

Grieving the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 4:30

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

The Holy Spirit is not a force but a person, the person of the Son, and God the Father, and God the Spirit. He can be grieved, resisted, insulted, lied to, blasphemed, quenched, and hindered.

Seven Ways to Grieve the Holy Spirit

1. Grieve the Holy Spirit - Ephesians 4:30
2. Quench the Holy Spirit - 1 Thessalonians 5:19
3. Lie to the Holy Spirit - lie and to and test the Spirit? Acts 5:3-4, 9
4. Insult (done despite) unto the Spirit of grace? Heb 10:29
5. Hinder the Holy Spirit - Mk 6:5, Lk 11:52, Ats 16:18, 1 Thess 2:18
6. Resist the Holy Spirit - Acts 7:51
7. Blaspheme the Holy Spirit - Mark 3:28, 29

To Grieve – To Sorrow

3076 I upew lupeo *loo-peh'-o*

from 3077 I uph lupe; = sorrow, pain, grief, annoyance, affliction v AV-be sorrowful 6, grieve 6, make sorry 6, be sorry 3, sorrow 3, cause grief 1, be in heaviness 1; 26

- 1) to make sorrowful
- 2) to affect with sadness, cause grief, to throw into sorrow
- 3) to grieve, offend
- 4) to make one uneasy, cause him a scruple

Synonyms for to Grieve

3076 I upeomai is the most general word, meaning simply *to grieve*, outwardly or inwardly.

3996 perj ew means properly *to lament for the dead*. It is also applied to passionate lamentation of any kind, so great that it cannot be hid.

2354 j rhvew is *to give utterance to a dirge* over the dead, either in unstudied words, or in a more elaborate poem. This word is used by the Septuagint in describing David's lament over Saul and Jonathan.

2875 kop tomai is *to beat the breast in grief*, ordinarily for the

I. What Is Grieving the Holy Spirit?

The Word Used is Sorrow, Mourning, To Make Sad but more than sad. It is a grieving as in the loss of something precious. He mourns the loss.

The Holy Spirit is not a force but a person, the person of the Son, and God the Father, and God the Spirit. He can be grieved, resisted, insulted, lied to, blasphemed, quenched, and hindered.

There at Least Seven Ways to Grieve the Holy Spirit

1. Grieve the Holy Spirit - Ephesians 4:30
To make him sad, mourning, sorrowful over a loss of something precious
2. Quench the Holy Spirit - 1 Thessalonians 5:19
Put out the Spirit's fire. Lost heat, lukewarm, love, passion, worship, service.
3. Lie to the Holy Spirit - lie and to and test the Spirit? Acts 5:3-4, 9
Pretending to be what you are not or do what you do not. Putting on an act. The outward man does not match the inward man.
4. Insult (done despite) unto the Spirit of grace? Heb 10:29
Thinking that grace and freedom is license to sin. Once saved, always saved.
5. Hinder the Holy Spirit - Mk 6:5, Lk 11:52, Acts 16:18, 1 Thess 2:18
6. Resist the Holy Spirit - Acts 7:51
Opportunity after opportunity lost. Invitation after invitation ignored, resisted. (ie) Norma's story – marriage rather than obedience
7. Blaspheme the Holy Spirit - Mark 3:28, 29
Trample underfoot the blood of the covenant whereby you were sanctified. Consider the blood of Jesus an unholy thing.

II. How Do We Grieve the Spirit?

20 You, however, did not come to know Christ that way... 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to **put off your old self**, which is being corrupted by its **deceitful desires**; 23 to be made new in the **attitude of your minds**; 24 and to put on the **new self**, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. 25 Therefore each of you must put off **falsehood and speak truthfully** to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. 26 "In your **anger** do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold. 28 He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands that he may have something to share with those in need. 29 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. 30 And **do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 **Get rid of all bitterness**, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 **Be kind and compassionate** to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Look at the context. Compare to Old and New Testament Examples.

1. Our Lifestyles Can Grieve the Spirit. –

The old self, deceitful desires (22) greediness, lusts, immorality, former ways of life, lying, cheating, stealing, falsehood, (Ephesians 4:19) lasciviousness.

God The Spirit does not participate with evil lifestyles.

Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. - 1 Corinthians 6:19, 2 Corinthians 6:16

Galatians 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness = unbridled lust, pornography internet, magazines, tv, movies, videos, photos, imaginations and fantasies.

2. Our Attitudes Can Grieve the Spirit. –

the attitudes of our minds (23) anger, bitterness, (31) brawling, malice

3. Our Speech Can Grieve the Spirit. –

unwholesome talk, slander, evil speaking, evil reporting, complaining, criticizing, grumbling, lying, tearing down, (Every idle word shall give an account)

Result of Grieving the Spirit

“Do not give the devil a foothold.” – Ephesians 4:

1 Peter 4:3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

Jude 1:4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Seven Ways to Grieve the Holy Spirit

1. Resist the Holy Spirit - Acts 7:51

"You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit!

2. Hinder the Holy Spirit -through unbelief, Mrk 6:5, Lk 11:52, 1Thess 2:18

Mark 6:5 He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them.
Acts 16:7, 18 When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. 18. She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

Luke 11:52 "Woe to you experts in the law, because you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering."

3. Grieve the Holy Spirit - Ephesians 4:30

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

4. Quench the Holy Spirit - 1 Thessalonians 5:19

Do not put out the Spirit's fire; Do not treat prophecies with contempt.

5. Lie to the Holy Spirit - agreed to lie and to test the Spirit? Acts 5:3-4, 9

3. Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have (pseudomai) lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?

4. Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."

9. Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test (peirazo) the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."

6. Insult (done despite) unto the Spirit of grace? Heb 10:29

How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?

7. Blaspheme the Holy Spirit - Mark 3:28, 29

28. I tell you the truth, all the sins and blasphemies of men will be forgiven them.

29. But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin."

III. How Do We Make It Right?

The Holy Spirit is not lost when he is grieved or quenched.

He withdraws to a corner of your heart. He is in heaviness. He hides his face. He removes his felt presence. It is a feeling. Your joy is lost. Your willing spirit is missing, replaced by bitterness, anger, rebellion and finger pointing. The missing peace, is the missing piece.

David Grieved and Quenched the Spirit in his life

Psalm 51:11 – Repent, Confess, Renounce, Beg forgiveness and restoration

7. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
8. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
9. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.
10. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
11. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.
12. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
13. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you.

Wet Wood Won't Burn

Better bring the wood in out of the rain. Let the Lord blow upon it. Dead bones can live again. Ezekiel 37 and Eph 2.

Make it Right with Others

Context of anger and name calling, followed by divorce

Matthew 5:23 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. 25 "Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still with him on the way, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. 26 I tell you the truth, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

Have you ever settled a matter?

Where is the joy of my salvation? Do not cast me away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

(ie) Spurgeon on England

(ie) Spurgeon's Call to repentance, seeking God, asking Holy Spirit.

Keith Green 2, (8) Touch Your People Once Again (10) I Repent,

Healer of Wounded Hearts

Real Joy-Giver

Isaiah 61:1-3

1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,

3 and **provide for those who grieve in Zion--**
to bestow on them

a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and
a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

Isaiah 63:9-10

9 In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. 10 Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them.

Psalms 51:10-12

10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Norma's Testimony

I remember early in my life feeling drawn to being a missionary. At every Missions Conference, when the invitation was given at the end for youth to dedicate themselves to God for service, even if it meant serving as a missionary, I was always one of the first to respond. And I was pretty sure that I was to go to the country of Indonesia, to one of its many Islands. At least, I thought it was there. I even especially chose subjects in school that I thought would help prepare me. Then I met a young man who wanted to marry me. He had grand plans for what our life would be. And I loved him. I had applied to Bible School in St. Paul, Minnesota and had been accepted but was working a year to raise money to go. I was 18 the year John Maxey from Irian Jaya was our missionary. I remember the closing service and how the Lord was again tugging on my heart to surrender to him.

I can still see Rev. Maxey standing on that platform with his wig of black ringlet curls and his loin cloth, spear and blanket and I remember his call to the youth and his words that "someone is fighting an intense spiritual battle over obedience to God in this service." It was me, I knew it and I remember gripping the pew so hard and saying to God, "No, I can't go God. I want to get married. I can't be a missionary. Rick will go with me later" And finally, the struggle ceased. And the service ended. And I didn't go to Bible School. I got married. We had talked about going to Bible School after we got married and could work awhile to save. But it wasn't long before it became apparent that he didn't really intend to do that. That was the beginning of my downward spiral and the first brick in the wall between us in marriage.

Five years later, we were ready for divorce and spiritually adrift when God intervened in our lives through revival in our home church. Once again I had come face to face with the call to surrender my life only this time I stopped fighting and gave God free reign—even though I knew it was too late to do what he had originally asked of me. I remember thinking how I had totally ruined my life and had nothing to give to God now. My words to Him that night were, "If you can do anything with the mess I've made of my life, here I am."

The Hall Closet

One day I found Him waiting for me at the door. An arresting look was in His eye. As I entered, He said to me, "There is a peculiar odor in the house. Something must be dead around here. It's upstairs. I think it is in the hall closet."

As soon as He said this, I knew what He was talking about. There was a small closet up there on the hall landing, just a few feet square. In that closet, behind lock and key, I had one or two little personal things that I did not want anyone to know about. Certainly, I did not want Christ to see them. I knew they were dead and rotting things left over from my old life. I wanted them so for myself that I was afraid to admit they were there.

Reluctantly, I went up with Him, and as we mounted the stairs the odor became stronger and stronger. He pointed to the door. I was angry. That's the only way I can put it. I had given Him access to the library, the dining room, the living room, the workroom, the rec room, and now He was asking me about a little two-by-four closet. I said to myself, "This is too much! I am not going to give Him the key."

"Well," He said, reading my thoughts, "if you think I'm going to stay up here on the second floor with this smell, you are mistaken. I will go out on the porch." Then I saw Him start down the stairs.

When one comes to know and love Christ, the worst thing that can happen is to sense Him withdrawing His fellowship. I had to give in.

"I'll give you the key," I said sadly, "but You will have to open the closet and clean it out. I haven't the strength to do it."

"Just give me the key," He said. "Authorize me to take care of that closet and I will."

With trembling fingers I passed the key to Him. He took it, walked over to the door, opened it, entered, took out all the putrefying stuff that was rotting in there, and threw it away. Then He cleaned the closet and painted it. It was done in a moment's time. Oh, what victory and release to have that dead thing out of my life!

Spurgeon – Churches Grieve the Spirit

Ah! sad enough it is to have the Spirit drawn from us. But, my brethren, I am about to say something with the utmost charity, which, perhaps, may look severe, but, nevertheless, I must say it. The churches of the present day are very much in the position of those who have grieved the Spirit of God; for the Spirit deals with churches just as it does with individuals. Of these late years how little has God wrought in the midst of his churches. Throughout England, at least some four or five years ago, an almost universal torpor had fallen upon the visible body of Christ. There was a little action, but it was spasmodic; there was no real vitality. Oh! how few sinners were brought to Christ, how empty had our places of worship become; our prayer-meetings were dwindling away to nothing, and our church meetings were mere matters of farce. You know right well that this is the case with many London churches to this day; and there be some that do not mourn about it. They go up to their accustomed place, and the minister prays, and the people either sleep with their eyes or else with their hearts, and they go out, and there is never a soul saved. The pool of baptism is seldom stirred; but the saddest part of all is this, the churches – are willing to have it so. They are not earnest to get a revival of religion.

We have been doing something, the church at large has been doing something. I will not just now put my finger upon what the sin is, but there has been something done which has driven the Spirit of God from us. He is grieved, and he is gone. He is present with us here, I thank his name, he is still visible in our midst. He has not left us. Though we have been as unworthy as others, yet has he given us a long outpouring of his presence. These five years or more, we have had a revival which is not to be exceeded by any revival upon the face of the earth. Without cries or shoutings, without fallings down or swooning, steadily God adds to this church numbers upon numbers, so that your minister's heart is ready to break with very joy when he thinks how manifestly the Spirit of God is with us. But brethren, we must not be content with this, we want to see the Spirit poured out on all churches.

Spurgeon – Conclusion

“And now, in conclusion, there may be some of you here who have lost the visible presence of Christ with you; who have in fact so grieved the Spirit that he has gone. It is a mercy for you to know that the Spirit of God never leaves his people finally; he leaves them for chastisement, but not for damnation. He sometimes leaves them that they may get good by knowing their own weakness, but he will not leave them finally to perish. Are you in a state of backsliding, declension, and coldness? Hearken to me for a moment, and God bless the words. Brother, stay not a moment in a condition so perilous; be not easy for a single second in the absence of the Holy Ghost.

I beseech you use every means by which that Spirit may be brought back to you. Once more, let me tell you distinctly what the means are. Search out for the sin that has grieved the Spirit, give it up, slay that sin upon the spot; repent with tears and sighs; continue in prayer, and never rest satisfied until the Holy Ghost comes back to you. Frequent an earnest ministry, get much with earnest saints, but above all, be much in prayer to God, and let your daily cry be, "Return, return, O Holy Spirit return, and dwell in my soul." Oh, I beseech you be not content till that prayer is heard, for you have become weak as water, and faint and empty while the Spirit has been away from you. Oh! it may be there are some here this morning with whom the Spirit has been striving during the past week. Oh yield to him, resist him not; grieve him not, but yield to him. Is he saying to you now "Turn to Christ?" Listen to him, obey him, he moves you. Oh I beseech you do not despise him. Have you resisted him many a time, then take care you do not again..."