

Wednesday Word of the Week

Convict

Before getting into this message the question must be asked; do you read today's word "convict" as a noun or a verb?

Origin: Middle English: from Latin convict- 'demonstrated, refuted, convicted', from the verb convincere (see convince). The noun is from obsolete convict 'convicted'.

Definitions:

(verb) Pronunciation: /kən'vɪkt /

[WITH OBJECT]

Declare (someone) to be guilty of a criminal offense by the verdict of a jury or the decision of a judge in a court of law

(noun) Pronunciation: /'kɒn, vɪkt /

A person found guilty of a criminal offense and serving a sentence of imprisonment

[anyone else find it interesting that the word "convict" comes from the same Latin root as the word "convince"?)

I will now restate the question at the beginning of this because it is important to know what is in our minds. When you first saw today's word "convict", did you hear it in your mind as the noun or as the verb? Why is this important? It is important because how we think affects how we act. Please, stay with me as I work out what the Lord is trying to say here.

In Rachael's word titled "Man-Pleasing" she paraphrased something our pastor said, "When change happens, if the first thing we think is 'How does this affect me?', then we are still an immature Christian."

What no one knew, until now, is when our pastor said that I started to feel a sting then I started to cry. There was a process of me asking the Lord why I was crying because I didn't feel like it was directed to me. That's when it came to me that I was taking those words personally but was unsure why.

I thought the feelings of taking my pastor's message personally was the Holy Spirit convicting me of wrong thoughts I may have had. That's what we say right? We say, "I was convicted by the Holy Spirit." I automatically thought that was what was happening. However, this situation was not that at all. I searched and asked the Lord what it was in me that needed to change; why did those words affect me so much? In this situation it was not Holy Spirit but the accuser trying to convince me that I was not as "mature" in my personal relationship with God as I thought I was. The accuser was trying to convince me of this to negate a previous breakthrough I had in the Lord for the purposes of the Lord. What the accuser tried to convince me of was a complete lie.

Yes, Holy Spirit does show those areas in us that need to be transformed but He does it in a way that builds us up and helps us grow instead of tearing us down; He gives us hope for change. The accuser, however, does it in a way to make us feel lower than low to make us believe there is no hope and we should just quit. It is time we realize how we think and change our thoughts to align with God Almighty and His word instead of agreeing with the accuser. If you heard the word "convict" in your mind as a noun, there may be something in you that is agreeing with the accuser that you (or your brothers and sisters in the faith) are guilty and/or unworthy of God's love and fullness of His promises for your life (this could stem from your past, your environment, or even how you view others around you). If this is the case, if there is a belief in your heart that agrees with the accuser, this ungodly belief needs to be removed from the heart and mind.

Only Holy Spirit can show us if we are in agreement with the accuser in any way (in agreement by thoughts, words, and/or actions). The Lord will always show us those parts that we have not yet given Him access but only when we ask. Then we must be willing to be obedient to Him to have these things changed in us. We were guilty and undeserving of God's fulfilled promises through the presence of sin. Though we may have been convicted of something within us that is out of alignment with God's word does not make us convicts in God's eyes. Our penalty has been paid by another so we do not have to serve a single moment bound by chains sitting in a prison made by our sin. Our penalty has been paid by the One and Only, Jesus Christ. By His death we are free. By His resurrection we have new everlasting life.

Let the following Bible verses fill you completely. Let them overtake your mind so you can stand in front of the accuser with confidence to declare your victory through Jesus Christ.

Bible Verses

- **2 Corinthians 10:4-6** - For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.
- **Hebrews 4:12-16** - For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. 14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
- **Philippians 4:8** - Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

- **1 Corinthians 2:15-16** - But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. 16 For “who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.
- **Romans 12:2** - And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- **Psalms 139:17-18** - How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! 18 If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.
- **Genesis 1:31a** - Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.
- **Psalms 139:13-14** - For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.
- **1 Corinthians 2:10-12** - But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.
- **Matthew 16:16-19** - Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 17 Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”
- **Revelation 1:17-18** - And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. 18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.
- **Genesis 1:1-4** - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.

Alicia R. Shipe

January 28, 2015

Other Source:

http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/us/definition/american_english/convict