



The Examiners

Examining the Scripture daily to see whether these things were so...Acts 17:11

THE CHRISTIANS SINS AGAINST GOD THE

HOLY SPIRIT

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The saints of God will continue to sin as long as they are on earth. It is utterly impossible for believers to stop sinning but it can be minimized by maintaining spirituality inside the plan of God. If our lives are out of harmony with the Holy Spirit, 1 John 1:9 tells us to confess (to name, acknowledge or cite) our sins before God for He is faithful and just to forgive both our known and unknown sins.

The Scriptures speak of three sins committed by the believer against the Holy Spirit:

- Lying to God the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3)
- Grieving the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30)
- Quenching the Holy Spirit (1 Thess. 5:19)

The Scripture speaks of two sins committed by unbelievers against the Holy Spirit:

- Blasphemy against the Spirit (Matt. 12:14-32)
- Resisting the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:51)

The titles of God the Holy Spirit:

- Spirit of holiness (Rom. 1:4)
- Spirit of life (Rom. 8:2) (3)
- Spirit of knowledge (Isa. 11:2)
- Spirit of truth (John 14:17)

Titles related to God the Father:

- Spirit of God
- Spirit of our God (Gen. 1:2; Matt. 3:16)
- Spirit of your Father (Matt. 10:20).

Titles related to God the Son:

- Spirit of Christ
- Spirit of Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:9; Phil. 1:19)
- Spirit of His Son (Gal. 4:6)
- Spirit of the Lord (Acts 5:9)

This study will confirm several truths:

- It confirms the personality of the Holy Spirit.
- It confirms the truth is grieved by the sins of believers.
- Believers do not lose their salvation when they sin.
- God has ultimate grace solution for sin through adjustment to the justice of God.

Things we need to note regarding sins we commit against the Holy Spirit:

- The Holy Spirit is a Person (John 15:26, 16:7)
- The Holy Spirit is co-eternal, co-infinite, and co-equal with God the Father and God the Son (2 Cor. 13:14, 1 Peter 1:2)
- The Holy Spirit is the unseen power of God. He reveals the Plan of God on earth and is the agent for executing the Christian way of life.

Important things to Remember:

- The Holy Spirit is a Person not an invisible force or merely an influence.
- The Holy Spirit indwells the believer forever (John 14:16-17) and assigned by God the Father as the Parakletos.
- The Holy Spirit is the true doctrinal Mentor of every believer (John 14:26).
- The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth who will guide the believer into all the truth (John 16:10-15), being the Author of the Word of God (2 Pet. 1:20-21).
- Ten days after the resurrection (Pentecost: June 30 A.D.) of the Lord Jesus Christ He sent the Holy Spirit to permanently indwell those who had exercised faith in Him for eternal salvation.

God the Holy Spirit has the same divine attributes as both God the Father and God the Son:

- Sovereignty (1 Cor. 12:11)
- Righteousness (Spirit: Ps. 51:11)
- Justice (Neh. 9:20a; John 16:8-11)
- Love (Rom. 5:5; 15:30)
- Eternal life (Heb. 9:14)
- Omnipotence (Rom. 15:13)
- Omniscience (Isa. 11:2)
- Omnipresence (Ps. 139:7)
- Immutability (John 14:16; 1 John 5:7)
- Veracity (John 14:17; 1 John 5:7)

His deity is demonstrated by His Works:

- (Creation (Gen. 1:2; Ps. 104:30).
- Inspiration of Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21)
- Regeneration, illumination and sanctification (John 3:5 8; Tit. 3:5; R. 8:11; Eph. 3:16-19).
- God the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct Person in the Godhead (2 Cor. 3:17).

The Spirit performs the actions of personality:

- Teaches (John 14:26; 16:13- 15)
- Testifies or bears witness (John 15:26)
- Guides and Leads (Rom. 8:14)
- Performs miracles (Acts 8:39)
- Convinces (John 16:7-8)
- Restrains (Gen. 6:3; 2 Thess. 2:6-7)
- Commands (Acts 8:29)
- Intercedes in prayer (Rom. 8:26)
- He receives ascriptions of personality
- He can be obeyed (Acts 16:6-7)
- He can be lied to (Acts 5:3)
- He can be resisted (Acts 7:51)
- He can be blasphemed (Mt. 12:31)
- He can be grieved (Eph. 4:30)
- He can be insulted (Heb. 10:29)

There are several passages, which state that the Spirit proceeds from the Lord Jesus Christ:

- John 14:16-17
- John 14:26
- John 15:26-27
- John 16:5-7
- John 16:13-15
- Acts 1:8
- Acts 2:33
- Romans 8:9-11
- 1 John 3:23-24
- 1 John 4:12-13

God the Holy Spirit's role in man's salvation:

- Common Grace: Makes the gospel of Jesus Christ understandable (John 16:7-11; 2 Cor. 2:14).
- Regeneration: Creates a human spirit at the moment of salvation (John 3:1-16).
- Efficacious Grace: Makes person's faith in Christ effective for salvation (2 Cor. 6:2; Eph. 2:8-9).

Seven Salvation Ministries of God the Holy Spirit:

- Efficacious Grace: Makes faith in Jesus Christ effective for salvation (2 Cor. 6:1-2; Eph. 2:8-9).
- Regeneration: Creates a human spirit for the purpose of the imputation of eternal life (John 3:1-16; Titus 3:5).
- Baptism of the Spirit: Places every believer in union with Jesus Christ (Eph. 4:5; 1 Pet. 3:21).
- Indwelling: Creates a temple for the indwelling of Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19-20).
- Filling: Influences the soul of the believer in executing the plan of God for the church age (Eph. 5:18).
- Sealing: Puts His stamp on the believer to guarantee their salvation (2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13; 4:30).
- Distribution of Spiritual Gifts: Gives every believer a spiritual gift (1 Cor. 12:4-11).

God the Holy Spirit's post-salvation ministries on behalf of the believer:

- Empowers the believer to execute the plan of God (John 14:16, Gal. 5:16, Eph. 5:18; Phil. 2:13).
- Reproduces Christ-like character in the believer (Gal. 4:19; 5:5, 16-23).
- Teaches the believer the doctrines of Christ (John 14:26; 1 Cor. 2:10-16; 1 John 2:20, 27).
- Convicts the believer of sin (John 16:7-11, Rom. 8:4-14, Eph. 4:30; 1 Th. 5:18).
- Leads the believer in worshipping the Father (Phil. 3:3, Rm. 8:4-13).
- Promotes spiritual maturity (Gal. 5:1-5, Heb. 5:11-6:6).
- Applies truth to the believer's experience (John 14:26; Rom. 8:16; Eph. 6:18).
- Gives power to the believer's prayer life (John 15:7; Eph. 6:18; Jude 20).
- Promotes worship of God (John 4:23-24; Eph. 5:18-21, Phil. 3:3; Is. 59:1-2)
- Gives capacity, burden and direction for witnessing (Acts 1:8; 1 Thess. 1:5).
- Gives capacity for ministry (1 Cor. 1:12-14).
- Provides fellowship for the believer (2 Cor. 13:14, Phil. 2:1).
- God the Holy Spirit teaches the believer through the Word of God (John 14:26; 15:26).

The Spirit speaks to the church through the message or communication of Bible doctrine through the grace and doctrinal oriented pastor/teacher.

- Acts 21:11
- Acts 28:25
- 1 Corinthians 12:3
- Hebrews 3:7
- Revelation 2:11, 17, 3:6, 3:13, 3:22

The Holy Spirit transforms the believers:

- The church age believer is totally dependent upon the Holy Spirit in order to attain Christ-likeness (Gal. 5:5, 16; Eph. 3; 16-17).
- The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to produce Christ-like character in the believer (Gal. 5:22-23; Phil. 2:12-13).
- The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God and empowers, guides and directs the believer in the process of executing the Father's plan (Rm. 8:14, 26, 2 Per. 1:21).
- The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to convict the believer of sin (1 Cor. 2:10- 16; Eph. 4:30).
- The Holy Spirit reveals to the believer whether he is living in accordance with the doctrines of Christ or not (John 16:7-16; Rom. 8:14).
- The Holy Spirit produces peace in the soul of the believer who applies the Word of God in general and the doctrine of faith rest in particular (Phil. 4:6-7, Heb. 4:11-12).

The Sin of Grieving the Holy Spirit

When the believer commits an act of sin, whether mental, verbal or overt, he prevents himself from being influenced by the Holy Spirit.

“Grieving” the Holy Spirit is a sin that is directed towards His Person and takes place in the life of the believer when his thoughts, words and actions are influenced and governed by the cosmic system of Satan and the old sin nature. It prevents the Christian from being filled with the Spirit and from walking according to the Spirit (Eph. 4:17-32).

Consider the following truths:

- The believer’s personal sins grieve the Holy Spirit
- The context of Ephesians 4:17-32 encourages us to put off the old pre-salvation Adamic nature (which can only produce self-righteousness) and put on the new post-salvation Christ nature (which produce the righteousness of God).
- We cannot literally grieve (Eph. 4:30) or quench (1 Thess. 5:19) the Holy Spirit. It is called the language of accommodation or anthropopathism through which infinite God reveals Himself to the finite man.
- Anthropopathism ascribe to God human characteristics, which He does not have, in order to explain God’s policy or viewpoint to us in terms of human attitudes.

Examples of Anthropopathism:

- God hates (Rm. 9:13).
- Harbors jealousy (Ex. 20:5a; 34:14; Deut. 4:24; 6:15a). (3) Changes His mind (Gen. 6:6).
- Vents violent anger (Jer. 4:8; 12:13; 25:37; 51:45; Ezek. 5:15).

The phrase “do not grieve” (με λυπεο) is composed of negative particle me plus the second person plural present active imperative form of the verb lupeo. Lupeo means, “to cause pain, sorrow, grief, distress” to someone. It may refer to outward mourning or simply to sad feelings. It is commonly used to designate heaviness of heart.

The Prohibition of the Command not to grieve the Spirit:

- It was a preventative maintenance
- It is not telling the Ephesians believers to stop sinning for that would be impossible
- It is a prohibition designed to let the Holy Spirit perform His function of forming Christ-like character in the Ephesians believer’s life.
- It is warning them ahead of time not to conduct themselves according to their old sin nature, which results in grieving the Holy Spirit.
- He is not implying that they were already involved in this sin of grieving the Holy Spirit but rather he is expressing a general precept.

The corrected translation of Ephesians 4:30: “Do not make it a habit to grieve the Holy Spirit by means of whom all of you have been sealed for the day of redemption.”

Note the following:

- We cannot stop sinning but we can break the habit of getting into sinning.
- Grieving” the Holy Spirit deals with the issue of known sin but we do not confess.
- The Holy Spirit desires to guide and empower us to do the Father’s will.
- We grieve the Holy Spirit when we are not applying the Word of God to our thought process.
- The Holy Spirit longs to transform us into the character of Christ. When He cannot, He is grieved because He is offended by sin of self-reliance and rebellion, which hinder His purpose in indwelling us.
- Grieving the Spirit is when the believer does not think, speak or act in accordance with the mandates found in the Word of God, which is the mind of Christ.

Things that grieve the Holy Spirit:

- Legalism: man operation in the power of his flesh and soul in attempt to gain the approval or acceptance of God through his own resources and abilities.
- Licentiousness: man pursuing the gratification of the flesh in the world and in the things of the world (Gal. 5:1-15, 1 Cor. 8:1-8).
- Lack of doctrine in the soul: man operating by satanic power and cosmic viewpoint.

There are also three powers which are vying to control our souls:

- Cosmic system (Rom. 12:2)
- Flesh (Gal. 5:16-17)
- Devil (Eph. 6:10-18)

There are also six problems which hinder the Spirit’s work in producing Christ-like character in the believer:

- Ignorance of God’s Word (Rm. 6:1-15).
- Bias and prejudices: preconceived ideas from one’s background that blocks out the truth of Scripture (Mark 7:6-13).
- Unbelief or an attitude of self-dependence (Jer. 17:5; cf. Gal. 3:3, 5; with 5:1-5).
- Rationalization: rationalizing our sins rather than confessing them (Ps. 32:3-5; 51; 6, 10, 16).
- Lust patterns: for power, position, praise of men, prominence, prosperity, pleasure and passions to gratify the lust of the flesh, pride of life and lust of the eyes.
- Stubbornness of old habit: persisting under the influence of the old sinful nature and cosmic system.

The Sin of Quenching the Holy Spirit

“Quenching” the Spirit is another sin committed by the believer that prevents him from being filled with the Spirit and walking according to the Spirit (1 Thess. 5:19).

The Context of 1 Thess. 5:19:

- The prohibition to not “quench” the Spirit is a part of preventive maintenance for them (the Thessalonians believers) to continue their spiritual journey in the light of Bible doctrine.
- The prohibition emphasizes the negative impact that sin has upon the post-salvation functions of the Holy Spirit on behalf of the believers.
- The writer is not emphasizing the effect of sin upon the Person of the Holy Spirit and in our fellowship with Him.
- Quenching the Spirit emphasizes the negative impact it has upon the Spirit’s work in our lives, which is to manifest the character of Christ in our lives (1 Thess. 5:12-28).

1 Thessalonians 5:19: Do not quench the Spirit (*to pneuma me sbunnute* = το πνευμα με σβυννιτε) composed of negative particle me plus second person plural present active imperative form of the verb sbennumi. The term sbennumi in the Greek NT is always used of extinguishing a light or fire. In using the word here in 1 Thess. 5:19, the apostle Paul pictured the Spirit of God as fire.

- John the Baptist linked the Holy Spirit to fire (Luke 3:16)
- The baptism of the Holy Spirit at the day of Pentecost was linked with fire (Acts 2:1-4)
- In the OT, fire was a symbol of the Lord’s presence and power (Exodus 3:2, 14:24)
- Fire was also equated with the Lord’s judgment (Numbers 11:1-3)
- God is angry toward our sin (Heb. 12:29)

Fire produces light that enables us to see our path in the dark. The Holy Spirit provides light for the church age believer’s soul to guide him through the darkness of the cosmic system of Satan. When we sin, we are extinguishing the light that the Spirit provides in our soul while we are in fellowship. All sins from the old sinful nature either grieves or quenches the Holy Spirit (1 John 1:5 – 2:2).

The Effects of Quenching the Holy Spirit:

- We are depriving ourselves the powerful guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit.
- We are hindering the Spirit’s work of manifesting the light of Christ in our physical bodies while we live in the midst of the darkness of the cosmic system of Satan.
- We are depriving ourselves of all the blessings, privileges and opportunities we have inside the plan of God.

Applicable Repercussion:

- The light of Christ is the Person of Christ and also called the character of Christ. When we are out of fellowship, the light of Christ, which refers to the character of the Person of Christ, cannot be manifested in our lives (John 8:12).
- The Holy Spirit’s job during today is always to manifest the light of Christ through the Body of Christ.
- The responsibility of the members of the Body of Christ is to manifest the Person of Christ. The Spirit enables us to, but this is hindered and brought to a complete stop when we sin and are out of fellowship.
- The Holy Spirit is always waiting for the believers who are out of fellowship with God to start His work of transforming and producing the Christ-like characters.

The Believer’s Response to the Light:

- We are to put on the armor of light (Rom. 13:12)
- We can reject the deed of darkness using our spiritual discernment only when we are under the influence of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:13).
- We are to manifest the Person of Christ or the light of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit (Phil. 2:14-16) in our bodies as luminaries in the cosmic system.
- We are to desire to manifest the Light of Christ in our bodies (Phil. 1:19-21).
- We glorify God when we develop the character of Christ in our lives (John 15:8).

It is impossible for mortal man to literally extinguish the fire of the Holy Spirit of God. The verb sbennumi is used in 1 Thessalonians 5:19 in a metaphorical sense of hindering, hampering or obstructing the Work of the Holy Spirit in transforming the believer into the image of the humanity of Christ that is to manifest Christ-like character.

The Essence of Hindering the Work of the Holy Spirit:

- To cause delay, interruption, or difficulty in; check, retard, hamper
- To prevent from doing, acting, or happening
- To be an obstacle or impediment
- The verb “hinder” emphasizes causing harmful or annoying delay or interference with progress. When we sin and get out of fellowship, we are hindering the work of producing the Christ-like character in us (Gal. 4:19).
- When we sin and get out of fellowship we are in effect hindering the Spirit’s work of manifesting the Light or the virtuous character of Christ in our physical bodies. The fruit of the Spirit is the production of Christ-like character (Gal. 5:22-23).
- When we sin and get out of fellowship with God, this work of the Holy Spirit of fruit bearing is hindered or prevented from continuing.

Note that the highlighting is upon rendering inoperative the post-salvation functions of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Logically we can say that:

- Sin (when not confessed) causes a delay or an interruption of the Spirit's work in producing Christ-like character in the believer.
- Sin (when not confessed) hampers the Spirit's work of producing Christ-like character in the believer.
- Sin (when not confessed) prevents the Spirit from producing Christ-like character in the believer.
- Sin (when not confessed) is an obstacle or an impediment to the Spirit's work of producing Christ-like character in the believer.
- Sin (when not confessed) causes harmful and annoying delay or interference to the Spirit's work in producing Christ-like character in the believer.
- Sin (when not confessed) interferes with the progress of the Spirit's work of producing Christ-like character in the believer.

Important Principles:

- Quenching or more accurately hindering the Spirit looks at the effect of sin upon the Spirit but from the standpoint of His work that He is sent to perform in our lives (Phil. 1:6, 2:12-13).
- When we are quenching the Spirit, we are denying ourselves the omnipotence of God which is essential in development of Christ-like character and doing the will of God in our lives (Rom. 15:13, Eph. 3:14-16).
- This enabling power of the Spirit provides us with divine omnipotence necessary to do the Father's will. Remember, a perfect plan designed by a perfect God demands perfect power.
- When we are disobedient to the Word of God and thus sin, we render inoperative the power of the Holy Spirit designed to enable us to do the Father's will. The will of the Father is that we bear fruit which as we noted is developing the character of Christ in our lives.
- The Holy Spirit provides us the opportunity to have fellowship with the member of the Trinity. When we sin we are denying ourselves fellowship with the Trinity and conducting ourselves contrary to the will of the Father.

Quenching the Spirit means that:

- Our thoughts, decisions, and actions are contrary to the will of God.
- We are obstructing the Spirit's influence or work in our lives.
- We are not walking in agreement with the Spirit. We are working independently from Him.
- We are preventing the Holy Spirit from influencing our thoughts, decisions and actions.

The Results of Grieving and Quenching the Holy Spirit:

- The loss of fellowship with God.
- All the post-salvation ministries of the Holy Spirit are hindered and paralyzed.
- We are wasting our spiritual, mental and physical resources (Eph. 5:18).
- It negatively affects our health, integrity, human relationships and our society as a whole.
- A lifestyle of always grieving and quenching the Spirit will in the end result in divine discipline and sin unto death if not check
- A lifestyle of grieving and quenching the Holy Spirit will result in the loss of testimony (1 Pet. 3:15-17; 4:15-16).
- A lifestyle of grieving and quenching the Spirit also result in the loss of rewards (1 Jn. 2:28-3:3, 1 Co. 3:11-15; 2 Co. 5:10).

1 Thessalonians 5:19 says: Do not make it a habit of hindering the Spirit. God the Holy Spirit produces fruit in the believer. It is not the fruit of the believer, but the fruit produced by the Spirit. We are quenching or hindering the Holy Spirit when we ignore His warnings, which are turning a deaf ear to the still small voice that prompts us. It is ignoring a command we know we have to obey. It is running when God the Holy Spirit put stop signs in front of us. The Holy Spirit kindles a fire of passion for God in our hearts but we must keep the fire burning by being sensitive to Him. When the fire starts going out because we throw the cold water of sin upon it, the Holy Spirit sounds the alarm. We quench or grieve Him when we ignore Him.

The Sin of Lying to the Holy Spirit

The sin of lying to the Holy Spirit prevents the believer from being filled with the Spirit or being influenced by the Spirit. Lying against the Holy Spirit is documented only in Acts 5:1-11.

Background of the Context:

- Time: during the early first century pre-canon period of the church age at the heights of the transition from the dispensation of the Mosaic Law to the mystery dispensation called the church age.
- The apostles were evangelizing their fellow Jewish countrymen in Israel and the church is growing very fast.
- The church had to rely upon each other to meet each other's needs. Their giving here is the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
- The selling of property here by the disciples was voluntary, motivated by their love for the Lord and was a result of the fruit of the Spirit.
- The Believers were applying grace giving based on their doctrinal perception and application of the Word of God without human persuasion.

The Examples of Some notable believers:

- Some sold their real estate properties one after the other as the need arises.
- Dr. Luke indicated by using the verbs poleo (to sell) and phero (to bring) which describes the repeated action in the past that occurred at different time interval.
- The disciples did not sold their properties and brought all the money at one time but one after the other as the need arises.
- Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles, the cousin of John Mark and who owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the full amount to the apostles.

Acts 4:32, "And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one {of them} claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them."

The Case of Ananias and Sapphira:

- Ananias (means God is gracious) and Sapphira (means beautiful) sold a piece of their real estate property and brought a fraction of the money before the apostles (Acts 5:1-3).
- The phrase "kept back" is the third person singular aorist middle indicative form of the verb nosphizomai, "to misappropriate funds for one's own benefit." This is an intensive middle emphasizing the part taking here by Ananias meaning that he kept back some of the money for himself.
- The phrase "to lie" is the aorist middle infinitive form of the verb pseudomai. It means, "to communicate what is false, with the evident purpose of misleading." Ananias with his wife's full knowledge misappropriated the money from the land they sold for their own benefit. They only brought a portion of the money they received from the sale of the land.

The sin of Hypocrisy:

- Ananias and Sapphira were involved in the sin of hypocrisy.
- The sin of Ananias and Sapphira was the sin of pretending that part of what they gave was all.
- Ananias and Sapphira acted out like gracious givers to gain the approbation of the Church and many are doing it among us today.
- So the sin of Ananias and Sapphira was lying to the Holy Spirit and this sin was manifested in their hypocrisy before the congregation.
- Ananias and Sapphira could have retained the proceeds from the sale of the property but instead they chose to lie.
- They deliberately attempted to deceive the apostles and the rest of the church into thinking that they were giving all the money.

God used Ananias and Sapphira to Warn the Church:

- At the beginning of each dispensation God used certain individuals to demonstrate His perfect standard and demands for reverence, respect and honor from men.
- One thing is for sure, they did not deceive God the Holy Spirit.
- They didn't commit a sin that was any more severe than what believers commit today.
- So by disciplining this couple, the Spirit revealed His displeasure with sin and it marked off the church as distinct from Israel for such discipline was not a work in Israel (Heb. 12)
- The fact that Ananias and Sapphira, two believers in the Lord Jesus Christ received dying discipline was a clear indication that God was working actively in the church (1 Cor. 10:11-12).

Satan is Dividing the Household of God:

- He is dividing the house against itself by causing the believers to live in their old sin nature for gratification of selfish desires (Mark 3:25).
- Satan causes personality conflicts, which in turn divide a church from within.
- He set up believers and pseudo-believers into local assembly who are legalistic, self-righteous and arrogance in the hope of dividing it (Gal. 2:4)

Satanic Influence:

- Satan influenced two members of the unified 1st century church in the attempt of dividing it.
- Satan has filled the heart of Ananias (under demonic influence). The verb filled (pleroo) indicated the influencing factor (Acts 5:2).
- In Acts 5:3, we have the same pleroo being employed by the writer Luke, but this time we have Satan influencing Ananias and Sapphira to lie to the Holy Spirit as a result of their hypocrisy.
- The Holy Spirit was not influencing, guiding or empowering these two to give to the church but rather Satan was influencing and the motivator behind this sin. They were not under the influence of the Spirit but under the influence of Satan.
- Throughout history Satan has been influencing believers to act against God in rebellion by actions and decisions that are independent from the will and plan of God.
- The tense of the verb pleroo indicated that Ananias and Sapphira lied by their own volition when they were prompted or influenced by Satan to do so.
- Ananias and Sapphira could have resisted Satan's influence and submitted to the Holy Spirit by their own volition.
- Satan desires that every believer will lie to the Holy Spirit (acts 5:3) and lie to God (Acts 5:4) at any given time and situation.

Ananias and Sapphira committed this act of sin because they received this thought from Satan and acted upon it. This is very important because it brings out the principle that the Satan and the kingdom of darkness are involved in thought projection. The apostle Paul called it thought projections from the kingdom of darkness also known as flaming missiles (Eph. 6:16).

Demonic Thought Projection:

- The demons are projecting thoughts to every believer.
- The demons are feeding the arrogance of men and giving them motivation but still men are responsible for their actions.
- When believers are not under the influence of the Holy Spirit they will chose to listen to Satan and swallow the principles of the world (Mat. 15:18-20) and thus resulting to evil actions.
- The hearts of men because of the presence of old sinful nature are inclined to follow satanic viewpoint (Gen. 8:21, Jer. 17:9).

Attempting to Prove God:

- The term for test is the verb peirazo which meant to try the quality or character of someone or something. In context peirazo is to prove God or Christ by human effort.
- Unbelief doubts the perfect integrity of God and will always try how much they can get away before God judges them.
- Ananias and Sapphira were presuming on God to see if He will perform His Word by stretching Him to the limits.
- Anyone can test God but in reality God is never affected by such foolish attempt and it only results to failure on the side of men.

Sin Unto Death of Ananias and Sapphira:

- The sin unto death of Ananias and Sapphira served as warning to every Church Age believer not to treat God with contempt (Acts 5:5, 1 Peter 4:17).
- Ananias and Sapphira died of sin unto death because they have been grieving and quenching the Holy Spirit for a long time. They have rejected the warnings and the conviction of the Holy Spirit to rebound and continue in the Word of God.
- Their sin unto death conveyed the truth that God is personally involved in our lives (1 John 5:16). Such discipline was severe because it was an example to the church.
- The sin unto death of Ananias and Sapphira brought phobos, that is sudden fright or sudden panic (that fear of death) in positive sense reverence toward God (Acts 5:10-11). The sin of lying to God the Holy Spirit (the sin of false motivation) is preventable.

Summary of the sins of the believers against the Holy Spirit:

- Quenching God the Holy Spirit: produces human good from the area of strength in the old sin nature in order to gain approbation.
- Grieving God the Holy Spirit: produces sins from area of weakness in the old sin nature to gratify the lust patterns.
- Lying to God the Holy Spirit: produces false motivation from approbation lust.

The Sin of Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit

There are two types of sin committed by the unbeliever against God the Holy Spirit:

- Blasphemy against the Spirit (Matt. 12:14-32)
- Resisting the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:51)

The Context of Matthew 12:14-32

- The Pharisees attributed the casting out of demons by the Lord Jesus Christ through the power of Beelzebul, the ruler of demons.
- The Lord Jesus Christ said that the sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit cannot be forgiven in this age or in the age to come.

The Confusing Issues:

- They claimed that such sin occurred only during the 1st Advent of Christ when He was physically present on earth.
- They claimed that the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit was unique to Christ's 1st Advent and was the attributing the miracles of Christ to the devil rather than the Holy Spirit.
- They claimed that the commission of the sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit required the personal work of Christ rejected and attributed to the demons.

Doctrinal Facts to Consider:

- There is no sin that cannot be forgiven except for the rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior over a lifetime.
- The only reason for anyone to be in the Lake of Fire is the rejection of the finished redemptive work of Christ for the entire human race.
- There is no particular sin that qualify any person for the Lake of Fire except the rejection of salvation by grace alone in Christ alone through faith alone.
- The personal sins of unbelievers will never be mentioned at the Great White Throne Judgment but their inferior human good works that they substituted for the grace of God (Rev. 20:11-15).
- God's attitude toward the entire human race is that He desires all to believe in His Son Jesus Christ (1 Tim. 2:4, John 3:16-17, 2 Peter 3:9).

The Important Doctrinal Principles Related to the Sin of Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit:

- The real issue here is not simply the act attributing the miracles of the Lord Jesus to the demons but the rejection of the Spirit's witness concerning the Person of Christ at the point of hearing the Gospel for salvation that is blasphemous and unpardonable.
- The miracles of Christ were to demonstrate that He was the Jewish Messiah since the Jews required a sign (1 Cor. 1:22. Today we do not employ miracles to witness to the unbelievers.
- The blasphemy of the Spirit is not a particular act of sin but rather a negative attitude towards the Holy Spirit's witness concerning Christ that extends over a lifetime regarding the Person and Work of Christ at the point of hearing the Gospel for salvation.
- It cannot be forgiven because it is the rejection of the Spirit's witness concerning Christ in common grace over a lifetime. If you reject the Spirit's repeated attempts over a lifetime to witness that Jesus is the Christ then you stand before the Great White Throne Judgment where there is no forgiveness.
- The grace of God for salvation is available to every individual as long as they are alive on the face of earth (2 Peter 3:9).
- The process of blasphemy takes place over a lifetime until the unbeliever accepts Christ or they die. There are no more opportunities after physical death (Heb. 9:27, Mat. 12:31-32).

It is just as much blasphemous today to reject the Spirit's witness concerning Christ during this dispensation as it was during the 1st Advent!

What Cannot Be Forgiven?

- Not the act of attributing the miracles of the Lord Jesus Christ to the demons
- Not the rejection of miracles or any other personal sins of the unbelievers.
- God cannot forgive the lifelong rejection of the Spirit's trustworthy witness concerning Christ at the point of hearing the Gospel for salvation.

The Gospel of Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-4):

- The Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins
- He was buried
- And raised the 3rd day

Therefore, it is essential that we present the Gospel accurately and concisely to the unbeliever because the Gospel is the power of God for salvation (Eph. 1:13). The Holy Spirit takes whatever truth is communicated to the unbeliever and makes it understandable so that they can make a decision for or against Christ as their Savior.

The Sin of Resisting the Spirit

The Context of Acts 6:7-15:

- Stephen (stephanos meaning winner's wreath) one of the 7 Greek speaking Jews (Hellenistic) of the 1st century Church, noted as filled with the Holy Spirit and Word of God.
- The early church was predominately Jewish rather than Gentile and Stephen was the key instrument for helping the Jews to shift from Mosaic Law to grace of God.
- The international Jewish community secretly instigated a persecution against Stephen whom they were not able to refute because of his tremendous wisdom and knowledge of the Scriptures.
- They secretly induced men to testify false against him, accused him before the Jewish council (Sanhedrin) and executed him by stoning to death.

Act 7:51 "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. The word stiff-necked is the Greek noun sklerotrachelos which describes one whose jaws and neck are rigid from angrily resisting argument or counsel. It describes someone who is inflexible to accept the truth (Ex. 33:5). The phrase "uncircumcised in heart and ears" refers to the fact that they were unregenerate people who continue to resist the witness of the Holy Spirit concerning the salvation in Christ.

To reject the Spirit's witness concerning Christ upon hearing the Gospel is to have an uncircumcised heart before God (Lev. 26:40-42). The verb resisting (antiptete) is a 2nd person plural present active indicative of the verb antipteto, a hapax legomenon (used only here) literally means to fall against. This statement by Stephen is reminiscent of Lord's condemnation of the Pharisees in Matthew 23:29-38.

Resisting the Holy Spirit is rejecting the proclamation of the Gospel of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Interestingly enough, the leaders of the Jewish nation were resisting the Spirit by putting to death Stephen who was filled with the Spirit. Stephen was witnessing to these unregenerate Jews by means of the power of the Spirit. They rejected the Spirit's ministry in common grace.

Resisting the Holy Spirit is in effect is blaspheming the Holy Spirit. The sin of rejecting Jesus Christ as Savior is the rejection of the Spirit's witness concerning Him. Anyone who continues to reject the witness of the Holy Spirit till they face the Great White throne Judgment would receive their final condemnation without forgiveness.

