



# *Pastor's Comments*

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## **Conviction**

Conviction is when one is **compelled to admit the truth** of a charge. **Conviction of sin** is the act of **convincing of sin**. It is the state of **being sensible of guilt**. Conviction was experienced after the first sin, "And they heard the voice of the LORD God...and Adam and his wife **hid themselves**... And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I **was afraid**" (Gen. 3:8-10). David felt it, "For mine iniquities are gone over mine head: **as an heavy burden** they are **too heavy** for me...**my sin is ever before me**" (Ps. 38:4; 51:3). Isaiah experienced it in the revelation of the awesome presence of God and cried out, "**Woe is me!** for I am **undone**" (Is. 6:5). The scribes and Pharisees felt it when Jesus said, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone...And they...being **convicted by their own conscience**, went out one by one" (John 8:3-11). Peter felt it, "and **wept bitterly**" (Matt. 26:75).

**Conviction of sin**, which is waning in modern Christianity, was a primary element in past spiritual awakenings. Why? Compare the general subject matter of today's preachers with those of the past and you will understand why! Messages such as "**Sinners in the hands of an angry God**" by Jonathan Edwards are not likely to be heard today! Yet we know that sinners like Felix experienced **conviction of sin** and "**trembled**" as the Apostle Paul "reasoned of **righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come**" (Acts 24:25).

Luther said, "**The recognition of sin** is the beginning of salvation." If you are being convicted of sin, **respond in full and genuine repentance** to God, believe that Jesus took your sin upon Himself at the cross, and accept God's forgiveness.

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