

Review: Ch. 1 “The Spirit-Filled Life is For Every Believer”, Ch. 2 “Who Exactly is the Holy Spirit?”, Ch. 3 “Relying on the Holy Spirit’s Power in Us”, Ch. 4 “Relying on the Holy Spirit’s Presence”, Ch. 5 “Relying On The Holy Spirit in Prayer”.

Ch. 6 “Avoiding Sin Against The Holy Spirit”

What are sins against the Holy Spirit as opposed to sins against the Father and Jesus?

The Bible clearly identifies 3 sins against the Holy Spirit:

1. Quenching the Holy Spirit
2. Grieving the Holy Spirit
3. Blaspheming against the Holy Spirit

Quenching the Holy Spirit

1 Thess. 5:19-22 – Paul wrote: “Do not put out the Spirit’s fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil.” What is Paul saying here?

What are some ways we quench the fire of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

1. We choose to say “no” to God leading us a certain direction. Have you ever done this?
2. We ignore the Holy Spirit’s presence in our lives. Have you done this?
3. We repeatedly sin. Have you done this? Why does this impede the Holy Spirit?

Maintaining our relationship with the Holy Spirit is like keeping a campfire going. We must keep the fire kindled by:

1. Talk with Him daily. Do you speak with the Holy Spirit?
2. Recognize His presence. Do you see the Holy Spirit active in your life?
3. Ask for His help. Do you seek the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit in your daily life?
4. Invite Him to guide us in our lives. Do you ask Him to lead the way in your life in order to do His will?

Grieving The Holy Spirit

Eph. 4:29-32 – Paul wrote: “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” What does this mean?

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” What does this mean?

“Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Are you holding any bitterness or anger in your heart? How will this affect your relationship with the Holy Spirit?

Grieve – The verb demonstrates that the Holy Spirit is a person, not just an influence, for only a person can be grieved.

By these actions negatively affecting the Holy Spirit, what does this tell us about the character of the Holy Spirit?

“The Holy Spirit can be grieved by our sins because He loves us and deeply desires to reward us, bless us, and see good fruit produced in us.” Can you recognize sin in your life that is blocking your relationship with the Holy Spirit?

Blaspheming Against The Holy Spirit

When Jesus healed a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, the Pharisees said; “It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons.” By saying this, the Pharisees were blaspheming against the Holy Spirit, accrediting His work to Satan. Have you seen this occur in your life when God was doing something, but the world considered it evil?

Math. 12:30-32: Jesus said: “He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters. And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.

Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.”

The Pharisees were willing to sacrifice their own Godly judgement to fulfill their own worldly desires (power, wealth, riches,...). Jesus knew their hearts. Do you see this in your life or the lives of those around you?

“... if you have any concern about having committed this kind of sin, there is no way that you have committed it.”

The Danger Of The Unpardonable State

“We should focus on the more important issue: when we refuse to receive the forgiveness that God freely offers, we put ourselves into an unpardonable state. We can die in an unpardonable state...but it won’t be because we have committed an unpardonable sin.” Are you in a state in your life where you have accepted God’s forgiveness?

Math. 6:14-15 – Jesus said: “For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” Why did Jesus tell us this? What does this tell us about the relationship between our lives and the Father?

As Christians, we are not in an unpardonable state, but we can be in a miserable state. We cannot be happy or know the fullness of God’s joy, peace, and blessings if we are in sin and refuse to act and refuse God’s forgiveness. Are you there?