

# a study of the *Holy Spirit*

## Lesson 9: The Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit

Christ specifically addressed blaspheming the Holy Spirit when he was confronted by those who rejected Him and His Father (Mark 3:29). The question becomes what is this sin and how can we avoid this tragic peril?

Theories suggested to explain how this sin can be committed

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- The rejection of "modern miracles." Those who advocate that miraculous gifts continue claim that those who question or deny "miracles" are guilty of blasphemy (1 John 4:1; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15).
- Past sins that are tragic (i.e. murder, adultery, etc.). We may think these to be "unpardonable" but they are forgiven *if* we repent (1 Timothy 1:12-15; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Acts 2:23).
- A rebuff of the Holy Spirit's "inner-striving" with man. This is founded on the doctrinal error of the Spirit's direct affect on our acceptance of salvation.
- Calling the Holy Spirit evil; claiming that the Holy Spirit is from Satan. This comes from the context of Matthew 12:22-32.
- A total apostasy of believers. Reference is made to Hebrews 6:4-6; 10:26-29; 2 Pt 2:20-22.
- A repeated arrogant rejection of salvation that "speaks against" God

*Note:* The last three do not teach error and can be believed without sin. Does one of the last three present a greater argument for acceptance than the others?

A study of "blasphemy" through the Bible helps us understand this subject better

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The term means a rejection of God's sovereignty with impious manners toward Jehovah God. This behavior is described in the Scripture:

- Numbers 15:29-31—A defiant resistance to and disobedience toward God.
- Isaiah 65:7—Israel rejected God (Jeremiah 6:16b).
- Revelation 16:9—Some will never give Him honor and glory!
- Titus 2:5—Believers are not submissive to God (1 Timothy 6:1; 1 Titus 1:13).
- Matthew 12:31, 32; Mark 3:28, 29; Luke 12:10—The Holy Spirit is greeted with a bitter rejection, the Scriptures are discarded and all hope lost!

*Note:* "The sin of blasphemy began in the heart; it grew in purpose; it was completed in a deliberate, overt act. It was the final rejection..." (Boles, 158).

### The process that results in this tragic sin

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- *One begins by "grieving" the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30).* This occurs when one fails to "put on" the character of the new man in Christ.
- *One continues by "resisting" the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:51).* The Scriptures reveal the necessary changes but one resists the call to repentance.
- *One progresses to "despising" the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 10:29).* After repeated invitations are made the sinner treats them with contempt and disdain.
- *Ultimately one "quenches" the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19).* It is here that all sensitivity to God's will is suppressed. The "prick" of the Holy Spirit's Word ceases to have any impact on the conscience of the sinner.

### The Pharisees (Matthew 12) illustrate this sin.

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Notice why the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is unforgivable:

- Man had blasphemed God the Father (Isaiah 65:7; 2 Samuel 12:14; 2 Kings 19:6-22).
- Man had also blasphemed God the Son (Mark 2:5-7; Luke 23:39).
- *Note:* Those who rejected God the Father or God the Son had another opportunity to repent and be saved when God the Spirit came (Acts 2:36-38; 3:18).
- If man blasphemes God the Spirit, there is *no* other opportunity! Hence it is an "eternal sin"! They repeatedly reject the Lord's call for repentance (Hebrews 3:7, 8), their consciences are seared (1 Timothy 4:2; Ephesians 4:19).

### Upon whom can this tragedy befall?

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- Mark 3:29—"Whosoever"—anyone in the Christian Age.
- John 12:39—"Could not believe"—anyone who refuses to convert.
- Hebrews 6:1-6—Even those once devoted can commit this sin (2 Timothy 4:10).
- Luke 8:12—Those who have not obeyed.

### Concluding Thoughts

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- Those who are anxious about this sin should not worry about it—their sensitivity to spiritual things will assure them of their safety.
- Christ warns us that it is a matter of our "heart" (Matthew 12:33-37)—guard your heart and you will not be guilty of this sin!
- If you do not feel the prick of conscience when God's Word is studied; if you feel no need to repent; if you are satisfied with where you are in spiritual growth—you need to fear lest your attitude "grieves" the Holy Spirit and leads you to "resist" the Spirit's exhortations to the point you will "despise" the Bible's instructions and find yourself "quenching" the Holy Spirit of Truth!