

Sins Against The Holy Spirit

No. 155

Introduction.

I. I would like to invite your attention to the reading of Acts 5:1-11.

ACT 5:1 But a certain man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, 2 and kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet. 3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back some of the price of the land? 4 "While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God." 5 And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came upon all who heard of it. 6 And the young men arose and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him. 7 ¶ Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 And Peter responded to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for such and such a price?" And she said, "Yes, that was the price." 9 Then Peter said to her, "Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they shall carry you out as well." 10 And she fell immediately at his feet, and breathed her last; and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. 11 And great fear came upon the whole church, and upon all who heard of these things.

A. In this passage Peter asked Ananias a question that I would like for us to consider. (Acts 5:3).

B. This question teaches the Holy Spirit is a Person. It teaches the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person. (Acts 5:4). Person of the Godhead.. It teaches we can sin against the Holy Spirit.

II. An examination of the scriptures reveals we can sin against the Holy Spirit in a number of ways.

I. **Lying Against The Holy Spirit** - We sin against the Holy Spirit by lying to the Holy Spirit.

A. **Ananias and Sapphira deliberately lied to the Holy Spirit.** They voluntarily sold their land and voluntarily decided to give the money to the church. They decided, however, to keep back part of the money, but to bring the rest to the apostles and tell them they were giving it all. They thought no one would know the difference.

B. Peter said. (Acts 5:3, 4).

1. Ananias lost his life because of his lie to the Holy Spirit. Upon hearing the words of Peter, he fell down and died and was carried away by the young men and buried. (Acts 5:5, 6).

2. About 3 hours later Sapphira, not knowing what had happened to Ananias, came and told the same lie. (Acts 5:7, 8).
 - a. Peter said. (Acts 5:9). The same penalty was meted out to her. She also lost her life.
 - b. The deaths of Ananias and Sapphira caused “great fear” to come upon the church and upon all who heard these things.
3. The severe penalty visited upon these 2 members of the church shows the severity of this sin. We must not lie to the Holy Spirit. We must be truly dedicated and not make false claims about our gifts and service.

II. **Insulting The Holy Spirit** - We sin against the Holy Spirit by insulting the Holy Spirit.

A. The sin of insulting the Holy Spirit is clearly set forth in the Hebrew letter. (Heb. 10:26-29).

HEB 10:26 For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?

B. **The Holy Spirit is a very important in the life of the Christian.** Explain Jn. 3:5; Acts 2:38

C. The Hebrew writer is discussing the one who turns from Christ and the Holy Spirit.

1. He speaks of the one who continues to wilfully abide in sin after becoming a Christian.
2. He is one who tramples under foot the Son of God and rejects the words of the Spirit. He has no appreciation for the blessings of the Holy Spirit. He “insults” “the Spirit of grace.”
3. We must now “insult” “the spirit of grace.” We must let the Spirit control our lives.

III. **Resisting The Holy Spirit** - We sin against the Holy Spirit by resisting the Holy Spirit.

A. Stephen addressed his Jewish listeners by saying. (Acts 7:51).

1. The Holy Spirit had prophesied through the prophets the coming of Christ and had proclaimed through Christ and the apostles that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God.
2. They were resisting the Spirit by refusing to accept Jesus and by refusing to do the will of God.
3. This sin of resisting the Holy Spirit led Stephen’s hearers to commit a great crime. They stoned him for preaching the gospel.

B. **It is possible for us to resist the Spirit today.**

1. Every time one refuses to accept the truth and apply it to his life he resists the Holy Spirit.
2. Every time one refuses to accept the invitation and become a child of God he resists the Spirit’s invitation.

(Rev. 22:17).

3. One who continues to resist the Holy Spirit until death will be lost forever.

IV. Defiling The Temple Of The Holy Spirit - We sin against the Holy Spirit by defiling the temple of the Holy Spirit.

A. Our **bodies** are “the temple of the Holy Spirit.” (1 Cor. 6:19, 20).

1. Paul affirms here that our bodies are “the temple of the Holy Spirit.”
2. He also affirms that we can defile the Holy Spirit’s temple and thus sin against the Holy Spirit.
3. One who uses his body for fornication, who overeats, who smokes, who drinks alcohol, who uses drugs, or abuses his body in any other way defiles the temple of the Holy Spirit.

B. The **church** is also called the temple of the Holy Spirit. (Eph. 2:20; 1 Pet. 2:5).

1CO 3:16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.

1. The pronoun “you” is plural referring to members of the church collectively. The expression “the temple of the Holy Spirit” in this passage refers to the church. The Holy Spirit dwells in the church. He does this by dwelling in each individual Christian.
2. Paul warns that we must not destroy the temple of the Holy Spirit (the church), for it is holy.
3. Those who teach false doctrine, who live unholy lives, who seek to divide the church, who bring reproach upon the church are sinning against the Holy Spirit’s temple and will be destroyed or condemned by God.

V. Quenching The Holy Spirit - We sin against the Holy Spirit by quenching the Holy Spirit.

A. Paul warned the brethren at Thessalonica to “quench not the Spirit.” (1 Thess. 5:19).

B. Some of them were trying to put out, extinguish the fire of the Holy Spirit. They were growing indifferent toward the work of Christians as taught by the Holy Spirit.

1. Many Christians today need this admonition. They have let the devil and the world extinguish their enthusiasm for the Lord.
2. The words “quench not the Spirit” need to be preached until every Christian is on fire for the Lord.

VI. Grieving The Holy Spirit - We sin against the Holy Spirit by grieving the Holy Spirit.

A. Paul said. (Eph. 4:30).

B. One may grieve the Holy Spirit by speaking impure language, using bitter and angry words against others, and by doing anything that is displeasing to the Holy Spirit.

1. In Galatians 5 we have a list of some of the things that grieve the Holy Spirit. (Gal. 5:19-21).

GAL 5:19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

2. The Holy Spirit is grieved when we practice “the works of the flesh.”

3. He is made happy when we bear the fruit of the Spirit. (Gal. 5:22, 23).

VII. Blaspheming The Holy Spirit - We sin against the Holy Spirit by blaspheming the Holy Spirit.

A. Once a man was brought to Jesus who was possessed with a demon and was dumb and blind. Jesus cast the demon out of the man and he was able to see and speak. The multitude marveled and said, “Can this be the son of David?” They were asking if this could be the promised Messiah. When the Pharisees heard it, they said. (Matt. 12:24).

B. Jesus responded to this wicked reply by saying. (Matt. 12:31, 32).

MAT 12:31 "Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven men, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. 32 "And whoever shall speak a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever shall speak against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age, or in the age to come.

1. Jesus warned that one who blasphemies the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven. It is an unpardonable sin.

2. In Mark’s gospel we learn exactly what the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is. (Mk. 3:28-30).

MAR 3:28 "Truly I say to you, all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter;

MAR 3:29 but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin "– 30 because they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit."

a. Mark explains that the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is calling the Holy Spirit “an unclean spirit.” The Pharisees had called the Holy Spirit in Jesus an “unclean spirit” by calling him “Beelzebub,” the prince of demons. They were charging that Jesus did miracles by the power of the devil.

b. Jesus taught one guilty of this sin would never be forgiven. It is an eternal sin. This wicked explanation had to be thwarted with a severe penalty. If it were tolerated the Sonship of Jesus and Christianity could never be established. For no matter how many good works Jesus did, men would say “It is the devil working in Him.”

c. Thus, Jesus said calling the Holy Spirit the devil was an unpardonable sin.

Conclusion.

I. Brethren, we have presented seven distinct sins against the Holy Spirit. Each one is serious. Each one will cause us to lose eternal life without repentance and God’s forgiveness.

- II. **Let us not sin against the Holy Spirit, or the Father, or the Son.** Let us live in such a way that we will bring honor and glory to the Godhead and salvation to ourselves and others.
- III. The Spirit and the bride invite you to come and enjoy the blessings of God. Don't spurn, don't resist this gracious invitation. Come, confess your sins, acknowledge our faith in Jesus, be baptized and come forth to live for the Master. Come as we sing.

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