

The Bible is either absolute or it's obsolete.

Leonard Ravenhill

Prayer Study #307

Grieving and Quenching the Holy Spirit

First Love Ministries of Perry, Georgia

Do you not feel as close to the Lord as you once did? Do you question whether you are really saved or not? Is reading of the Word boring to you? Do you have no fruit of the Spirit in your life and no peace? Do you have trouble with discerning between right and false teaching? If so, you might have either grieved or quenched the Spirit. Generally speaking, grieving the Spirit is something we do, while quenching the Spirit is something we don't do that we should do. For example, if you have been in sexual sin, and are truly born again, you are grieving the Spirit. If you, on the other hand, are in a service of praise and are not participating with a heart of praise to the Lord, you may be quenching the Spirit. I have been in services that were so alive when someone came in and refused to worship or spoke in a negative way to shut down what was going on instead of rejoicing in the Lord. This person quenched the Spirit, and there was no life in the service.

GRIEVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

(Some of this was taken from teachings at High Point Church in Macon, Georgia. I have added my own material and have interjected some additional scriptures to the teaching.)

Since the ability to lay hold upon Divine truth, the ability to believe, to appreciate the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, to worship; since every grace of Christian character, indeed every spiritual blessing, even the quickening of our mortal bodies is mediated to us through the Holy Spirit, WE NEED, WE *MUST GUARD OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE HOLY SPIRIT*. Over and over we are warned, even by the Lord Jesus Himself, to be ready for His coming, and we cannot be ready for His coming unless we really GUARD our relationship to the Holy Spirit.

R.A. Torrey wrote years ago: “There are two classes of sins which Christians commit against the Holy Spirit—one of them chokes the inlet, and the other chokes the outlet. The hateful things, which grieve the Holy Spirit, clog the inlet. When we quench the Holy Spirit, we stop the outlet.”

We can go beyond this in considering the sins against the Holy Spirit, but at least this is a good place to start.

AND GRIEVE NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD, WHEREBY YE ARE SEALED UNTO THE DAY OF REDEMPTION.

Ephesians 4:30

GRIEVE IS A HEART WORD. It is used in the New Testament only of Christians grieving the Spirit. To cause grief is to “make sorrowful, to cause distress over a loss, to cause painful regret,” etc. Certainly it is a word that shows the tenderness of the Holy Spirit. Scofield says, “It is not strange that some have found here the *mother* part of divine love.”

SINS THAT CAUSE HIM GRIEF:

1. **Unspiritual talk.** Talk has to originate somewhere and words build up or tear down, cause comfort or grief, heal or bring dis-ease. Gossip, cursing, using the Lord’s name in vain, speaking words of condemnation over a person (including yourself), speaking words of fear instead of faith, confessing negative things over yourself or family, are just some of the things that are in this category.

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.

Ephesians 4:29

But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not fitting, but rather, giving of thanks.

Ephesians 5:3-4

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

Proverbs 18:21

Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth; thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.

Proverbs 6:2

2. **Unkind feelings.** We are creatures of feeling. It is normal to feel; it is abnormal not to feel. For example, we all respond to rejection by grief or anger. Jesus was a man rejected and He reacted with sorrow. But unkind feelings towards our Christian brothers and sisters cause grief to the Holy Spirit.

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and evil speaking, be put away from you with all malice; and be ye kind one to another,

Ephesians 4:31

3. **An Unforgiving Spirit.** Jesus warned that, if we did not forgive, neither would our Heavenly Father forgive us. This is not legalism. If I cannot forgive, there is inherent in me something that tells me in my subconscious that my Heavenly Father doesn't forgive me, and somehow I cannot reach out and receive His forgiveness in a "feeling" way that lets me experience the release of guilt.

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:32

4. **An Impure Life.** ALL sexual uncleanness in ACT and THOUGHT grieves the Holy Spirit. Perversion of sex has permeated the whole of our society, including the church. Perversion in the marriage relationship or outside the marriage relationship is wrong. Nothing can make perversion right. And ALL uncleanness grieves the Spirit of God. In addition, wherever there is uncleanness, we can never be wholly sure that revelation coming through such channels is accurate.
- But fornication and ALLUNCLEANNESS or covetousness, let it not once be named among you, as becometh saints.*

Ephesians 5:3

5. **Disobeying the Holy Spirit's commands in Scripture.** Jesus indicates that a test of our love for Him is obedience (John 14:15) and the Word tells us in the Old Testament that obedience is better than sacrifice (1st Samuel 15:22).

Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, "We ought to obey God rather than men." The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with His right hand to be a Prince and a Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are his witnesses of these things; and

so is also the Holy Spirit, whom God hath given to them that obey Him.

Acts 5:29-32

6. Ignoring the Holy Spirit when we make our decisions.

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind to do things, which are not seemly.

Romans 1:28

7. Lying to the Holy Spirit. One of the saddest stories in the New Testament is the story of Ananias and Sapphira. They sold a possession and gave only part of the money to the disciples in a time when the church was sharing everything with each other. The sin, however, was not in keeping back some of the money they had received, but it was lying to the Holy Spirit.

But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira, his wife, sold a possession, and kept back part of the price, his wife also knowing of it and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostle's feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the price of the land? While it remained, was it not thine own? And after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias, hearing these word, fell down and died, and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wrapped him up, and carried him out, and buried him.

Acts 5:1-6

8. Tempting or testing God. This is illustrated in the life of Sapphira:

Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" She said, "Yes, for so much." Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young man came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband.

Acts 5:7-10

9. Having wrong motives. Many times we grieve the Spirit when we are walking in wrong motives. For example, we might “show off” in the public arena, especially in a public worship service because we really want to be noticed and be given glory. Even Peter fell to the sin of wrong motive because of the influence of Satan:

From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and be raised the third day. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!” But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”

Matthew 16:21-23

Peter’s motive was wrong and satanic because his motive was to keep Jesus from going to the cross. Barclay explains this passage this way, “The sharpness and poignancy of Jesus’ answer are due to the fact that Peter was urging upon him the very things which the tempter was always whispering to him, the very things against which he had to steel himself. Peter was confronting Jesus with that way of escape from the cross, which to the end beckoned to him. That is why Peter was Satan. Satan literally means the Adversary. That is why Peter’s ideas were not God’s will but all too human.”

10. Willful ignorance of the deep things of God which the Holy Spirit came to teach us.

Who, knowing the judgment of God, that they who commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but have pleasure in them that do them.

Romans 1:32

In summarizing of this teaching from High Point, I want to emphasize that grieving the Spirit stops His flow into us. We have shut Him out of our lives when we grieve Him. If we truly know Him, our spirits will feel sorrowful over this sin, and we will be convicted and feel that the Holy Spirit has left us, and indeed His flow into us has stopped. I think this is best illustrated in the Scripture through the life of David, who repents for His actions concerning Bath-sheba. He comes with a repentant heart begging the Lord to restore his relationship with Him. Psalm 51:10-13 paints a picture of a man desperate to renew his relationship with the Holy Spirit: *Create in me a*

clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto thee. If you want restoration after grieving the Spirit, repent and ask forgiveness. Make things right as far as you are able, and then invite the Holy Spirit to fill your temple. We know that in this present Church Age, which is rapidly coming to a close, that the Spirit does not leave us but abides with us forever, according to John 14:16-17 (***And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him; but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you and shall be in you.***) But we will never experience the fullness of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives when we have grieved Him, until we make it right.

QUENCHING THE HOLY SPIRIT

I do not believe that you have to be a genuine believer and filled with the Spirit to quench the Spirit. I believe that those involved in witchcraft and even carnal Christians can come to a meeting where the Holy Spirit is moving and quench the Spirit. I once had a powerful speaker here. I have known very few men or women in my life who had the gifts of the Spirit operating as accurately and powerfully as this man had. I loved him, and he could read my life like a book and had the permission from me and boldness from the Lord to call my hand on anything, sometimes telling me my personal struggles and deepest sin. We need people in our lives that hold us to accountability.

This man was preaching a good and strong word. Suddenly he stopped preaching and turned the meeting back over to me. I knew him well and sensed something was wrong, but I closed the meeting as graciously as I could. I sought him out as he walked outside in the yard. He told me that suddenly something had quenched the Spirit, and he wondered if he was the one, i.e. had he done anything to quench the Spirit. The Lord revealed to him that one of the musicians was walking in some habitual and flagrant sin. He sought my permission to take the guy into the prayer room, where the young man readily admitted that the speaker was right on with his discernment

and words of knowledge. Unfortunately, this musician did not repent and, although he is living a great distance away from here, I know that he is unashamedly still practicing this sin.

Through the years we have had people who are demonized, Wiccans, and witches come to these meetings. Usually we can discern who these people are, but we don't always discern who they are because they come as angels of light and can be very spiritual acting and gracious. Normally, I allow these people to come, but I do not allow them to be in any kind of ministry or leadership position. Some have been delivered by the Word of God. Most of the others do not stay around very long. I sometimes sense that some of these people, who are no longer here, pray against the ministry, and sometimes when I am speaking I feel the opposition of the enemy in a strong way, especially as revealed through a Python and a Leviathan spirit and to a lesser extend a Jezebel spirit.

At any rate, I have learned that the enemy sends people here to quench the Spirit. That is why we need to stay prayed up so that we can do battle against the demons in these people. We must also always remember that we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against the kingdom of darkness.

I also do know that there are genuine believers, some even spirit-baptized, who quench the Spirit. I suppose that most of us have at one time or another quenched the Spirit. When we do, the Spirit does not move, and the meeting, no matter how good the speaker is, is lifeless. I believe that those who become very cliquish, if that is a word, quench the Spirit; those who walk in disunity and unforgiveness, especially towards brother and sisters in the same ministry; and those who are not submitted to authority can be used by the enemy to quench the Spirit.

Other ways of quenching the Spirit include failing to thank God in everything (1st Thessalonians 5:18); treating lightly or as false the gifts and ministry of the Holy Spirit, especially prophecy (1st Thessalonians 5:20); failing to test all supernatural phenomena (and Charismatics are very guilty of this, assuming that, if what is happening is supernatural, it must be of God) (1st Thessalonians 5:21, 2nd Thessalonians 2:9, and 1st John 4:1), failing to praise (1st Thessalonians 5:16) and pray (1st Thessalonians 5:17), failure to walk in faith instead of fear or sight (2nd Corinthians 5:7), and a willful and habitual disobedience to the Word of God (John 8:51, 2nd Thessalonians 1:8). These are just some ways of quenching the Spirit.

One of the best examples in Scripture, many of these verses that were sited above, of what to do to *keep* from quenching the Spirit, as relates to true Christian believers, is found in 1st Thessalonians 5:12-22, especially in verses 16-22:

12 And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you,

13 and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the faint-hearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.

15 See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

16 Rejoice always,

17 pray without ceasing,

18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

19 Do not quench the Spirit.

20 Do not despise prophecies.

21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.

22 Abstain from every form of evil.

Isn't He?

John Wimber

Isn't He beautiful? Beautiful, isn't He?

Prince of Peace, Son of God, isn't He?

Isn't He wonderful? Wonderful, isn't He?

Counselor, Almighty God, isn't He, isn't He?

Isn't He? Isn't He?