

The Holy Spirit Quenched

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[0 : 00] Last time in our study we were looking at what Major Thomas called the conscience of convenience! and the conscience of conviction.

! The conscience of conviction was simply doing what's right just because it's the right thing to do. No strings attached. You do it because it's the right thing to do and you have no qualms about it. The conscience of conviction was simply doing what's right just because it's the right thing to do. No strings attached. You do it because it's the right thing to do and you have no qualms about doing that. And likewise, don't do the wrong things because it's wrong to do. You know, both sides of that play in the picture there.

From that then we looked at the reality of our fleshly nature. And the fact that we have to come to a realization of what that is within us.

[1 : 21] Realizing that the first thing, of course, that the Spirit of God begins to do the moment He enters into our lives at salvation is to begin to restore once again those standards that we let slip when we are born.

And so the Spirit of God, when He comes in, seeks to restore those standards that are unchangeable.

And so we began to see that. We realized as well then, we saw that Esther had to come to the place of understanding what was really going on in the palace.

In particular, what kind of guy Haman really was. It wasn't a pretty picture for her. It wasn't easy for her. And so we'll see again tonight that there's some real questions that she faced here about what to do with the information that Haman had given to her because when he sent her a copy of that edict that Haman had written concerning the destruction of the Jews.

So what is she going to do about that? You know, how is she going to respond to all of that? And so it brought us then, if you will, to the reality that there is now a confrontation with reality.

[3 : 02] Isn't it tough sometimes to face reality? How many love to do that? Yeah? Yeah, sometimes it can just really slap you in the face.

And that's the thing that Esther has got to confront now. She's now confronted with the reality of what's really going on in the palace. What's really happening there?

And the real question for her now is, how is she going to respond? Is she going to respond through the conviction of the conscience of convenience? Or is she going to be responding through and with the conscience of conviction?

How is she going to respond? I want you to notice with me that whatever her decision was, it wasn't an automatic decision here.

It wasn't a spur of the moment decision. It wasn't a spur of the moment decision. She had to think this thing over, if you will. It had to come to a real shock, become a real shock to her.

[4 : 05] When she was exposed to the reality of who and what Haman really is. I mean, after all, he's been a nice guy. All right. Every time he would see her in the palace, no doubt.

He was very kind to her. He was a gentleman. Did the proper things that a man would do. Showed the proper manners that he would show to the queen.

And so, all of a sudden, she's confronted with the reality that here's the guy that you see probably every day in the palace that now has the power and has taken that power and written an edict to have your people, the Jews, put to death.

Simply because he doesn't like them. And that, of course, stems from his genealogy. What a picture again of the natural man within us.

Folks, listen to me. Again, I've told you before, I think. And I'll tell you again just so I can brag. I was a good kid. Amen?

[5 : 13] You don't know. Oscar? Oscar knew my dad. Yeah. How many times did my dad brag about how good I was?

That was a stupid question, wasn't it? Yeah. Yeah.

Yeah. Yeah. Before the fall. Yeah. I just fell. Yeah. But in reality, you know, I didn't ever want to do anything wrong. Didn't ever want to disappoint my dad is the thing.

Didn't want to do that. He brought us up right. He taught us right from wrong. Good moralistic, you know, family and life. And so I, you know, I did fine.

But boy, when it came to the time that I realized, wow, there's something inside me, although it's outwardly painted a pretty picture, there's something inside me that's ugly.

[6 : 12] And that's the nature of sin. And we all have got to recognize what that really is. Now, so how is she going to respond to all of this when she finds out exactly what what is going on?

Now, the news of what Haman is attempting to do is not the only alarming thing here that Esther has to face.

Well, there you go. All right. Mordecai's alarming request is the other thing. You know, yeah, here's what Haman's done. Now, here's what you have got to do.

Esther chapter four, verse eight says, also, he gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to show it unto Esther and to declare it unto her and to charge her that she should go in unto the king to make supplication unto him and to make requests before him for her people.

Wow. Esther, you're going to have to go in unto the king. And you're going to have to talk to him about this. And you're going to have to make supplication to have him change what Haman has done here.

[7 : 40] Not a simple thing to do. Realize again, the alarm in the request comes from the law of the kingdom. It's no big deal. I mean, after all, she's the queen.

He's the king. She's married to him. Why would it be a big deal to go in and talk to him? Well, because of the law of the kingdom. And the law of the kingdom simply said, you realize, that if anybody goes into the king in his presence without being summoned, it's automatic death.

All right. To enter unsummoned into the presence of the king was to pass a sentence of death upon herself. Now, she knew that. She knew full well that that was what's going to happen.

You know, to cross over that threshold into the king's presence was not just the idea of you then being arrested and put on trial and judged.

This was an automatic death sentence. I mean, the moment your foot touched, cross that threshold. I mean, that was it. You were sentenced to death.

[8 : 53] And now Mordecai is saying, hey, you're going to have to go in and see. And you're going to have to explain to him what's going on. And you're going to, you're going to have to deal with this.

And the only hope she would have is that the king would hold out to her when she entered into his presence while he's on his throne.

If he would hold out to her that golden scepter. And that means he welcomed her into his presence. Now, it's no wonder that that shook Esther up a bit.

Because look at her reply, if you will, in verses 10 through 11 of chapter 4. Again, anyhow, can you shake your head when you do that? The earthquake's hitting us here. Again, Esther spake unto Hadesch and gave him commandment unto Mordecai.

All the king's servants and all the people of the king's provinces do know that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the outer court who is not called.

[10 : 02] There is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden scepter, that he may live. But I have not been called to come in unto the king these 30 days.

Can you imagine that? She's not been summoned by the king in 30 days' time. No wonder she's hesitant to come in. You've got to wonder, really, what was the closeness of their relationship here?

I mean, the king to the queen, probably like the president and the vice president. You don't see each other very much. And when it comes to the things of the kingdom. So, that's her reply.

Mordecai, you know. Everybody in the kingdom knows. Anybody that goes into the king without being summoned, it's automatic death sentence. Doesn't matter, man or woman.

Now, what a conflict had to arise within Esther here. She's truly conflicted about what is it she's going to do. We recognize from the earlier chapter, chapter 2, that she had not, to this point,

revealed to anybody in the kingdom.

[11:19] Not even King Ahasuerus. That she was a Jew. She's born a Jew. Raised a Jew. She hadn't told anybody. And knows that if she were to let that be known.

Not only would it surprise everybody, but it would ruffle the feathers of Haman even more because of his hatred for the Jews. And now here's this renegade queen that's in the palace of which he has power in the kingdom, of course, and in the palace.

Now, so, under those circumstances, it seemed tremendously ridiculous, if you will, to walk in there and sentence yourself to death.

Kind of got the idea of the rational thinking could be this. If Haman is as wicked and cunning as Mordecai makes him out to be, then at all costs, I must survive.

Wow. You know, rational thinking, right? For I am indispensable to my people. I mean, you think about that there. If this is really the kind of guy he is and what's really happening, and he's written this edict, then I've got to remain alive because I'm the only one in the palace that can, you know, figure out something to do.

[12:46] Maybe I can outwit him. Now, catch this. And when you're looking at this, realize who Haman represents. He represents the flesh. Esther, the human spirit.

Maybe I can outwit him. Beat him at his own game and thwart his ugly plans. Or, maybe there's a better side to his character.

Yeah. And that needs to be encouraged. Perhaps, after all, there's some good in him that Mordecai has overlooked. Yeah. But to die self-sentence?

No. There's got to be some more reasonable alternative to death. Have you ever, after you have done some stupid thing, anybody ever do stupid things?

Yeah? No, I don't either. Yeah. And even realize sometimes those are sin. Have you tried to rationalize it? Or even maybe say, nah, it's not really that bad.

[13:51] You know, there are much worse things that other people do. You know, and here's the favorite. Oh, God understands. Amen? Amen? He does understand, doesn't he?

He understands what it is. He understands that sin. And he understands why we allowed that sin, excuse me, into our life.

And so, that's the place that she has come to. Now, a picture we have here, excuse me, just a moment, of the Holy Spirit quenched.

Excuse me, I've got a... I promise you the only thing in that is coffee. Got in some dust the other day, and it's really giving me a problem.

All right. So, it brings us to the idea here, then, in her response. Picture of the Holy Spirit, then, being quenched. The lesson to be learned was as hard for Esther, then, as it is for us today.

[15:03] Here's the lesson. It's not her responsibility to hang Haman. Listen, it's not our responsibility to conquer the sin nature.

Now, I want you to think about that, and I want that to soak into you for just a moment. It's not, you know, it wasn't Esther's responsibility to do that. That was Mordecai's responsibility.

Now, so likewise, then, it was her responsibility simply to do what she was told to do.

And simply, then, to obey instructions. Whose instructions? Mordecai's instructions. Okay? That's all she had to do. Boy, this gets so good down the road.

And that's all you and I have to do. Think about it just a moment. It seems so simplistic. But the only thing we have to do to please God in our life, to satisfy His will and His purposes through us, is simply to obey the Spirit of God in our lives.

[16:21] Yes. Now, so, it was to be her responsibility to do what she was told, to simply obey, even though death itself might seem to be the only possible consequences.

Have you ever, have you ever come to the point of not really being able to understand what God's doing? Or even more so, you know, to really come to the question, God, I hear what you're saying. I know what you're showing me to do here. Yeah, yeah, exactly. Have you thought carefully about this? You know, you know, as if to say, our thinking's on the same level as His.

Yeah. And that seems to be here what Esther had been doing. But, even though the consequences for her were, seeming death.

Don't know, you know, I don't know, you know, nobody had taken a poll here in Esther's day to find out, what's the percentage of people that walked in unsummoned to the king that he held the scepter out to?

[17 : 44] Yeah. How much percentage of men? What percentage of women? You know, if it was this day and time, they'd do that. But, so we don't know, you know, how often that would have happened.

But evidently, not very much. Because she, being the queen, was hesitant to go in. Because she was fearful that it would lead to her death.

So, likewise, us. Even when sometimes God's, God's instruction to us seemingly leads us to very difficult times.

Or difficulties in our lives. Our response must be to simply obey what he tells us and shows us to do.

Alright. As Esther had to die to her own ability to hang Haman, we too must die to our own ability to deal with the flesh. Now, catch this.

[18 : 43] Because we cannot crucify ourselves. That's God's business.

Amen? And the thing we have to recognize is, Romans 6, 3 and 4 say, Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

I love this passage in Romans 6. Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Then, the passage we started out with on that Sunday morning kicking this study off, I am crucified with Christ. Nevertheless, I live.

Yet not I, but Christ liveth in me. And the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.

[19 : 52] we don't have the ability to crucify ourselves. Yeah. The natural man within us will not attempt to crucify itself.

It's diametrically opposed to the law of God. But, when Jesus died on Calvary's cross, he took everything we were in the old Adam and nailed it to his cross with himself.

Amen? Oh yeah. I mean everything we were in the old Adam. So, we are already crucified with Christ.

Here's another passage. Paul's letter to the church at Corinth. Let me find it here. Yeah.

Turned right to it. 2 Corinthians 5, if you will. Verse 14 and 15.

[21 : 04] Look what he says. For the love of Christ constrains us. It grabs a hold of us. Pulls us down. Because we thus judge. Now catch this.

That if one died for all, then all were dead. He's talking about Romans 6 there, folks. When Jesus died on the cross, he nailed to his cross with him the sins of all humanity.

Yeah. He who knew no sin became sin for us. So that Paul says here, if one died for everyone, then everyone's dead.

Yeah. And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them and rose again.

it's a matter of appropriation of all that God has done through Christ for the individual, for the sinner and bringing him to saving grace. All right.

[22 : 14] Now, where are we at here? To walk in the spirit is to have such utter confidence in him that you first seek his instruction then ask no further questions.

Huh? Yeah? Yes, him? Usually I ask, help me to learn the lesson this time around so you don't have to pull me through something like this again.

Oh, yeah. I do that a lot. Okay. I want to understand the situation. I want to do what you said and whatever I'm needing to learn, let me learn this. Good, good. Because I don't want to go around this mountain again.

Yeah, yeah. And the thing to do in the midst of that is, when you tell him that, what do you do? You obey. But what else do you do? Keep praying.

And you do it. You do what he asks you to do. Okay, and what I was trying to get to is that when you say that to God, God, show me, teach me through this, then the imperative for us is then to keep our eyes out, opened, and watch to see what it is that God does do in our lives, around us, through us, in us, and all of that because those are the lessons he's wanting us to learn.

[23 : 29] And most of the time, Doylene, you're, no, I'm not going to say that. Forget it. I want to hear it. You want us to hear it? Will you defend me?

Don't misunderstand this because I mean this in a good way. You're such a righteous lady. Yeah, yeah, okay. Yeah, that's what I mean. That's what I mean. Okay. Now, where was I going with that? I got so off track with that. You still want to get in trouble. But that's the thing we've got to do is watch and see what it is God's doing in our lives and what he's showing us.

I mean immediately in the days ahead and then all of a sudden, it may be a week down the road or whatever, all of a sudden something's going to take place. And you think, oh yeah, that's what God wants to show me about what this was back here.

Yeah, to keep our eyes open in that. So, but the best thing to do for us is, God, I trust you.

[24 : 34] Boy, up here, yeah, down here. Yeah, yeah. I think I may have shared with you before, Darla, the one that's in Montana, in Bozeman.

She, bless her heart, she loves God, has for a long time, and went to OBU, graduated from OBU and she had the opportunity through OBU.

OBU had an unwritten partnership with the Baptist Convention in Hawaii to provide some students that would go over there and teach conversational English to students through the University of Hawaii and work through the Baptist Convention there to do that.

So, they picked her to do that. Oh, great. Boy, that's cool. Oh, that's another story. I'll tell you about one of these days. But anyway, anyway, she went over there and ended up staying four years.

While she was there, she met this young pastor of a Baptist church there that was single and went through all of that stuff and finally he asked her to marry him and she tanked.

[25 : 58] It was just like a cloud came over me, dad, don't know why. She had the hardest time with that. So, she broke up with him. I think I told you that the guy she's married to now, they met at Kyle Lydia and Mai's wedding at our reception.

He's the son of one of the men up at the church in Copan. And so, they, you know, became acquainted and then it became serious and he proposed to her as well.

He wanted to propose to her, but she was having a hard time even letting him do that. And so, they tossed that thing back and forth for I don't know how long, over a year.

Finally, they went and talked. They were in Fort Worth at the time because they had both come back and gone to Fort Worth seminary. Got a hold of a student, a friend of theirs, a ministerial student at the seminary, and he came and talked to them.

And here's what Darla told me. She said, Dad, you'll never believe what he told me. She said, he said, after listening to all that's gone on, he said, you're living in unbelief.

[27 : 15] Wow. Now, it wasn't unbelief about her salvation. No, that was a settled deal. She said, what do you mean? She said, you don't believe God can work this and make this good.

Ah! Darla's so analytical. But all of a sudden, just like that, it dawned on her.

Huh! You're right! So I thought, okay, that's interesting. And so, they got that settled.

He asked her. She said, yes. They called us. They said, all right, we're going to be home for Christmas. Can you guys, how many Christmas trees? Five.

Was it just five? Just five. Seemed like 12. Okay, if you can find five Christmas trees, they wanted to get married there in Copan at the church, and five Christmas trees that would fit on the platform up there.

[28 : 22] Of course, we had to buy the stands and everything else for them. Maybe some lights on them. And that's all we want. Simple, just family. And so, we got all that arranged.

They came home for Christmas and come time for the wedding. How many of you ever have seen the movie Runaway Bride? Here I am.

Did you bar the doors? I'm going to walk her down the aisle and I'm going to perform the ceremony. Cool deal. I had fun with that.

I did. Fun with him. But anyway, walked her down the aisle and gave to him and hold hands arm in arm and I turned around and came time for the vows.

Here's dad. Runaway Bride. Runaway Bride. Darla was first, I guess. I don't remember for sure now. But they had their vows.

[29 : 29] They had written their own vows. And so they turned to each other. And I was just looking. I was watching. Waiting to see with bated breath how she was going to do in the vows.

Man, she clipped those things off. Johnny, come lately. Nothing. No hesitation. No quivering in her voice. Tears in Michael's eyes.

Yeah. And then he did the same for his vows. And I pronounced them, quickly pronounced them husband and wife. And they walked down the aisle. But see, here's what happened is, she came to the realization that she was not really fully trusting in God, in her life.

God's Because her greatest fear was doing something wrong that would cause her not to be able to satisfy the will of God. And once she realized that she wasn't trusting God to make it good, then she was fine.

And they've been fine ever since. God's taken them through some deep waters, some real trials in their life together. and they've come out victorious through all of that.

[30 : 54] Still have some health issues they're battling, but, you know, they had the gumption to leave Boston because of the doctrinal issue and then come to Bozeman and see what God's going to do there.

And so, to walk in the Spirit, that's walking in the Spirit, is to simply have utter confidence in Him, follow His instructions, and don't ask any further questions.

Just do as you were told. That's all there is. Seems simple, doesn't it? Yeah, yeah. Alright.

Galatians 5.16 This I say, walk in the Spirit, here's the promise, walk in the Spirit, you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

The idea there is, you will not be so governed by the flesh, that will keep you from fulfilling the will of God, if you walk in the Spirit.

But I say, walk, I'll put that in the Amplified here, walk and live, I like this, walk and live habitually in the Holy Spirit, that is, responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit, then you will certainly not gratify the cravings and desires of the flesh, flesh, that is of the human nature, without God.

[32 : 21] So, the Holy Spirit is fully able to deal with the flesh, to put and keep it in the place of death. It's his business to hang Haman, I like that.

Haman's gonna get hung, you realize that if you read the story. Alright, Esther chapter 4, verses 12 through 14, they told to Mordecai Esther's words, then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house more than all the Jews.

She's still mulling this over, alright? For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall their enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place.

I love that, you know, I love that, God's always going to preserve his people, alright? He's gonna deliver them. He said, he's gonna come from some other way, but he'll do it.

He'll do it without you. But, thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed, and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this.

[33 : 36] Wow. Now, Mordecai made it abundantly clear to Esther, she was not indispensable to God.

Amen? Yeah, yeah, she was saved. Boy, the best thing for me to do is just stick around the palace. I can help that way. Now, she's not indispensable, but God is indispensable to her.

Alright? He made it clear that to her, the moment had come in her life, that there were tremendous consequences to face, and it would be decisive either way.

You stand upon the threshold of that destiny for which you have been chosen and prepared. If you choose right, then this could be your greatest hour, but if you choose wrong, throwing it all back into God's face and holding your peace to save your own skin, don't flatter yourself that you will escape the consequences, for in seeking to preserve your own life, you will lose it.

Wow. Some heavy stuff there for her. Alright? If you're prepared to lose your life for God's sake, you will find it.

[35 : 02] Is that what the scripture says? Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. This is your hour of destiny. Choose wisely. Don't throw it away. Yeah.

Such time comes into life almost every believer to some extent. You ever think about that? You ever stop to ask yourself, why is it God really saved me?

What was his purpose in doing that? Most people believe, well, God saved me because he loves me. That's true. He saved me so I could go to heaven and not hell.

That's true. But you realize there's so much more to it. he saved us and redeemed us so that we could be used of him to accomplish whatever purposes he wants to accomplish through us individually and then as well collectively in the church that he's brought us together in.

All right? I remember when, when, boy, it's been a few years back, Paul Coons was still alive.

[36 : 27] And I knew, I knew that today was going to come when I retired from pastoring, not from preaching, but pastoring. And I was curious, you know, Lord, what is it you want to do with me?

You know, and realizing and believing that, that there comes that time, you know, all the, you'll look back on your life and all the things that you can see God has done in your life, that he's molded you in doing and shaped you, given you understanding in his word, all those things.

he's done that to bring you to a place and a point in life where he wants to utilize all of that.

I don't want to call it the grand finale, but, but, you know, the epitome of his purpose for you. And when, oh, I'll never forget, when Paul Coons was alive, we were sitting in one of our meetings at the association office and he was heartbroken, he was burdened.

He said, I want you all to know my heart's broken because we've got so many churches in our association that are having real struggles, having real problems, real difficulties.

[37 : 56] And I'm listening to that and I'm thinking, wow. All of a sudden, all of a sudden I get the sense in my heart, in my mind, that some way, somehow, that's where it is for me.

Yeah. Not to cause the problem, but somehow God wants me, want to utilize me to help churches to learn what it is to be the church.

God's church. So I thought, wow, wow. Now, I don't know if that's come to pass yet or not.

Still don't really fully know why he brought us here. Maybe that's it. But, but, you know, but what I'm saying is this, all of us that way, not just preachers, all right, but every man, woman, boy, and girl that God has saved by his grace, he's got a purpose in their life.

And so, so, you know, I think it would do us well, all of us, to take some time just to look back at our life. And from the time we got saved, to see how God what has used to shape us, to mold us, and what that has become, what we have become in all of that, and how he has seemed to utilize that through our lives since we've been saved.

[39 : 41] And see if you can't kind of get a picture started here that you paint. that might take shape to show you somewhat about maybe what it is that God is purposing through you.

Yeah. Because just like Esther, you know, this was the pivotal point of her life. This, Mordecai said, may very well be the very purpose of God in your life.

To spare his covenant, people. Yeah. So we need to understand and we need to recognize that.

The moment when God's purpose for you, a purpose for your life, hangs delicately in the balance, being poised upon the threshold for that for which Christ has redeemed you, and for which his presence comes to empower you.

Now, fulfillment comes, we'll quickly, this fulfillment comes with the realization that you don't have within yourself what it takes.

Yeah. Death to all that you are in your own inadequacy is the only gateway through which you may enter into the fullness of all that Christ is, so that you may live miraculously in the power of his resurrection.

[41 : 14] Now, Matthew 16, 24, and 25 says, Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.

You ever wonder what the cross was there? Simple. the cross was the place of the father's I don't want to say greatest, but perhaps one of the greatest aspects of the father's will for the son.

That was to die for the sins of the world. He did it on the cross. So to us, take up your cross, whatever it is, God purposes in your life, and then follow me.

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it. Whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Thing is, reality, I don't think, well, let me put it this way.

I think as long as we're, as long as we've got breath, God's still working that out in our lives.

[42 : 40] When he has accomplished that, he can take us home. Amen? Yeah.

Yeah. So you're still breathing. All right? So keep looking. Keep looking and seeing what it is God's doing in your life.

try to get a handle the best you can. I want the Spirit of God is showing you and saying to you that here's where it is for you. Here's what I want to do in you and through you.

The greatest aspect of that is what he wants to do in us, to us, so then he can do through us what he wants to do.

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