

Volume 5, Day 5: Fool me twice. Shame on me!

“Yes, shame on me!” Not because I was too weak to resist or too foolish to recognize another’s manipulation. Rather, when I am fooled in either the first round or the second or subsequent rounds, it is a clear indication that I am not fully tuned in to the Holy Spirit within be.

John 16 declares that the role of the Holy Spirit is to convict men of sin, righteousness and judgment because they have not believed unto salvation. This chapter also reveals that the Holy Spirit’s role for believers is to guide us into all truth, including recognizing the motives of others.

Unfortunately, most Christians when others deceive them as to **why** they need help in order to get that help, they want to hold the other person responsible and will even try to shame the other party in order to get them to stop their manipulations. Yet, if we see clearly how Jesus treated the adulterous woman, for example, we find that Jesus did not heap shame on her. Rather He humiliated the religious, self-righteous for their hypocrisy. God is far more disgusted with self-righteous, boastful persons than one who sins and admits it and asks for forgiveness.

You likely remember that Jesus was not only beaten beyond recognition and nailed to a cross but also crucified naked. Jesus bore not only the penalty of our evil, but also suffered our shame. Therefore, as “Christ-ians” we should love like Jesus does, not blaming or shaming others into compliance with our standards for living, but showing them God’s grace so that they can be compelled by the love of God into a love affair with Him. And to be sure, the best solution to addictive behavior is developing a strong enough love for God that you are compelled not to hurt your **lover**!

My Confirming Scriptures:

Aligning Experiences:

human nature is:
self-indulgent
self-promoting
self-Sovereign