

MY HELPER #13 GRIEVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

Eph. 4²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body.²⁶ “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry,²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold.²⁸ He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

5 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children² and live a life of love...NIV

There are some amazing truths contained in the NT concerning the person of the Spirit of God. I am afraid that because He is unseen, He is so often overlooked by the people of God. Yet He is so frequently mentioned and given such prominence, that we overlook Him at our own demise.

In our text we are given a command in relation to the Holy Spirit: "Grieve not the holy Spirit of God."

I. WHAT IT MEANS TO GRIEVE HIM

A. To upset:

1. Grieve is a word used to describe **great sorrow**. We use it to describe the sorrow that people feel when a loved one dies.

2. The greater the love, the greater the capacity to grieve:

ILL. The Jews noted Jesus' love for Lazarus at the grave because He wept: "Behold how he loved him!"

To grieve at someone's behavior would imply that the person was loved.

(1) ILL. If a man discovered that money from his wallet was stolen, he would be angered. If he were to find out it was his own child, he would be grieved.

B. It is not said that he is angered.

1. God is angered by the sin of those who are not His children.

2. But when it comes to **His children, He is grieved**.

3. When we know he is grieved, it has a tendency to soften our hearts.

II. HOW WE MAY GRIEVE HIM

A. Bad thoughts

Some people think that as long as it stays in the mind, it is OK. He is the Holy Spirit, and even sin that is never committed outwardly but tolerated inwardly, grieves Him.

a) **Lustful things**, He is grieved.

b) If you **view** any form of **pornography** or nakedness, He is grieved.

c) If you have **bitter feelings** towards another, He is grieved.

d) If you are **covetous** and materialistic, He is grieved.

e) If you have a **critical and negative spirit**, He is grieved.

f) If you have a **discontent / murmuring spirit**,
He is grieved.

B. Bad actions

1. Acts of commission:

- a) When you loose your temper, you grieve Him.
- b) When you lie, you grieve Him
- c) When you swear, you grieve Him
- d) When you blaspheme, you grieve Him.
- e) When you gossip, you grieve Him.
- f) When you discourage others, you grieve Him

2. Acts of neglect:

- a) Bible
- b) Prayer
- c) Church
- d) Witnessing

We may justify our actions and thoughts, but the Holy Spirit is grieved.

III. THE EFFECTS OF GRIEVING HIM

A. We do not lose Him easily

- 1. "Sealed unto the day of redemption."
- 2. He will "Abide with you forever."(John 14:16)
- 3. Never leave you nor forsake you (Heb 13:5)
- 4. We are not as David who prayed, "take not thy holy Spirit..."

B. But that does not mean we do not lose His power, His felt-presence, His leading, His filling:

C. We lose **spiritual joy**

D. We lose **power**

1. At one time we could slay the Philistines, and lay them in heaps, but now Delilah can deceive us.
2. We become so vulnerable to temptation.
3. Our boldness in witnessing disappears.

E. We lose **comfort**

1. The comforter comforts us in our faith, he encourages our spirits and we feel to soar above the clouds.
2. But when we are left to our own devices how quickly things may change...

Whatever it takes we must please him.