

# Activity of the Holy Spirit 1

## Grieve not the HOLY SPIRIT

### Text: Eph 4:20-32

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.

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, just as God in Christ forgave you.

NKJV

### Introduction:

As we begin this month on the learning about the Holy Spirit and respecting the working of the Holy Spirit on our lives. Let us remember He's not in our lives to make us look good, but do good. Many Christians get caught up in desiring the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Rather than allowing the Holy Spirit to develop Holy character.

The danger is that you can move in the gifts of the Holy Spirit for a while, and have many flaws in your character, but if you do not obey the conviction of the Holy Spirit in making adjustments and changes in your life, you will experience the gift working against you.

How is that? We feel that we don't have to change our lifestyle because God is using us anyhow, and all is good. Remember Sampson. He operated in the gift and neglected his character, until it worked against him.

**JB Phillips** – Every time we say "I believe in the Holy Spirit" we mean that we believe that there is a living God able and willing to enter human personality and change it.

*Let us go back to our text....*

**V. 30** – after the do not's are expressed, we see that Paul is careful to mention that we are able to Grieve the Holy Spirit – What does that Mean? – To cause sorrow, to cause distress or pain.

**How is that possible?** The Holy Spirit is not a mere influence or electrical force, but the third person of the holy trinity. With personality, He is gracious, loving, tender in personality.

**To grieve Him is to hinder** His loving and merciful operations in the heart that can bring the fullness of Christ in our character.

### **Example - Isa 7:13**

Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also?"

### **Acts 7:51**

51 "You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit!"

Simply it's rebelling against the working of the Holy Spirit.

In our text it makes it clear what grieves the Holy Spirit...

### **Eph 4:25-27**

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.

- 1). Put away lying – it's contrary to the Spirit of Truth
- 2). Letting anger go down with the Sun – When we harbor anger and hatred, we allow the devil to build a harbour in us. And we know that we cannot serve two masters.

### **Eph 4:28-29**

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  
NKJV

These are areas of grieving the Holy Spirit...

## **Other Areas that Grieve Him –**

### **1). By taking for granted or ignoring His Presence –**

Mutual recognition is absolutely essential to the maintenance of real friendship, we can grieve Him by the coldness of forgetfulness.

### **2 Cor 13:14**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the **communion** of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

**Def: of Communion** – fellowship, partaking

**Thomas Arnold** – He who does not know God the Holy Spirit cannot know God at all.

### **2). By Rejecting His teaching –**

### **Isa 63:9-10**

9 In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them.

In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

10 Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them.

If we are not growing in grace and in the knowledge of God, we may well suspect ourselves of disobedience to the Lord. Our growth is to glorify Jesus, we have been given every necessity to grow and

flourish, but when we reject that we reject growth and reject his purpose. We must be serious about growing in the Lord.

**3). By grieving the Children of God –**

V.32

Uncharitable thinking, brings uncharitable speaking, grieves the Spirit of Unity and love. The Prayer prompt by the Spirit is that we be one, and when we tear each other down with our words it grieves the Holy Spirit. Let us not marr the Body of Christ that He is so eager to maintain.

**4). By the Serving the Lord in our Strength –**

The Holy Spirit has come that we may have power to witness for Christ, to speak and labour in our own strength is a denial of his mission.

How sad it must be to the Holy Spirit to see God's servant substituting fleshly energy and worldly policy instead of His quickening presence.

If we desire to operate in our own strength, we will end up like the foolish virgins with no oil in their lamps. Dry and worthless to the coming groom.

Let us walk carefully as we enter a new dimension with the Holy Spirit – Let us first make peace and make some commitments this evening NOT to grieve the HOLY SPIRIT.

How do we show respect to the Holy Spirit – We allow him to Change us.