



Life in the Spirit At Home With The Spirit?

Purity Before Power

Before we can enjoy the presence of the Holy Spirit we need to make sure He knows He is welcome. There are at least six ways in which we can let the Holy Spirit know that He is not welcome in our lives. All six have to do with the way we think, believe or act. **Are you....**

- 1. Resisting the Holy Spirit** *Acts 7:51; Gen 6:3; Acts 6:10*
 - a. Convicting work of the Spirit:** The Holy Spirit seeks to speak to the heart of the unbeliever and lead him to God. He is convicting the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. [*See John 16:8-11*].
 - b. Resisting:** *Acts 7:51* The resisting can be by unbelievers AND by believers. Israel represents those who believe—or at least say they believe. Rather than resisting the Holy Spirit we are to ‘resist the Devil.’ *James 4:7*. The best way to resist the Devil is to **NOT** resist the Holy Spirit.
- 2. Insulting the Spirit** *Heb 10:29*
 - a. The world:** The Spirit is insulted or outraged when unbelievers reject His wooing and convicting. These are rejecting Christ in the presence of clear revelation.
 - b. The church (believers):** Those who persist in deliberate disobedience in the face of the grace they have experienced through the Holy Spirit grossly insult Him.
- 3. Blaspheming the Holy Spirit** *Matt 12:31-32*
(*See the side bar “The Unforgivable Sin”*)
- 4. Grieving the Holy Spirit** *Eph 4:30-32*
 - a. Grieve:** [*:30*] To grieve means to make sad or sorrowful. However, you can’t grieve until you have first ‘loved.’
 - b. Make glad:** [*:31-32*] To make the Holy Spirit glad and not sad... “Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”
- 5. Lying to the Holy Spirit** *Acts 5:3-4*
 - a. Lying to God:** In this passage God considers breaking a promise as lying to the Holy Spirit.
 - b. Promise keepers:** God is the ultimate promise keeper. You can depend on what He says and that He will deliver on His promise.
- 6. Quenching the Holy Spirit** *1 Thes 5:19; Matt 3:11*
 - a. Don’t let the fire go out:** John says that Jesus will baptize us with the Holy Spirit and ‘fire.’ Paul told Timothy to “...fan into flame the gift of God.” [*2Tim1:6 ESV*] The Proverbs 31 woman’s lamp does not go out at night!
 - b. Shield of faith:** The walk of faith is the best way to insure that we are not quenching the Spirit but instead quenching the fiery darts of the enemy. *Eph 6:16*

Scripture NKJV

Acts 7:51 “You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.” See Gen 6:3

Heb 10:29 “Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?”

Matt 12:31-32 “Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. :32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.”

The Unforgivable Sin

Many believers worry about committing the unforgivable sin. They should not. Matthew 12:31–32 describes the unforgivable sin as blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. It is to become so perverted as to label good as bad and bad as good. When that happens, there is no conscience left by which one may recognize his or her sin, repent, and be forgiven. It is not that God is unwilling to forgive. The problem is the conscience is so seared that it cannot repent. Worry about sin indicates a healthy conscience. Believers need to learn to live with confidence in God’s gracious forgiveness and the faithfulness of His Spirit to convict them when they have sinned.