

The Spirit of God
Week 14
Sinning Against the Holy Spirit

LBC 4/2/04

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”

Ephesians 4:29-32

Review: Last week we discussed our need for the power of the Holy Spirit:

1. The Spirit of God is our only hope of **victory**.
2. The Spirit of God is our only hope of **fruitfulness** and **usefulness**.

Introduction:

We know that we desperately need the power of the Holy Spirit. Now, consider this:

- Does the Holy Spirit dwell within us? **Yes**.
- Does the Holy Spirit want to use and empower us? **Yes**.

So, why do often not have the power of the Holy Spirit? What is preventing us from having the blessed power of the Spirit of God upon our lives?

**** We do not have the power of the Holy Spirit because we LIMIT GOD.**

Psalm 78:40, 41 “How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert! Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.”

How do we limit God? **We limit God when we SIN against the Holy Spirit.** It is our sin that limits His power and stops the flow of blessing.

ILLUSTRATION – Plugged up pipe in a lamp stops the flow of oil and puts out the light.

*** Tonight let me explain how you might sin against the Holy Spirit:**

1. You may GRIEVE the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:30 “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

Grieve = to hurt or make sad; to distress.

ILLUSTRATION – When I disobeyed Mum and Dad by riding my bike in thongs, it grieved them.

How do you hurt the Holy Spirit and make Him sad? By disobeying a direct command of God.

ILLUSTRATION – The Jews grieved God in the wilderness by their lust, discontentment, complaining and rebellion.

Psalm 78:40, 41 “How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert! Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.”

Hebrews 3:10, 17 “Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways...But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?”

How might you grieve the Holy Spirit?

- Being rude and unkind.
- Not loving your spouse.
- Disobeying and disrespecting your parents.
- Neglecting Bible reading and prayer.
- Unbelief.
- Unholy thoughts.
- Ungodly entertainment.
- Not forgiving those who hurt you.
- Laziness.
- Not going soul winning.
- Not tithing.
- Being stingy in giving.
- Bitterness.
- Worrying.
- Complaining.
- Discontentment.
- Unthankfulness.
- Not praising God.
- Losing your temper.
- Stealing.
- Cheating on your taxes.
- Dishonesty.
- Rebelling against God-ordained authority.
- Not submitting to your husband.
- Unfaithfulness to church.
- Disobeying road laws.
- Swearing.
- Hating another Christian.

ILLUSTRATION – SEE Mark 3:1-5. Jesus was grieved by their lack of love and compassion – they disobeyed the command to love their neighbour.

**** Have you grieved the Holy Spirit?**

2. You may QUENCH the Holy Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 “Quench not the Spirit.”

Quench = to put out a fire; extinguish.

ILLUSTRATION – Light a candle and quench it.

How is the Spirit pictured in Acts 2:3? Tongues of **FIRE**.

John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother’s womb. How does Jesus describe him?

John 5:35 “He [John] was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.”

You quench the Holy Spirit when you deliberately resist His leading. You pour water on the fire that He lights in your heart.

ILLUSTRATION –Resisting the call to preach.

How might you quench the Holy Spirit?

- Refusing to witness when God prompts you.
- Not giving when God tells you to.
- Refusing a call to the ministry.
- Not fasting when you know you should.
- Neglecting others whom you are prompted to help.
- Not walking the aisle during an invitation when God prompts you to.
- Ignoring the clear leading of the Holy Spirit.
- Refusing to pray when God reminds you to.
- Not praising God publicly because you are embarrassed.
- Refusing to sing hymns to God because you don't have a good voice.

** Have you quenched the Holy Spirit?

3. You may refuse the FILLING of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18 “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;”

Galatians 5:16 “This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”

It is a plain command of God that we be constantly filled with the Holy Spirit. When we refuse to be filled, we are sinning against the Holy Spirit. The problem is one of not being absolutely **SURRENDERED** and **YIELDED** to God.

"You will never have **power** until there is nothing **questionable** in your life." - Billy Sunday.

ILLUSTRATION – If I owned a large home, and Christina moves in after we are married. I tell her that everything I have is hers - but one room is locked and barred to her. Would she feel truly welcome? Have I really opened my home to her? **NO**. Not until I give her full and complete access.

When you are not fully yielded to God, you grieve the Holy Spirit, because you are filled with **SELF**, not with the **SPIRIT**.

ILLUSTRATION – Try filling a glass with water that is already filled with juice.

- What will you **NOT** yield to God?
- What are you fighting God about?
- What does God bring to mind when you pray?
- What is there between you and your Saviour?
- What questionable practices are there in your life?
- What would be ashamed about if Jesus were to return tonight?

** Have you been filled with self, rather than filled with the Spirit?

Conclusion: Why don't you have the power of God?

- **You grieve the Spirit.**
- **You quench the Spirit.**
- **You are not filled with the Spirit.**

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”