are welcome here...

A song that speaks to this request we can bring to Jesus is called

Refiner's fire "My heart's one desire
is to be holy Set apart for You, Lord- MY Master
Ready to do your will
Cleanse me from within
and make me holy
Cleanse me from my sin

Jesus said it was for our good that he was going away and he promised to send the Counselor, the Advocate, who would convict the world with regard to sin and

righteousness and judgment (John 16:7). He wasn't sending an angry Judge to harm us...that would not be good..

Sin keeps us far from God, and we know as a church- we are called to help people find their way back to God.

In the book Ephesians , Paul prays for the Ephesians and asks that the Spirit of wisdom and revelation will enlighten the eyes of their hearts so they would know the hope to which God has called them, and the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.

Jesus longs for us to see that He is our hope, and our inheritance

So what keeps us from the love of God? Nothing...

In Ephesians 3:18 – 19, Paul says that the Spirit will strengthen us in the inner being so that we might receive power to grasp *“how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure with all the fullness of God.”*

When we understand we are loved – we are able to live the lives God created us to live.

But often something gets in the way of that love.

It is often the words someone speaks over us. Have you been convicted by someone- told you are a useless loser, stupid, a slut, unwanted, a liar?

Jesus calls you child, free, forgiven, loved...

Dr. Henry Cloud says people are not good or bad...
They feel Bad or they feel loved...

“One of the most misunderstood aspects of sin is that it is basically about separation from love.

If people know they are loved, they are not afraid of their 'badness'. They feel accepted and safe, and they do not have to feel 'good' about themselves to be safe. Love does that. Love is everything”.

As a mom, I love my girls and it makes me want them to want to make good choices...but any choice they make will not separate them from my love, or their dad's of more importantly God's love.

But it will have consequences...

The worst thing we can do is keep people from experiencing the consequences of their actions.

The most loving thing we can do for people, is to allow them to feel the consequences of choices, and to remind them they're loved.

One of my favorite song, by the sidewalk prophets says I don't know how you have been broken... I knew that you are loved.

We are all broken, and God wants to make us whole.

The path to wholeness is Jesus
The Holy Spirit connects us to His love.

Feelings of badness are not something to be overcome. They are another symptom of the basic problem of disconnection from love. Don't fall into the trap of trying to make a person with 'bad' feelings develop 'positive' feelings.

This not the answer.

God sent the Holy Spirit... To dwell inside us... to speak, the still small voice of truth
You're loved... you're not alone... you're made on purpose for purpose.

Nothing is as destructive as emotional and spiritual isolation.

The maxim to remember is this: An alone self is a bad self. If someone feels alone, he or she is going to feel 'bad'. The answer is not 'goodness', or more self-esteem. The answer is love.

So how do we remember that we are loved? For me it has been to memorize scripture, and ask God to bring it back to my mind when I need it.

One thing about the season of life I'm in... my children have cars... and we are energy than I have.

So they spend their time at night with friends... I would prefer they were home sleeping in their beds.

And as I said earlier- I have an amazing gift... I can think about many possible horrible outcomes
And so the other night I found myself worried... but all the possible things that could happen... since my daughter wasn't home in her bed.

But I did something for the first time... and I hope I remember to keep doing this

I asked God, if this thought isn't true, then please help me to stop thinking about it... and help me only think about things that are good and pure and true.

Philippians 4:8 New Living Translation (NLT)

⁸ And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

Maybe your problem isn't anxiety, but find yourself judging others. Maybe when you look at yourself- all you see are flaws...But You don't see all the good that Jesus created in you.

This verse (Phil 4) can quickly become a prayer.

Lord, help me think about such things..

As you leave today, my prayer is that you would know that you're dearly loved—
And the Holy Spirit inside of you...can help you think about these things..

True

Lovely

Thoughts that is worthy of praise..

I was a children's pastor for over 13 years. About 10 years ago I discovered Jesus storybook Bible.

When we talk about the Holy Spirit coming, I love the words found in that version-
The chapter is called God sends help..

When the Holy Spirit came...it was like the coldness and hardness was melting away... broken hearts were mended..

God gave new hearts, a new creation

New parts work properly...the old gone and new have come.

God's power is in us, when Jesus comes inside us

Because Once Jesus could only be in one place at one time, now nothing will ever separate us from the love of God.

Holy spirit is in US and with us..

Whispering the promise that gets rid of the poison, the lies that live in our hearts..

God's promise for us is you are my child...and I love you

Make your home in me

When we do God fills us with boldness and joy

And joy causes us to run and tell others the good news

Jesus died for you and me- **John 3:17**

He came to save the world, not condemn it

Harbor- we want others to know we can stop running from God- and run to him

So He can love us and set us free

He wants both things

That we know we are loved

and we are set free

The Holy Spirit...convicts us of our sin

I will close with this story-

A few weekends ago, a friend of mine brought me away for couple days. We went to a bed-and-breakfast In Vermont. Our host was a lovely woman of God. She had actually written articles for guidepost magazine. She had a quite, wise spirit. And I knew the Holy Spirit lived in her.

So what a fun way to spend a few days...because for two mornings, someone else made my bed...and made me breakfast

We would get up and sit at a huge dining room table, and look outside. There was a wall filled with windows...

And the sky was blue- with pretty clouds, and we could see a field filled with wildflowers and daises.

Their cows would come and eat from the fields in the evening. There was such peace and quiet there.

Stillness.... Something that if you're a parent with young children you may not remember with that sounds like.

I have been in mom since 1996. I have three beautiful daughters. And since they are only four years apart, the early years we're not filled with quiet or stillness...

Many of our summers revolved around playgrounds, swimming pools, and Freeze pops...and trying not to watch any television.

Those two quiet morning felt like summer, and it made me think about these last 21 summers- they were filled with friends.

There is a saying that is so true-when you have young children, the days are very long but the years go by too quickly.

As I sat looking at the garden of that B&B, I realized this year is different. Life is changing... life will slow down for my husband and I – we will not have frenetic days...they will probably be a bit quieter year after year as our girls live in dorms and apartments and start their own lives

And in this new season...I won't be present with my kids in the day-to-day life. Thanks to technology-there's Face Time, Email, texting... someday... I will join Snap chat.

And I started to think about this...

I thought about how God loves us so much that He did not only give us Jesus – who now sits at the right hand of God the Father and prays for you and me..

He sent the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit inside of us reminds us every moment, everyday-How much God loves us.

And when we understand that-We see ourselves as God sees us...

We are not guilty, broken people... but we are the loved children of the most high God.

If we are loved, then how do we, the beloved, love one another?

We can ask God – and He will help us..

Maybe today know you are making choices you should not be making

Have you wondered ..Why are you pushing against the guardrails and trying to do life alone?

God is here- with us- He loves us and wants what is best for you.

During our time of prayer, allow the Holy Spirit to convict – And ask for his power to love..