By tomorrow, there will be 175,000 more Christians than there are today.
James Rutz

Prayer Study #466
EPHESIANS 4
First Love Ministries, Inc., of Perry, Georgia USA

Ephesians 4 New King James Version (NKJV)

Walk in Unity

4 *I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,* **2** *with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,* **3** *endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.* **4** *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;* **5** *one Lord, one faith, one baptism;* **6** *one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

These verses describe the characteristics of the Christian life, characteristics that we are to live before the world. The first of these words, translated in the King James as *lowliness,* is better translated in modern vernacular as *humility.* The Greeks did not consider humility as a virtue at all. They despised it and defined being humble as being slavish, cringing, servile, and of no repute. Thus the Christians had to make up their own word to convey what they meant by *humility* or *lowliness* because the Greek words conveyed a completely different meaning that the Christian concept of humility. The twelfth-century theologian Bernard defined the Christian concept of humility: *"It is the virtue by which a man becomes*

conscious of his own unworthiness, in consequence of the truest knowledge of himself." In Christianity, humility is looking at our own life in comparison to the life of Christ and the way we life in light of the demands that God has. We become humble very quickly when we compare our own standards of living to the perfection of a Holy God.

The second characteristic, which Christians are to live by, is *gentleness.* You will remember from our study of Galatians that gentleness is one of the 9 fruit of the Holy Spirit. This is an usual word in that it conveys the sense of a person being stirred to indignation by the wrongs and sufferings of others but never moved to anger by personal insults or wrongs from others towards himself.

Unfortunately, in our generation, we see gentleness, especially in a man, as weakness. This ought not to be, for gentleness is one of the fruit of the Spirit. Charles Simmons says that *we are indebted to Christianity for gentleness, especially toward women*, and indeed, we know that women were raised from second class status to first class status by Jesus, and men were told to love their wives like Christ loved the Church, which is characterized by gentleness. In King James English *gentleness* is often referred to as *meekness*. The greatest examples of gentleness and meekness in the Word of God are Moses and Jesus.

2nd Corinthians 10:1: *NOW I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ-who in presence am lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you.*

Numbers 12:3: *(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men who were upon the face of the earth.)*

2nd Timothy 2:24-25: *And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth.*

James 3:17: *But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.*

Ephesians 4:1-3: *THEREFORE, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

The third characteristic of Christians should be long-suffering. *Long-suffering* is more commonly called in our generation *patience.* Christian patience is the spirit in us that endures to the end, no matter how tough the going gets or how many the trials and tribulations are. Patience is not broken by disappointment or discouragement but persists to the end. William Barclay says that Christian patience is "*the spirit which bears insult and injury without bitterness and without complaint. It is the spirit, which can suffer unpleasant people with graciousness and fools without irritation.*

The fourth characteristic of Christians is obviously the most important for Jesus said in John 13:35: ***"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*** As we have seen many times in looking at scripture, the word *agape* is not only God's love for us but also the kind of love that we are to have for Him and for each other. The other loves do not have the selflessness and emotion of true agape. *Eros* is a sexual love that is self-centered and demanding in having its own physical needs met and is not found in the Bible. *Philia* is often referred to as brotherly love and is the warm affection between good friends. Finally, *storge* is usually used to note family affection.

Agape love, the kind God has for us, loves the unlovely and the unlovable. Agape only wants the highest and best for the object of love. Even when insulted and hurt, the one with agape love will never feel anything except kindness and goodwill towards the one loved. Christians walking in agape love never feel bitterness or revenge towards people but keep loving them.

The final characteristic Paul gives us in these first three verses is *peace.* This peace comes through unity. This unity comes when self is obliterated. When self dies, Christ brings us into oneness with each other. This unity is the great sign of the true Church and makes verses 4 through 6 make sense. We are one body, with Christ as the head. There is one Spirit, the precious Holy Spirit. We have one hope in our calling, i.e. winning souls for Christ until we see a whole world redeemed in Christ. This is one Lord, and His name is Jesus, and NO ONE comes to the father except through Him (John 14:6).

There is one baptism. This may be confusing to some who do not understand what is meant here. I mention here 6 baptisms, although there are others, in the Old and New Testament:

1. The Baptism of John for cleansing of sin by John the Baptist. Matthew 3:6-11
2. The Baptism into His Body for salvation by the Holy Spirit. 1st Corinthians 12:13, Romans 6:1-11 This is a baptism of blood, the blood of the Lamb.
3. Water Baptism for sign of dying to self by any genuine believer. Mark 16:15-16, Acts 8:26-40
4. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit for power by Jesus. Acts 1:5 & Acts 1:8
5. The Baptism of Fire for purification by Jesus. 1st Peter 1:7, Matthew 3:11
6. The Baptism into His sufferings for perfection or maturing in righteousness by Holy Spirit (?). Mark 10:38, Luke 12:50

The baptism that Paul is referring to here is the second baptism mentioned in the above list, the baptism by the Holy Spirit as He draws you to accept Christ in your heart. You would not be a Christian unless you had received this one baptism. The other baptisms are extremely important, but they are not contingent on your salvation. The Baptism into His body is a baptism into the blood of Jesus. Without the Baptism in the Body of Christ, all other baptisms are impossible.

There is only one God. We do believe in a triune God, three persons in One. A monotheistic God was revolutionary in these times when most of the civilized world believed in many gods. The major difference in the Christian God is that He is a Father

who loves His children. He is a God who is above all and has everything under control. He is through all. He did not create the world and leave it to run on its own. He put Himself all through the world, ready to bless His children whenever they ask, to give guidance, and to show love.

William Barclay tells us that the Stoics believed that God was a fire purer than any earthly fire. They believed that what gave humans life was a spark of that "God-fire" that came and dwelt in their bodies. Barclay goes on to say, "It is the Christian belief that we live in a God-created, God-controlled, God-sustained, God-filled world.

Christ Descended and Ascended

7 *But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.* ***8*** *Therefore He says:*
"When He ascended on high,
He led captivity captive,
And gave gifts to men."
9 *(Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?* ***10*** *He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)*

Paul is telling us here that every good gift we have is given by Jesus, because of His grace towards us. We do not earn any gift, but His grace triumphs our unworthiness. Barclay writes: *"In the Old Testament, the conquering king demanded and received gifts; in the New Testament, the conquering Christ offers and gives gifts. That is the essential*

difference between the two Testaments. In the Old Testament, a jealous God insists on tribute being paid; in the New Testament, a loving God pours out His love to men and women. That indeed is the good news."

There is some wonderful truth in these first few verses of this section. Christ descended into Sheol/Hades, the place of the dead. The early church fathers believed that Jesus, between the time of His death and His resurrection, went to the place of the dead to bring the Old Testament believers out of what was called Abraham's Bosom.

Right before Jesus died, he said, "It is finished!" (John 19:30) What was finished? His suffering for taking our sins and curses upon Himself was what was finished. There were two realms of Sheol/Hades. These were Abraham's Bosom, also called Paradise, and Hell (Luke 16:22-23), although this latter place is not the Lake of Fire where the unrighteous will go from the Great White Throne Judgment. These realms were separated by a great chasm (Luke 16:26). Between his death and resurrection, Jesus went to Abraham's Bosom or Paradise to bring with Him to heaven the righteous dead (Ephesians 4:8-10 and 1st Peter 3:18-20).

1st Peter 3:18-20 reads, *"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also He went and preached unto the spirits in prison..."* This is a very controversial passage of scripture, but it seems to indicate that Christ, after His death, made a proclamation of victory over the demonic spirits.

Again Sheol, the Hebrew name, or Hades, the

Greek name for the same place, was a place of judgment on one side, or hell, and a place of blessing, or paradise, on the other (Matthew 11:23, 16:18, Luke 10:15, 16:23, Acts 2:27-31). There is no doubt in my mind that Jesus went here before His resurrection. Remember that He said to the dying thief, ***"Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise"*** (Luke 23:43). Yet He spoke to Mary on Resurrection Day, ***"Touch Me not; for I am not yet ascended to My Father. But go to My brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto My Father and your Father and to My God and your God."***

The scriptures speak much about sheol and hades, and the subject is too lengthy for us to dwell too much on in this study, but I do want to end with one passage of scripture that deals with this issue: Revelation 20:14-15: *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death* [i.e. eternal separation from God]. *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

Spiritual Gifts

11 *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,* ***12*** *for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,* ***13*** *till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;* ***14*** *that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning*

craftiness of deceitful plotting, ***15*** *but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—* ***16*** *from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

This is one of the most important scriptures for the day we live. First off, it tells us that there are still apostles and prophets today, and any serious study of scripture gives us overwhelming evidence for this, i.e. the offices of apostles and prophets did not pass away after the last of the original disciples died or after the canonization of scripture. The argument Paul is making here is so logical. The five fold ministry gifts were given in part for the equipping of the saints until we all come to the unity of the faith. Just that section of this passage tells us that we still need these five fold ministry offices because the Body of Christ is by no means in the unity of the faith.

Why Did Jesus Give These 5 Fold Ministry Gifts?

1. For the perfecting or equipping of the believers
2. For the work of the ministry
3. For the edifying or building up of the Body of Christ
4. So that, we, as the Body of Christ, come into unity and knowledge of Jesus
5. To a perfect or complete or mature person

Why Are These Gifts Necessary for Today?

Because the 5 Fold Ministry Gifts in proper operation will bring the Body of Christ both into unity and into a more complete knowledge of Jesus-remember that Paul said the

goal of his life was *to know Him*! (Phillipians 3:10: *That I might know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death)-* the Body will come into maturity so that the Sons' Company might be manifest and Jesus can come back for a Bride without spot or blemish.

I have taken the liberty to quote extensively from Dr. Bill Hamon in his book *The Day of Saints* pp.183-187 and his book *The Eternal Church* to explain what each of the 5 ministry offices entails:

Five Fold Ministry Descriptions

How Apostles Equip the Believers: *Apostles specialize in supernatural signs and wonders. They give building strategy and lay foundations, along with the prophet, in the lives of people and the local church. The prophet receives the blueprint for the building of the Church, but the apostle is the master builder. Biblical examples of apostles' ministry to the Believers reveal that they help found and ground the Believers in foundations of the faith and present day truth. Apostles' miraculous signs and wonders enable Believers to be delivered from evil spirits, disease, and strongholds in their lives. Some apostles not only demonstrate the supernatural but are able to activate the Believers in their power gifts of the Holy Spirit.*

As part of the foundation of the Church, apostles are often sent to establish new works and then to support those works. Apostle Paul founded many of the local churches in the New Testament. Apostles in the marketplace may be

those who launch a business or who form a network to accomplish certain purposes. As initiators and those who help provide structure and leadership, apostles make a place for the Believers. They provide platforms where others can serve God through their unique giftings. The apostles have a special ability to be master builders of the Believers in their callings and ministry. Apostles will be key in helping transform Saints from pew-sitters to active participants in the Day of the Saints. (Pp. 183-184)

How Prophets Equip the Believers: *The prophets help bring vision, spiritual insight, revelations, impartations, and activation of the Believers' supernatural gifts and calling. They do this best with their prophesying and revelation knowledge. All fivefold ministers are to minister the Logos Word to the Believers, but prophets have a special ability to minister a Rhema Word that personally enlightens and activates faith in the Believers. Prophets help bring God's direction and vision to the Church at large, to local churches, to business, cities, and nations, as well as to individual Believers. Some prophets use their gifts of discernment to bring warnings about the plans of the enemy or of potential pitfalls to be avoided. The value of hearing their revelation from God is beyond measure.* (p. 184)

How Evangelists Equip the Believers: *Evangelists have a special anointing to stir up the zeal of the Lord in the Believers. They have an anointing and passion for winning the lost and making them active members of the Body of Christ and Believers of the Most High God. As well as*

helping to gather the Believers, evangelists help keep them focused outwardly on the need for bringing the Kingdom of God to the entire earth. Without their enthusiasm for tearing down the works of darkness and building up the Kingdom of God, churches would be in danger of becoming "bless me clubs" that are so inwardly focused they become stagnant. Evangelists impart to the Believers the need to take the blessing we receive and use it to be a blessing to others, including those who are not yet part of the Church. Their ability to train others in soul winning is vital to growing the Church. Testifying to others about Jesus Christ strengthens our own faith. (p. 185)

How Pastors Equip the Believers: *Those truly gifted as pastors have the ability to nurture, stabilize, grow, and mature the Believers. They specialize in building character, faithfulness, and family relationship in the local church family. No matter how many prophecies you have received about mighty ministry, you will never fully reach your destiny without maturity. This is best developed by being submitted to godly leadership and being allowed to develop little by little, just as a child learns and grows little by little. Even those who have reached spiritual adulthood need to remain in committed relationship with those who have been charged to keep guard over their souls. We tell all those who receive prophetic words through the ministry of Christian International to write out their prophecies and submit them to their pastoral covering*. (Pp. 185-186)

How Teachers Equip the Believers: *Teachers help prepare the Believers in the milk and meat of the Word of God. A true teacher, who is an extension of Christ the Master Teacher, has the special ability to teach the truths of God with simplicity and revelation, enlightening and enabling the Believers in the Word of God. A wise teacher brings out of his treasure both old, foundational truths and newly restored present truth. We are all to study the Bible for ourselves. And we can all offer something to bless others. But we can also benefit greatly from the years of study, revelation, and gift of expression that teachers have been given by Christ. James 3:1 states that teachers will receive a stricter judgment. Therefore, it is important for them to know and rightly divide the Word of truth. The Believers can be blessed by the wisdom teachers have gained as they have developed to a point of commissioning.* (p. 187)

*The **apostles,** in particular, are the fathers and mothers who impart to the Believers and raise them up as sons and daughters in the faith. The **prophets** bring supernatural revelation and insight concerning the calling and ministry of the Believers. They give vision and reveal the times and seasons of God so the Believers know what to do. The **teachers** teach the Word of God with simplicity and wisdom as a mother feeds a growing child. The **pastors** nurture the Believers with counseling, clothing them with Christlike armor and garments. They help the Saints become a family of God meeting in the local churches. The **evangelist***

imparts zeal for souls to be saved and equip the Believers with wisdom and anointing in winning the loss. (Pp 182-183)

We have seen a remarkable restoration of these Five Fold Ministry offices in the last 60 years:
1950s **Evangelists-**Deliverance/Healing Evangelism (Oral Roberts, AA Allen, Jack Coe, Kathryn Kulhman)

1960s **Pastors-**Charismatic Renewal (Harold Bredesen, Dennis Bennett, Don Van Hoosier)

1970s **Teachers-**Faith Teaching Movement (Kenneth Hagan, Kenneth Copeland, Derek Prince, John O'Steen)

1980s **Prophets-**Prophetic Movement (Dr. Bill Hamon, Mike Bickle, John Paul Jackson, Bobby Conner, Rick Joyner, Bob Jones)

1990s **Apostles-**Apostolic Movement (Peter Wagner, Dr. Bill Hamon)

Jesus is ready to come NOW. What is holding Him back? He is waiting for a Bride that has made herself ready (By any stretch of the imagination, *she is not ready!!!*). The Word says, *For the LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool (Psalm 110:1, Matthew 22:24, Hebrews 1:13, Hebrews 10:13).* Are His enemies yet His footstool? *And* Who is going to make His enemies His footstool? I know there are still many enemies actively working against Christ and His church. I believe He is raising up a remnant of the Last Days, the Bridal Company or the Manifested Sons of God, as Mighty Warriors to do

warfare against these enemies. This is what all creation is groaning for and waiting expectantly for. *For the earnest expectation of the creation waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God (*Romans 8:19) As we have studied, Galatians 4:1 speaks of immature believers who are children, not the mature Bride or Sons' Company that has made herself ready: *Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all.* The children are in contrast to the sons: *Wherefore, thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ* (Galatians 4:7) The children have grown up. They no longer have a servant mentality but a son's mentality, a son who is in covenant relationship with the pattern Son and walking in maturity. So again why did the Lord give the five-fold ministry offices gift to the Church? Again,

1. For the equipping of the Believers
2. For the work of the ministry
3. For the building up of the Body
4. So that we come into unity and knowledge
5. To a mature Body

The Church must come to maturity before the Coming of the King. This is only one aspect of prophetic fulfillment that must take place before the coming of Jesus. At the same time, we will see Christians delivered up to be afflicted and killed, false prophets, iniquity abounding, the Gospel of the Kingdom preached in all the nations, the characteristics of the Days of Noah, etc, and the restoration of Israel, both natural and spiritual. You can study more about His Coming by reading the Olivet Discourse in Matthew 24-25.

The New Man

17 *This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,* ***18*** *having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;* ***19*** *who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.*
20 *But you have not so learned Christ,* ***21*** *if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:* ***22*** *that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,* ***23*** *and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,* ***24*** *and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*
Do Not Grieve the Spirit
25 *Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.* ***26*** *"Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,* ***27*** *nor give place to the devil.* ***28*** *Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.* ***29*** *Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.* ***30*** *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.* ***31*** *Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.* ***32*** *And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*

In an earlier passage of this chapter we saw the characteristics that those living the Christian life should have. Here we see the characteristics of those without Christ. This latter group lives empty lives that don't impact the world. Their minds are darkened because of ignorance. They have stony hearts. In fact the word translated in the King James as *blindness* actually is a Greek word that means *petrified.* It describes something that has become so hard that it has no power to feel at all. This is a description of sin. At first people who sin are remorseful, but slowly sin practiced over and over causes people to do shameful things without any feeling at all. These people without Christ become lewd and unclean and greedy. Barclay writes, *"In the world outside the Church, Paul saw three terrible things. He saw human hearts so turned to stone that they were not even aware that they were sinning; he saw people so dominated by sin that all sense of shame was lost and decency forgotten; he saw men and women so much at the mercy of their desires that they did not care whose life they injured and whose innocence they destroyed as long as these desires were satisfied. These are exactly the sins of the Christless world today…"*

Paul next uses the symbolism of the early Christian baptismal service to contrast a person's former lifestyle and the new life of Christ. The early Christians took off old clothes and put on new clothes before entering the baptismal waters. Here Paul tells these new Christians that they are to put off lust, lying, robbery, corrupt words, bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking. They were to put on the new clothes of kindness, tenderheartedness, and forgiveness.

There are four especially important points in these verses, that I feel we need to look at more closely. First, verse 23 tells us to be renewed in the Spirit of your mind. We are exhorted to have the mind of Christ (*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus*-Philippians 2:5). We do this by reading, meditating, praying, singing, etc., the Word of God (Ephesians 5:26-*That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of the Water of the word.)*

Next verses 24 and 30 admonish us not to grieve the Holy Spirit. 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 and shut down what was going on. This person quenched the Spirit, and there was no life in the service. But here we will deal only with grieving the Spirit.

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 ALL UNCLEANNESS 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 if 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 an 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.

The third issue in these verses that I would like for us to address is verse 27, which tells us to put away lying. Lying can come in many forms from cheating on your income tax to making false statements to make you look more spiritual than others. We like to march against the big sins, such as homosexuality and abortion, but the Bible says more about lying than it does these subjects. This is certainly not to lower the sinfulness of homosexuality or abortion, but to tell us that there is much more the Lord wants us free from. Lying is serious business to the Lord. In fact, Proverbs 12:22 tells us that lying lips are an abomination, a very strong word rarely used in scripture but used to denote something that is especially loathsome to the Lord. Lying is a problem that characterizes Satan, who is referred to as the Father of Lies (John 8:44). Revelation 21:8 says, *"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."*

And finally, let us look at anger. Verse 4:26 is an unusual verse. It tells us to be angry! What the Lord is telling us here is that anger is a human emotion, and we should be angry at what angers Him. For example, we should be

angry over the killing of innocent babies, and we should be angry when people are not walking in their potential or are walking in wickedness. Jesus was angry on occasion in the New Testament Gospels. He was angry with the money-changers. He was angry with the Pharisees. He was angry with the wicked.

In order to be emotionally healthy we have to let our anger out in the right way. If we suppress anger, we become depressed. We should always get our anger out and resolved by the end of the day. Spouses especially should not go to bed angry.

HOLY HILLS OF HEAVEN CALL ME
Dottie Rambo

The holy hills of Heaven call me
To mansions bright across the sea
Where loved ones wait and crowns are given
When the hills of home start calling me

This house of clay is but a prison, bars of bone hold my soul
But the doors of clay are gonna burst wide open
When the angel sets my spirit free I'll take my flight like a mighty eagle
When the hills of home start calling me

I see loved ones over yonder
Tears are gone and hearts are free
And from the throne of my Savior beckons
And the hills of home are calling me

This house of clay is but a prison, bars of bone hold my soul
But the doors of clay are gonna burst wide open
When the angel sets my spirit free I'll take my flight like a mighty eagle
When the hills of home start calling me, calling me