

*The only crown Jesus wore on earth was a crown of thorns.*

Elizabeth Elliot

---

**BLASPHEMY AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT, LYING TO,  
AND RESISTING THE HOLY SPIRIT**

*Wherefore, I say unto you, all manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven men; but the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven men.*

Matthew 12:31

Matthew 12:31 is one of the most feared and most misunderstood scriptures in the whole Bible. Let me say first that if you are worried about blasphemy against the Holy Spirit and know the Lord, you obviously have not committed it. It is a sin that can be committed only by unbelievers. Also, it is not a one time act but a recurring pattern in a person's life and generally is done knowingly. Scofield puts it this way, "The blasphemy against the Holy Spirit consists in ascribing to Satan the works of the Holy Spirit. Such a sin was unpardonable because of the unusual circumstances of *their rejection of Christ*. This most serious sin of the Pharisees was the climax of their continual denial of the obvious truth that the miracles of Jesus represented the power of God, so that Jesus' message was heaven authenticated." So what is this "*blasphemy against the Holy Spirit*"? It is simply rejecting Christ, never coming in to relationship with Him, and never being born again.

J. Vernon McGee explains Matthew 12:31 with the following illustration: "There is no act of sin that you could commit for which there is no forgiveness. Of course, if you resist the Holy Spirit, there is no forgiveness because He is *bringing* forgiveness. It is like the man who is dying from a certain disease, and the doctor tells him there is a remedy for it. The man refuses to take the remedy and dies, not from the disease but from refusing to take the remedy. There is a remedy for the disease of sin, and the Holy Spirit applies it; but if you resist it, there is no remedy. That is the only way sin can be unpardonable today."

Mark records the word of Jesus this way: ***But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Spirit hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation*** (Mark 3:29). Luke records these words: ***And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him, but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven.***

John does not speak of this sin in his Gospel writing, but he does allude to it in his epistles. The New Living Translation puts it this way: *If you see a Christian brother or sister sinning in a way that does not lead to death, you should pray, and God will give that person life. But there is a sin that leads to death, and I am not saying you should pray for those who commit it. Every wrong is sin, but not all sin leads to death* (1<sup>st</sup> John 5:16 New Living Translation). The sin that leads to spiritual death is rejection of Jesus. Obviously we do not want to pray forgiveness over people for the sin of not accepting Christ!

**What is blasphemy in general?** Blasphemy is speaking irreverently, reviling, defaming, slandering, insulting, verbally abusing, or showing contempt or lack of reverence for Almighty God and sacred things such as the Holy Bible Scriptures. There are four things in scripture that can be blasphemed:

1. **God's Name** (Romans 2:17-24: *Indeed you are called a Jew and rest on the law and make your boast in God, and know His will and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, having the form of knowledge and truth in the law. You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? You who say, "Do not commit adultery," do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law?*

*For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you, as it is written.)*

2. **God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit** (Isaiah 65:6-7: *“Behold, it is written before Me: I will not keep silence, but will repay—even repay into their bosom—your iniquities and the iniquities of your fathers together,” says the LORD, “who have burned incense on the mountains and blasphemed Me on the hills; therefore I will measure their former work into their bosom.”*) (Revelation 16:11: *They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.*) (Matthew 12:31: ***Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men.***)
3. **The Doctrine of God** (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:1: *Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed.*)
4. **The Word of God** (Titus 2:5: *[the younger women] to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.*)

### **In summary, The Five Sins Against the Holy Spirit**

1. **THE SIN OF BLASPHEMY AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT** or the unpardonable sin, which can be committed only by unbelievers, and involves rejecting Christ Jesus over and over and His atoning sacrifice and the blood of Jesus which cleanses us from all sin. ***Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men*** (Matthew 12:31).
2. **THE SIN OF RESISTING THE HOLY SPIRIT** involves, I believe, unbelievers resisting the promptings of the Holy Spirit to come to Jesus and believers who are resisting the call of the Spirit to do His work. *You stiff-necked and*

*uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit: as your fathers did, so do you (Acts 7:51).*

3. **THE SIN OF GRIEVING THE HOLY SPIRIT** is a sin committed only by believers. *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 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 (Ephesians 4:30-32).*
4. **THE SIN OF QUENCHING THE HOLY SPIRIT** is committed by believers. *Do not quench the Spirit (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:19).*
5. **THE SIN OF LYING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT** can be committed, I suppose, by both believer and nonbelievers, and is illustrated by the believers Ananias and his wife Sapphira who sold a possession and kept back part of the proceeds (Acts 5:1-11).

### **Battle Hymn of the Republic** **Julia Ward Howe**

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord:  
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath  
are stored;

He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift  
sword.

His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling  
camps.

They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and  
damps;

I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring  
lamps:

His day is marching on.

I have read a fiery gospel writ in burnished rows of steel:  
“As ye deal with my condemners, so with you My grace  
shall deal:

Let the Hero, born of woman, crush the serpent with His  
heel,  
His truth is marching on.”

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call  
retreat;  
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat;  
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him! Be jubilant, my feet!  
Our God is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,  
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me;  
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free;  
While God is marching on.

He is coming like the glory of the morning on the wave,  
He is Wisdom to the mighty, He is Succour to the brave,  
So the world shall be His footstool, and the soul of Time His  
slave,  
Our God is marching on.

#### CHORUS

Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!  
Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!  
Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!  
Our God is marching on.

