

Sins Against the Holy Spirit

1. Introduction

- a. Because of the Spirit's work and His nature, it is possible for us to sin against the Spirit...
 - i. We can resist the Spirit
 - ii. We can quench the Spirit
 - iii. We can grieve the Spirit
 - iv. We can insult the Spirit
 - v. We can blaspheme against the Spirit
- b. In order to avoid such sin, we will examine how each one is possible.

2. Resisting the Spirit

- a. Stephen condemned his listeners for resisting the Spirit
 - i. Acts 7:51-53 - [51](#) “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. [52](#) Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, [53](#) you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”
- b. How did they resist the Spirit?
 - i. They persecuted the prophets who, by the Spirit, announced beforehand the coming of the Righteousness One.
 - 1.1 Pet. 1:10-11 – [10](#) Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, [11](#) inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.
 - ii. The same Spirit led the apostles to preach the gospel.
 - 1.1 Pet. 1:12 – [12](#) It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.
 - 2. Rom. 15:18-19 – [18](#) For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, [19](#) by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and

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all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ;

iii. We can resist the Spirit today by:

1. Refusing to obey the apostles' teaching

a. 1 Cor. 14:36-37 – [37](#) If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord. [38](#) If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized.

b. Having special gifts of the Spirit did not exempt the Corinthians from following the command of the Lord.

2. Refusing to abide in the apostles teaching

a. Acts 2:42-43 - [42](#) And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. [43](#) And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

b. It was those who received the word spoken by Peter and the apostles who devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching.

3. Quenching the Spirit

a. 1 Thess. 5:19-21 - [19](#) Do not quench the Spirit. [20](#) Do not despise prophecies, [21](#) but test everything; hold fast what is good.

b. 1 Tim. 4:14 - [14](#) Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you.

c. 2 Tim. 1:6- 7 - [6](#) For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, [7](#) for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

d. To quench, as in 1 Thess. 5:19, is to extinguish, like pouring water on a fire, or to suppress, or to stifle.

i. In whatever measure of the Spirit they had been given, they were to allow it to work.

ii. Prophecy was a gift of the Spirit, especially for teaching truths. To despise is literally to “bring to nothing” or “regard as of no importance”.

iii. It was to be tested to be proven true, and that which passed the test was to be held.

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1. 1 John 4:1 - [1](#) Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.
- e. Timothy received similar admonition in two letters from Paul.
 - i. Do not neglect – do not despise or bring to nothing.
 - ii. Fan into flame – opposite of quench.
- f. 1 Cor. 13:8 - [8](#) Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.
 - i. The gift of the Spirit during the lifetimes of the apostles was vitally important to the church, but the work of the Spirit shifted from special gifts to the writing of scripture. So, Paul can say that prophecies will pass away.
- g. *Is it possible in our time to sin by quenching the Spirit?***
 - i. We have the Bible, written by men who were carried along by the Spirit, and in the Bible we have the teachings of the apostles in words taught by the Spirit.
 1. 1 Cor. 2:12-13 - [12](#) Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. [13](#) And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.
 - ii. Just as there were false prophets in the times of Paul and John, there can be false teachers in our times, those who use the inspired writing of the Spirit for their own personal gain.
 - iii. Among the warning given about false teachers, consider:
 1. 1 Tim. 4:1-3 - [1](#) Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, [2](#) through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, [3](#) who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.
 2. 2 Pet. 2:1-3 - [1](#) But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. [2](#) And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth

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will be blasphemed. [3](#) And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

3. 2 Pet. 3:15-17 - [15](#) And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, [16](#) as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. [17](#) You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability.
 4. Phil. 3:17-19 - [17](#) Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. [18](#) For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. [19](#) Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.
 5. Rom 16:17-18 - [17](#) I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. [18](#) For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.
 - iv. Ample warning has been given to beware of false teachers, some of whom are attractive and speak eloquently. Therefore our task is to discern what is true and what is false, which requires that we know the word of God, and know it well.
- h. Are the other ways in which we might quench the Spirit today?***
- i. Eph. 6:17-18 - [17](#) and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, [18](#) praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.
 - ii. Col. 3:16 - [16](#) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
 - iii. Eph. 5:18-21 - [18](#) And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, [19](#) addressing one

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another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, [20](#) giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, [21](#) submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

- iv. Rom. 8:9 - [9](#) You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.
- v. Some points from these scriptures include:
 - 1. The whole armor of God includes the helmet of salvation, ... the word of God.
 - 2. The word of Christ is at work in teaching and admonishing one another, and in singing to one another.
 - 3. We are to be filled with the Spirit, evidence of which includes singing, giving thanks, and submitting to one another.
 - 4. It is vital that we have the Spirit of God dwelling within us and leading us to walk by the Spirit rather than the flesh.
- vi. If we are deficient in teaching the word, and/or if we are not led by the Spirit of God dwelling in use, we too are guilty of quenching the Spirit.

4. Grieving the Spirit

- a. Gal. 5:16-24 - [16](#) But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. [17](#) For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. [18](#) But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. [19](#) Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, [20](#) idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, [21](#) envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. [22](#) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23](#) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. [24](#) And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
- b. Eph. 4:25-32 - [25](#) Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. [26](#) Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, [27](#) and give no opportunity to the devil. [28](#) Let the thief no

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longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

[29](#) Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. [30](#) And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. [31](#) Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. [32](#) Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

- i. In context, there is a list of things which grieve the Spirit.
 1. Falsehood, lying
 2. Anger
 3. Theft
 4. Corrupt talk
 5. Bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, malice
- ii. None of these is included in the fruit of the Spirit; some of them are specifically included in the works of the flesh.
- iii. Grief of the Holy Spirit is brought about when we choose to live according to the flesh rather than living by the Spirit within us.

5. Insulting the Spirit / Outraging the Spirit

- a. Heb. 10:26-31 - [26](#) For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, [27](#) but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. [28](#) Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. [29](#) How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? [30](#) For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” [31](#) It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
- b. Consider deliberate sin – not an accident or a momentary lapse.
 - i. It is extremely serious!
 - ii. No more sacrifice for sin.
 - iii. Trample underfoot the Son of God – the only sacrifice for sin.
 - iv. Profaned (treated as nothing) the blood of the covenant.
 1. What Esau did to his birthright.
 - v. *No wonder the Spirit of grace is insulted, or outraged.*

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- c. Heb. 3:12-14 - [12](#) Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. [13](#) But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. [14](#) For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.
 - i. An evil, unbelieving heart will lead to falling away from the living God.
 - ii. Encourage, exhort one another.
 - iii. Don’t become hardened, lest you fall into deliberate sin and outrage the Spirit.
 - iv. Persevere until the end.
 - v. Rev. 2-3 – seven times in 2 chapters, the phrase is “Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life” or “Only hold fast what you have until I come” or “To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”
 - d. Heb. 6:4-8 - [4](#) For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, [5](#) and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, [6](#) and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. [7](#) For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. [8](#) But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.
- 6. Blaspheming the Spirit**
- a. Matt. 12:22-32 - ... [31](#) Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. [32](#) And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.
 - i. Jesus had just healed a demon-possessed man, and the Pharisees attributed Jesus’ power to Satan.
 - ii. The absurdity is given when Jesus says Satan casting out Satan is a house divided against itself.
 - iii. Beyond absurdity is attributing Jesus’ power to Satan, and, since Jesus was working with the power of the Spirit of God, it

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also attributes the work of the Holy Spirit to Satan. ***This is the blasphemy!***

b. Why can it not be forgiven?

- i. It rejects the evidence which produces faith in Jesus.
 - ii. It rejects the efforts by God to save from sin.
 - iii. When one believes that Jesus is in league with Satan, saving faith is not possible.
- c. Acts 10:36-38 - [36](#) As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), [37](#) you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: [38](#) how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.
- d. Acts 2:22 - [22](#) “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—
- i. The Spirit testified through the works that Jesus did.
 - ii. Rejection of this testimony is rejection of God’s effort to save.
 - iii. It also rejects the efforts of the Spirit in convicting of sin.

7. Conclusion

- a. Resisting the Spirit can lead to quenching the Spirit.
- b. Quenching the Spirit can lead to grieving the Spirit.
- c. Grieving the Spirit can lead to insulting the Spirit.
- d. Insulting the Spirit can lead to blaspheming the Spirit.
- e. Blaspheming the Spirit leads to a condition where forgiveness is not possible.
- f. Heb. 6:4-6 - [4](#) For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, [5](#) and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, [6](#) and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.
 - i. Note the sad condition of those in full-blown apostasy.
 1. At one time they:
 - a. Were enlightened
 - b. Tasted the heavenly gift
 - c. Became partakers of the Holy Spirit
 - d. Tasted the goodness of the word of God
 - e. Tasted the power of the ages to come

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2. But they had fallen to the point:

- a. Where it was impossible to renew them to repentance
- b. Where they were crucifying again the Son of God and putting Him to open shame.
- g. Don't let it happen to you, and encourage your brothers and sister so that it does not happen to them!