

The Sins Against the Holy Spirit

Introduction

- A. The Holy Spirit has been sent to glorify Jesus Christ through the sanctification and service of the believer.
- B. The ministry of the Holy Spirit has been indicated by His titles. He is the "Holy Spirit," the "Comforter," and the "Spirit of Truth."

I. The Sin Against the Holy Spirit – in General.

- A. He is the "Comforter" – all egotistical self-sufficiency and lack of personal involvement through faith and love is a sin against the Holy Spirit.
- B. He is the "Spirit of Truth" – all lack of concern for truth and failure to live according to the truth is a sin against the Holy Spirit.
- C. He is the "Holy Spirit" – all unholy activity is a sin against the Holy Spirit.

II. The Sins Against the Holy Spirit Specifically.

A. Resisting the Holy Spirit, Acts 7:51

- 1. This is the rejection of the message of the Holy Spirit. It is the rejection of the content of divine revelation. It is the denial of the existence of some specific truth, or truth in general, and the refusal to accept it. It is the choice of error,
- 2. Important factors related to the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. We must recognize that there is truth, love, and holiness.
 - b. We must recognize that revelation is final authority in our own personal lives. We must accept the message that, there is a priority for belief and action. It is important to accept this fact, that truth, love, and holiness are given priority by God, and then to practice this in daily life.
- 3. Observations,
 - a. Revelation or truth cannot be separated from Jesus Christ, John 14:6; Col. 2:3.
 - b. Revelation or truth cannot be separated from action. True belief and true action are inseparable, I John 5:3; Matthew 7:21,22.

B. Lying and Tempting the Holy Spirit, Acts 5:1-11.

- 1. This is the pretense that the truth has been accepted and is being practiced– when the opposite is true. It is the practice of non-truth.
- 2. This is the attempt to enter into a relationship to the Holy Spirit which is contradictory to His Character and Office. It is a spiritual "gamble" committed in the erroneous belief that the Holy Spirit would allow it to pass unnoticed.

C. Grieving the Holy Spirit, Ephesians 4:30.

- 1. This is the hindering of the Holy Spirit, by attitude or activity, in His attempts to lead the believer into a deeper life of sanctification, Romans 8:13,14.
- 2. It is the refusal to accept personal responsibility for the message of divine revelation and in particular for the preeminence of truth, love, and holiness.
- 3. It is idle refusal to give due submission to Jesus Christ and the failure to love Him, exercise faith in regard to His Person and Work, and to give Him His rightful place in our lives.

4. It is the choice of selfishness instead of love, of self-pity instead of joy, of despair instead of peace, of impatience instead of longsuffering, of irritability instead of gentleness, of malice instead of goodness, of unfaithfulness instead of faithfulness, of dogmatism instead of meekness, of irrational compulsiveness instead of self control.

D. Quenching the Holy Spirit, I Thessalonians 5:10.

1. The word "quench" may allude to the Old Testament custom of having a fire constantly burning on God's altar. We may not initiate any action or thought which would "dampen" the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
2. By contrast we are exhorted to "... stir up (kindle up, cause to burn) the gift of God," II Timothy 1:6; ,1 Timothy 4:14.
3. To quench the Holy Spirit is to oppose, in attitude or activity, His endeavor to sanctify and to proclaim the truth in and through our lives, John 7:37-39.
4. It is the attitude or activity that regards the priority of truth, love, and holiness as unimportant or incorrect.
5. It is a refusal to cooperate with the ministry of the Holy Spirit in one's own life and the attempt to thwart His ministry in the lives of other believers.

Conclusion

- A.** Is it correct to say that the opposite to sinning against the Holy Spirit would enable one to live filled with the Holy Spirit?
- B.** What practical suggestions should be made to insure that we do not sin against the Holy Spirit?