

"THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD"

The Sins Against The Holy Spirit

INTRODUCTION

1. We have seen where the Holy Spirit is certainly active in God's scheme of redemption...
 - a. Revealing and confirming the Word of Truth - [He 2:3-4](#)
 - b. Convicting hearts of sin through the Word - [Jn 16:7](#)
 - c. Regenerating those who respond to the gospel - [Jn 3:5](#)
 - d. Indwelling those who obey the gospel - [Ac 2:38](#); [1Co 6:19](#)
 - e. Leading those who walk in the Spirit - [Ga 5:16-18,25](#)
 - f. Producing the fruit of the Spirit in those so led - [Ga 5:22-23](#)
 - g. Strengthening those seeking to please God - [Ep 3:16](#)
 - h. Serving as a seal, marking Christians as God's own - [Ep 1:13](#)
 - i. Serving as an earnest (guarantee) of our inheritance - [Ep 1:14](#)

2. Because of the Spirit's activity, it is possible for us to sin against the Spirit...
 - a. We can resist the Spirit - [Ac 7:51](#)
 - b. We can quench the Spirit - [1Th 5:19](#)
 - c. We can grieve the Spirit - [Ep 4:30](#)
 - d. We can insult the Spirit - [He 10:29](#)
 - e. We can blaspheme the Spirit - [Mt 12:31-32](#)

[Lest we be guilty of sinning against the Spirit, let's examine how such sins are possible...]

I. RESISTING THE SPIRIT

A. THE WARNING...

1. Stephen condemned his listeners for resisting the Spirit - [Ac 7:51](#)
2. How did they do this? By persecuting (i.e., resisting) the prophets - [Ac 7:52](#)
 - a. Who foretold the coming of Christ
 - b. In whom the Spirit of Christ was working - cf. [1Pe 1:10-11](#)-- **Resisting the Spirit-led prophets resulted in their resisting the Spirit!**

B. THE APPLICATION...

1. The same Spirit led the apostles of Christ to preach the gospel- cf. [1Pe 1:12](#); [Ro 15:19](#)
2. We can resist the apostles today
 - a. By refusing to obey their word - cf. [1Co 14:37](#)
 - b. By refusing to abide in their doctrine - cf. [Ac 2:42](#)-- **Are we guilty of resisting the Spirit, by resisting the words of the apostles?**

[Certainly those who refuse to obey the gospel are guilty of resisting the Spirit, but even those who are Christians can be guilty. Christians can also be guilty of...]

II. QUENCHING THE SPIRIT

A. THE WARNING...

1. Written to the church at Thessalonica - [1Th 5:19](#)
2. How could they become guilty of this?
 - a. To quench means to extinguish, suppress, stifle
 - b. To whatever extent the Spirit was at work, they were not to

- suppress it
3. Two examples...
 - a. The Thessalonians were not to despise prophecies - cf. [1 Th 5:20](#) ("Do not despise the words of the prophets" NRSV)
 - b. Timothy was encouraged not to neglect his gift - [1Ti 4:14](#); [2Ti 1:6](#)
- **Suppressing (or neglecting) the Spirit's work is quenching the Spirit!**

B. THE APPLICATION...

1. The Spirit is at work in our lives today
 - a. Teaching and guiding us through His revealed word - cf. [Ep 6:17](#)
 - b. Strengthening us through His indwelling - cf. [Ep 3:16,20](#)
 - c. Producing the fruit of the Spirit as we are so led - cf. [Ga 5:22-23](#)
 2. But we neglect or stifle the Spirit's effort...
 - a. When we fail to read and heed the Word of God
 - b. When we fail to pray, asking for strength
 - c. When we fail to produce the fruit of the Spirit
- **Are we guilty of quenching the Spirit, through our own neglect?**

[Another sin against the Spirit that Paul warned Christians about is...]

III. GRIEVING THE SPIRIT

A. THE WARNING...

1. Written to the Ephesians - [Ep 4:30](#)
 2. What does it mean to grieve?
 - a. To make sorrowful, to affect with sadness
 - b. To offend
 3. How could they grieve the Spirit?
 - a. By corrupt speech - cf. [Ep 4:29](#)
 - b. By bitterness, anger, evil speaking - cf. [Ep 4:31](#)
- **When Christians sin, they grieve the Spirit who indwells them!**

B. THE APPLICATION...

1. The Spirit desires to produce good fruit in Christians...
 - a. The fruit of graceful words that lift up others - cf. [Ep 4:29](#)
 - b. The fruit of graceful conduct that bless those around us - cf. [Ep 4:28,32](#)
 2. But we make the Spirit sorrowful every time...
 - a. Unwholesome words proceed from our mouths
 - b. We engage in conduct unbecoming those who have been sealed (marked) for the day of redemption!
- **Are we guilty of grieving by our speech or conduct the Spirit who indwells us?**

[As bad as it is for Christians to quench the Spirit (through neglect) or grieve the Spirit (through disobedience), it can get worse! We can even be guilty of...]

IV. INSULTING THE SPIRIT

A. THE WARNING...

1. Written to the Hebrews - [He 10:29](#)
2. What does it mean to insult the Spirit of grace?
 - a. KJV, ASV, "despite the Spirit of grace"
 - b. NRSV, "outraged the Spirit of grace"
3. The context pertains to willful sin - cf. [He 10:26-31](#)
 - a. Persistent sin with full knowledge and no desire to repent
 - b. Conduct that tramples Christ underfoot, and regards His

- blood a common thing
- c. For which remains a fearful and fiery judgment
- **Christians can become so hardened by sin that they insult the Spirit through outrageous conduct!**

B. THE APPLICATION...

1. We need to be aware of the danger of apostasy - [He 3:12-14](#)
 - a. We can become hardened by the deceitfulness of sin
 - b. We can thereby depart from the living God
 - c. We must hold the beginning of our confidence (faith) steadfast till the end - cf. [Re 2:10](#)
 2. We become guilty of insulting the Spirit...
 - a. When we sin willfully, with full knowledge of our sin
 - b. When we have no desire to repent - cf. [He 6:4-8](#)
- **Sinning through ignorance or weakness grieves the Spirit, but sinning willfully insults the Spirit!**

[Finally, we note that Jesus warned about...]

V. BLASPHEMING THE SPIRIT

A. THE WARNING...

1. Jesus told the Pharisees of the unforgivable sin - [Mt 12:31-32](#)
 - a. He had just healed a demon-possessed man - [Mt 12:22-23](#)
 - b. The Pharisees attributed His power to Beelzebub (Satan) - [Mt 12:24](#)
 - c. He illustrates the absurdity of their charge - [Mt 12:25-28](#)
 - d. He explains the implication and necessity of casting out demons by the Spirit of God
 - 1) The kingdom (rule or reign, power) of God has come - [Mt 12:28](#)
 - 2) For such to be complete, the strong man (Satan) must be bound - [Mt 12:29](#)
 - 3) This Jesus ultimately accomplished through His death and resurrection - cf. [Jn 12:31-33](#); [Ro 14:9](#); [Col 2:15](#); [He 2:14-15](#); [Re 1:18](#)
 2. What is the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit?
 - a. It is attributing Jesus' power to an unclean spirit - cf. [Mk 3:28-30](#)
 - b. It is ascribing the work of the Holy Spirit to Satan (B.W. Johnson)
 3. Why is this sin unforgivable? When one concludes that Jesus' power was of the devil...
 - a. He has rejected the evidence which produces faith in Jesus
 - b. He has rejected the efforts by God to save those in sin
- **When one is willing to believe that Jesus was in league with the devil, saving faith is not possible!**

B. THE APPLICATION...

1. We must be careful not to reject the testimony of the Spirit
 - a. He is the means by which God bore witness to Jesus - cf. [Ac 10:38](#)
 - b. Otherwise we can neglect that "great salvation" - cf. [He 2:3-4](#)
 2. If we reject the testimony of the Holy Spirit...
 - a. We reject heaven's last effort to save man (**Ferrell Jenkins**, *The Finger Of God*, p.45)
 - b. We reject the evidence which convicts of sin (ibid.)
- **The consequences of rejecting the Spirit's testimony are serious, depriving one of the forgiveness found only in Christ!**

CONCLUSION

1. Sins against the Holy Spirit can lead progressively into apostasy...
 - a. Resisting the Spirit can lead to quenching the Spirit
 - b. Quenching the Spirit can lead to grieving the Spirit
 - c. Grieving the Spirit can lead to insulting the Spirit
 - d. Insulting the Spirit can lead to blaspheming the Spirit
 - e. Blaspheming the Spirit leads to a condition where forgiveness is not possible

2. Note the sad condition of those in full-blown apostasy - cf. [He 6:4-6](#)
 - a. This passage describes those who at one time:
 - 1) Were enlightened
 - 2) Tasted the heavenly gift
 - 3) Become partakers of the Holy Spirit
 - 4) Tasted the good word of God
 - 5) Tasted the powers of the age to come
 - b. Yet they had fallen to the point:
 - 1) Where it was impossible to renew them to repentance
 - 2) Where they were crucifying again the Son of God, putting Him to open shame

How to prevent such a sad end? Make sure that we are not guilty of "**The Sins Against The Holy Spirit**"!

[<< Previous](#) | [Index](#) | [Next >>](#)

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