

## The Warning Regarding Spirituality: Grieving the Holy Spirit

### Introduction

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

*But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me, and ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning. John 15:26,27*

### I. The Sins Against the Holy Spirit – in General.

- A. He is the "Comforter" (the believer's Helper) – therefore, all egotistical self-sufficiency and lack of personal involvement in the things of God is a sin against the Holy Spirit.
- B. He is the "Spirit of truth" (the believer's Teacher) – therefore, all lack of concern for truth and failure to live according to truth is a sin against the Holy Spirit.
- C. He is the "Holy Spirit" (the believer's Sanctifier) – therefore, all unholy activity is a sin against the Holy Spirit.

### II. The Sins Against the Holy Spirit – Specifically.

#### A. Resisting the Holy Spirit.

*Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Spirit, as your fathers did, so do ye. Acts 7:51*

1. To resist the Holy Spirit is to refuse to believe Him. 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. It is important to recognize that there is truth, love, and holiness as revealed in the Bible. We must give these their Biblical priority in our life. When we minimize what the Holy Spirit teaches we sin against Him.

#### B. Lying and Tempting the Holy Spirit.

*But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and keep back part of the price of the land? ... Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? .... Acts 5:3,9*

1. This sin is the pretense that the truth has been accepted and is being practiced – when the opposite is true. It is the practice of hypocrisy.
2. This is the attempt to enter into a relationship with the Holy Spirit which is contradictory to His character and work. It is a spiritual "gamble" that the Holy Spirit would allow it to pass unnoticed.

### C. Grieving the Holy Spirit.

*And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.* Ephesians 4:30

1. This sin is the hindering of the Spirit, by attitude or activity, in His attempt to lead the believer into a deeper walk with God.
2. It is the refusal to give due submission to Jesus Christ, the failure to love Him, and give Him His rightful place in one's life.
3. It is grieving to the Holy Spirit when we choose selfishness instead of love,  
self-pity instead of joy,  
despair instead of peace,  
impatience instead of longsuffering,  
irritability instead of gentleness,  
malice instead of goodness,  
unfaithfulness instead of faithfulness,  
dogmatism instead of meekness, and  
lack of control instead of self-control. (Galatians 5:22,23)

### D. Quenching the Holy Spirit.

*Quench not the Spirit.* I Thessalonians 5:19

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 kind of thought or action that would "dampen" the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
2. To quench the Holy Spirit is to oppose, in attitude or activity, His endeavor to sanctify and proclaim the truth in and through our life.
3. This sin is the attitude or activity that regards the priority of truth, love, and holiness as unimportant.
4. It is the 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 of sinning against the Holy Spirit would enable one to live filled with the Spirit?
- B. When the believer has such a great Helper, Teacher, and Sanctifier – it is a serious sin not to cooperate with Him. It is a sin against God!

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