

## **Appendix A: IT IS POSSIBLE TO SIN AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Since all sin is against God, there is a sense in which all sin is against the Holy Spirit, for He is a member of the Godhead. Yet, there are some specific sins that are directed at the Holy Spirit. Because He is a person, the Holy Spirit may suffer slights and injuries which are attributed to a person. In this study we will examine passages that speak of sin against the Holy Spirit.

### **Blasphemy Against The Holy Spirit—Matthew 12:22-37**

The background to this incident is important. Jesus was casting out demons. The Pharisees charged Him with acting by the power of Beelzebub. Jesus showed two things wrong with their charge: 1) *Illogic*--A house divided wouldn't stand; Satan would oppose Satan, 2) *Inconsistency*. They acknowledged their sons cast them out by God's power. Jesus performed miracles by the Spirit of God, (the finger of God, [Luke 11:20](#)). By casting out demons, Jesus was binding the strong man (Satan).

Jesus warned the Pharisees about blasphemy. Blasphemy means "to speak a word against." It is used of language that is hostile to God. It refers not merely to one's words, but to his attitude. Speaking against the Son of man shall be forgiven. Speaking against the Holy Spirit shall not be forgiven. Rejection of the Son during the ministry of Jesus could be forgiven, but rejection of the Holy Spirit would be a rejection of heaven's last effort to save man. Some who rejected Jesus would yet be forgiven on Pentecost, [Acts 2:36-38](#). The exact circumstances of [Matthew 12:24](#) can't be duplicated today, because Jesus is not on earth and is not casting out devils. While He was here, Jesus did this by the Holy Spirit. Those who attributed this to Satan were in danger.

Is it possible to blaspheme the Holy Spirit today? While it is impossible to duplicate the events of [Matthew 12](#), it is possible to reject the Spirit's testimony and be lost! The gospel age is often called the age of the Holy Spirit, for it was the Spirit's work in this age to reveal and confirm the gospel. Is it possible for a man to become so bitter in opposition to the Spirit's revelation that he cannot be saved? It would seem so. Though he has not committed exactly the same sin as in [Matthew 12](#), he is in a similar condition. Why would God not forgive those who blaspheme the Spirit? Was God "really mad at them and refused to forgive?" Or was the problem in the men who spoke against the Spirit? Was it a heart condition? A man may become so hardened that he makes a complete, final and utter rejection of the Spirit's revelation. When a man completely rejects the Spirit's revelation, he has rejected heaven's last effort to save man; rejected the power of God; rejected the evidence which convicts men of sin; persisted in bold opposition and rejection, and is lost. Any sin man will repent of may be forgiven, [1 John 1:9](#). Sin that is not repented of is a sin unto death, [1 John 5:16-17](#). Let us always be of a mind to accept the Spirit's testimony. We must never resist His word. Let us always obey Him.

Special note should be made concerning how Pentecostals and Charismatics use [Matthew 12](#). Pentecostal preachers will often cry "blasphemy of the Holy Spirit" if their own members question them. "The Holy Spirit told me to do or say...." They intimidate them into silence by warning them of blaspheming the Spirit. The same men use this text as a weapon against those who question their so-called miracles. "If you deny I have worked a miracle, you are blaspheming the Holy Spirit." This is a misuse of [Matthew 12](#) by false teachers.

### **Some Other Sins Against The Holy Spirit**

Ananias and Sapphira were guilty of lying to the Holy Spirit, [Acts 5:1-11](#). Stephen accused the Jews of resisting the Holy Spirit, [Acts 7:51](#). They resisted the Holy Spirit by resisting the word the Spirit had revealed. The same sin can be committed today. The Thessalonians were warned not to quench the Spirit, [1 Thessalonians 5:19](#). We would understand this to be similar to resisting the Holy Spirit. When a Christian resists obedience to the Spirit's word, he is quenching the effect of the Spirit in his life. The Ephesians were warned not to grieve the Holy Spirit, [Ephesians 4:30](#). The context of this passage addresses pure speech and godly conduct on the part of Christian. We can safely conclude that when Christians conduct themselves in an ungodly way that Holy Spirit is grieved by that kind of conduct.

The Corinthians were warned about defiling the temple of God, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17. Does this text refer to the church or to the individual Christian? In the context, it refers to the church—not the individual Christian. This temple is defiled through divisions, quarrels and carnality. What is the temple in 1 Corinthians 6:19? In this case, it is the body of the individual believer. It can it be defiled through using it in dishonorable ways. In the context, Paul talks about the dishonorable use of the body through sexual immorality.

The Hebrews were warned about insulting the Spirit, Hebrews 10:29. The context of this passage has to do with apostasy—leaving the Lord. It is always an insult to God when a Christian chooses the world over the Son of God. When a Christian does that, he treats everything that is holy as commonplace and unimportant. He rejects the blood of Christ; he rejects the covenant of God; he rejects the revelation given by the Spirit. He is in serious trouble with God

Just as we speak of being obedient to Christ, we must understand that we are to be obedient to the Holy Spirit. Let us humbly and reverently submit to the word of the Holy Spirit and be blessed.