

SERMON – “Grieving the Spirit”

**MATTHEW 12:31-32** – Blasphemy against the Spirit is **unforgivable**.

**QUESTION:** What is this unpardonable sin? This sin is **understood** in **TWO WAYS**. **First, the context of this passage is attributing the power of God to Satan and vice versa** (be careful when judging the spiritual origin of things). The **Pharisees** claimed Christ had **cast out demons** by the power of Satan **instead** of the **Spirit** (this blasphemy).

**Testimonies for the Church, 5:634:** “What constitutes the sin against the Holy Ghost? It is willfully attributing to Satan the work of the Holy Spirit ... It is through the medium of His Spirit that God works upon the human heart; and when men willfully reject the Spirit and declare it to be from Satan, they cut off the channel by which God can communicate with them. By denying the evidence which God has been pleased to give them, they shut out the light which had been shining in their hearts, and as the result they are left in darkness.”

**Second**, when we **RESIST** the **WORK** of the **Spirit in our lives**, we **RISK going down the road of the unpardonable sin, the point of no return**. The **WORK** of the Spirit includes: **(1) converting people to Christ** (Jo. 3:5; 1 Cor. 12:3); **(2) helping us to bear fruit** (Gal. 5:22-23); **(3) giving us spiritual gifts** (1 Cor. 12:4-11); **(4) being Christ’s presence with us** (Jo. 14:16; 15:26; 16:14); **(5) guiding us into all truth** (Jo. 16:13); **(6) teaching us truth** (Jo. 14:26; 1 Cor. 2:13); **(7) convicting us of sin** (Jo. 16:7-8); **(8) bringing us to repentance** (Acts 2:38; 3:19); **(9) speaking to us in the still, small voice** (1 Ki. 19:11-12; Isa. 30:21; Heb. 3:7-8); **(10) placing God’s Law in our hearts and minds** (Heb. 10:15-16); **(11) directing ministry activities** (Acts 8:29; 10:19-20; 13:2); **(12) sealing us permanently in/with the truth** (2 Cor. 1:21-22; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30).

**Beloved**, if we **RESIST** the **WORK** of the **SPIRIT** in **our lives**, especially the **CALL** to **REPENT, CONFESS, and GIVE UP OUR SINS** to Christ, we **RISK being on the PATH** to the **UNPARDONABLE SIN**. **RE: blasphemy** (Jo. 10:30-33; Mk. 2:1-7). There are **PHASES** to **this sinful process**.

**EPHESIANS 4:30** – By **ignoring the Spirit**, we **GRIEVE HIM** away.

**1 THESSALONIANS 5:19** – **Our resistance QUENCHES His fire in us**.

**ACTS 7:51** – We then **move into** the **HABIT** of **RESISTING** the Spirit.

**HEBREWS 3:7-15** – The **final phase** of this process – a **HARD heart**.

**The Faith I Live By, page 58:** “The sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit does not lie in any sudden word or deed; it is the firm, determined resistance of truth and evidence ... God destroys no one. The sinner destroys himself by his own impenitence ... No one need look upon the sin against the Holy Ghost as something mysterious and indefinable. The sin against the Holy Ghost is the sin of persistent refusal to respond to the invitation to repent.”

**Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, page 93:** “No soul is ever finally deserted of God, given up to his own ways, so long as there is any hope of his salvation. ... Our heavenly Father follows us with appeals and warnings and assurances of compassion, until further opportunities and privileges would be wholly in vain. The responsibility rests with the sinner. By resisting the Spirit of God today, he prepares the way for a second resistance of light when it comes with mightier power. Thus, he passes on from one stage of resistance to another, until ... the light will fail to impress, and he will cease to respond in any measure to the Spirit of God.”

We **ALL** struggle with **sinful weaknesses**. The **REAL QUESTION** is, what are we doing with our sins? Are **we wrestling with Christ over them** or **resisting the Spirit/becoming desensitized** to sin? **RE: sear** (1 Tim. 4:2); **dark room** (Acts 24:25; 26:27-28); **once choice** (leave; back!); **baptized at 11; party; one choice; Advent message; “No more games; I’m calling you now; this is it; if you walk away again, game over.”**

**APPEAL:** Where are you right now? Is God calling you to give up some sin in your life? Is the Spirit calling you to **WALK IN THE LIGHT** in some area that you’re resisting? What will you do? Will you avoid **“Grieving the Spirit”** by giving your heart to Jesus right now? Jesus wants your heart **more** than you could ever imagine – **will you give it to Him?**