

REJECTING THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE DOWNWARD STEPS IN THE PATH TO SPIRITUAL DEATH OF THE BELIEVER.

I.) INTRODUCTION:

A.) WE HAVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SPIRIT AS CHILDREN OF GOD.

(Romans 8:9 ASV)

(9) But ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you. But if any man hath not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

B.) IS IMPARTED TO US BY GOD

(Galatians 4:6 ASV)

(6) And because ye are sons, God sent forth the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

(2Corinthians 1:21-22 ASV)

(21) Now he that establisheth us with you in Christ, and anointed us, is God; (22) who also sealed us, and gave {us} the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

C.) DEFINE IT!!!

1.) Is surely intended to modify our attitude, thoughts, and behavior

2.) How does Holy Spirit do that?

3.) Does Holy Spirit work in similar way to evil spirits??

a.) Note story of Jesus and the Gergesenes man possessed;

(Mark 5:1-20 KJV)

(1) And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes.

(Luke 8:26) which is over against Galilee.

(Mark 5:2) And when he was come out of the ship,

(Luke 8:27) he went forth to land,

(Mark 5:2) immediately there met him

(Luke 8:26) out of the city

(Matthew 8:28) two possessed with devils,

(Luke 8:27) an unclean spirit,

(Mat. 8:28) coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way.

(Luke 8:28) a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in {any} house, but in the tombs.

(Mark 5:3) and no man could bind him, no, not with chains: (4) Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any {man} tame him. (5) And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.

(b.) Note the man comes to worship Jesus!

(Mark 5:6) But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him,

(c.) But his worship gets interrupted by something;

(Luke 8:26-39 KJV)

(28) and he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, {thou} Son of God most high? I beseech thee,

(Mark 5:7) I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.

(d.) Remember that he came to Jesus, it wasn't like Jesus come looking for him.

(e.) Sometimes the man was in control, sometimes the spirits within him were trying to take over and make him do things he did not want to do.

(Luke 8:29) (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.)

(f.) Look who is doing the talking now!

(Matthew 8:28-34 KJV)

(29) And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?

(Mark 5:1-20 KJV)

(8) For he said unto him, Come out of the man, {thou} unclean spirit.

(9) And Jesus asked him, What {is} thy name? And he answered, saying, My name {is} Legion: for we are many.

(Luke 8)(30) because many devils were entered into him.

10) And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country.

(Luke 8 31) out into the deep

(Mark 5:11) Now there was there nigh unto the mountains

(Matthew 8:30) a good way off from them,

(Mark 5:11) a great herd of swine feeding.

(Luke) on the mountain

(Matthew 8:28-34 KJV)

(31) So (all) the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into

(Mark 5:12) And Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them.

(13) And forthwith Jesus gave them leave.

(Mat. 8:32) And he said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went

(Mark 5:13) And the unclean spirits, and entered into the swine: and (behold) the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea.

(Matthew 8:31) and perished in the waters.

(33) And they that kept (and fed the swine) them fled, and went their ways into the city, and told every thing, and what was befallen to the possessed of the devils. (Mark 5:14) told {it} in the city, and in the country. (Matthew 8:34) And, behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus: (Mark 5:1-20)And see what it was that was done.

(g.) Now the man is "in his right mind" and in FULL control of himself;

(Mark 5:1-20 KJV)

(15) And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion,

(h.) He had been healed!

(Luke 8:35) out of whom the devils were departed, was healed.

(Mark 5:15) sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid. (16) And they that saw {it} told them how it befell to him that was possessed with the devil, and {also} concerning the swine. (17) And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts.

(Luke 8:37) Then the whole multitude of the country of the Gadarenes round about besought him to depart from them; for they were taken with great fear:

(Mark 5:18) And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him. (19) Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home (unto thine own house) to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. (20) And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all {men} did marvel.

(Luke) and Jesus went up into the ship, and returned back again.

Holy Spirit is NOT going to TAKE CONTROL away from you and STOP you from doing things you want to do!

I.)GRIEVING THE SPIRIT

(Ephesians 4:30 ASV)

(30) And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, in whom ye were sealed unto the day of redemption.

Barnes; "Do not act towards the Holy Spirit in a manner which would produce pain in the bosom of a friend who loves you."

A.) Giving Place To The Devil!

(Ephesians 4:32-31 KJV)

(27) Neither give place to the devil.

1.)OPEN AND GROSS SINS

(Ephesians 4:17-21 KJV)

(17) This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, (18) Having the understanding

darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: (19) Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. (20) But ye have not so learned Christ; (21) If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

2.) Keeping in touch with the "old man."

(Ephesians 4:22-24 KJV)

(22) That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; (23) And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; (24) And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

3.) Lying

(Ephesians 4:25 KJV)

(25) Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another.

4.) ANGER IN ALL IT'S FORMS

(Ephesians 4:26-27 KJV)

(26) Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

5.) Stealing:

(Ephesians 4:28-31 KJV)

(28) Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with {his} hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

6.) Failing to edify;

(Ephesians 4:29)

(29) 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.

7.) Put away "OLD" put on "NEW"

(Ephesians 4:30f)

(30) And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. (31) Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

EPH 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. (KJV)

C.) LICENTIOUS THOUGHTS AND DESIRES

(1Corinthians 6:18-20 KJV)

(18) Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. (19) What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost {which is} in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? (20) For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

a.) PLEASE NOTE! There is a contrast here. But the contrast is not between unbridled self gratification with a prostitute and unbridled self gratification with a spouse.

Not a matter of WHERE you GET it; but is the difference between GETTING and GIVING!

It is between unbridled self gratification and an unselfish "GIVING" relationship, with thoughts attuned to making the other happy.

(1Corinthians 7:2-3 KJV)

(2) Nevertheless, {to avoid} fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. (3) Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.

D.)INGRATITUDE

(Romans 1:21 ASV)

(21) because that, knowing God, they glorified him not as God, neither gave thanks; but became vain in their reasonings, and their senseless heart was darkened.

E.)NEGLECT

(1Timothy 4:14 ASV)

(14) Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

(2Timothy 1:6 ASV)

(6) For which cause I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee through the laying on of my hands.

II.) RESISTING THE SPIRIT

(Acts 7:51 ASV)

(51) Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Spirit: as your fathers did, so do ye.

(1.) Reese: "He helped reveal and inspire the messages given through Moses, the prophets, the Savior, and in New Testament times, the apostles and prophets."

(2.) Barnes: "You oppose the message brought to you by the authority of God."

3.) "Resisting the Spirit SAME AS "Rejecting the counsel of God!"

(Isaiah 9:6 KJV)

(6) For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, the everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

(Revelation 3:18 KJV)

(18) I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and {that} the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see.

(Luke 7:30 KJV)

(30) But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.

A.) HE WOULD LEAD YOU TO BE DEAD TO THE WORLD WE DRIVE ON WITH OUR PLANS OF GAIN

B.) MAN WILL NOT FOLLOW

He teaches us the things that are right, we must follow.

"We must read and follow all label instructions."

(Romans 7:5 ASV)

(5) For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were through the law, wrought in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.

(Galatians 5:24 ASV)

(24) And they that are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with the passions and the lusts thereof.

(Galatians 5:22-23 ASV)

(22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) meekness, self-control; against such there is no law.

(Ephesians 5:8-12 ASV)

(8) For ye were once darkness, but are now light in the Lord: walk as children of light (9) (for the fruit of the light is in all goodness and righteousness and truth), (10) proving what is well-pleasing unto the Lord; (11) and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather even reprove them; (12) for the things which are done by them in secret it is a shame even to speak of.

.....much less be involved in.

III.) QUENCHING THE SPIRIT

(1 Thessalonians 5:17-19 ASV)

(17) pray without ceasing; (18) in everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus to you-ward. (19) Quench not the Spirit;

Barnes: "...anything that would tend to dampen the Holy Spirit and His influence over the soul...as a source of true devotion, piety in the heart..."

1.) As in Timothy, terms like stir up, neglect.

2.) Neglect of cultivating the Christian graces.

(Ephesians 6:11 KJV)

(11) Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

I.E. truth, righteousness, gospel, faith, salvation, prayer, vigilance.

(Colossians 3:12-17 KJV)

(12) Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long suffering; (13) Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also {do} ye. (14) And above all these things {put on} charity, which is the bond of perfectness. (15) And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. (16) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (17) And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, {do} all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

(2Peter 1:5-8 KJV)

(3) According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that {pertain} unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: (4) Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

(5) And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; (6) And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; (7) And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. (8) For if these things be in you, and abound, they make {you that ye shall} neither {be} barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

3.)Neglecting Prayer

(Romans 15:30 KJV)

(30) Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in {your} prayers to God for me;

(Philippians 4:6 KJV)

(6) Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

(Colossians 1:9 KJV)

(9) For this cause we also, since the day we heard {it}, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

(Ephesians 6:17-18 KJV)

(17) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: (18) Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

(Romans 8:26-28 KJV)

(26) Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. (27) And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what {is} the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to {the will of} God. (28) And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to {his} purpose.

(Romans 12:12 KJV)

(12) Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

4.)Neglecting Bible study.

(John 5:39 KJV)

(39) Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

(Romans 1:28 KJV)

(28) And even as they did not like to retain God in {their} knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

(1Timothy 2:4 KJV)

(4) Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

(2Timothy 2:15 KJV)

(15) Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

(2Timothy 3:7 KJV)

(7) Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

(Hosea 4:6 KJV)

(6) My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

5.)Neglecting Careful watchfulness over the heart.

(Matthew 5:8 KJV)

(8) Blessed {are} the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

To get to the heart, outside input must come through the senses;

(Matthew 13:15 KJV)

(15) For this people's heart is waxed gross, and {their} ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with {their} eyes, and hear with {their} ears, and should understand with {their} heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

Actions proceed forth from the heart;

(Matthew 15:17-20 KJV)

(17) Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? (18) But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. (19) For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: (20) These are {the things} which defile a man: but to eat with unwashed hands defileth not a man.

Trash in Trash out

(Matthew 12:33-35 KJV)

(33) Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by {his} fruit. (34) O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. (35) A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

What are you letting into your heart?

Enticements, Hollywood, etc

(Matthew 5:28 KJV)

(28) But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Spirit filled?

(Ephesians 5:18-20 KJV)

(18) And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; (19) Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; (20) Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

You Decide!

(Matthew 6:21 KJV)

(21) For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

IV.) DEFILING THE TEMPLE OF THE SPIRIT

A.) Vessel "MEET" for Masters use!

(2Timothy 2:20-22 KJV)

(20) But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honor, and some to dishonor. (21) If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, {and} prepared unto every good work. (22) Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

1.) Will not dwell in unclean;

(1Corinthians 6:19-20 ASV)

(19) Or know ye not that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have from God? and ye are not your own; (20) for ye were bought with a price: glorify God therefore in your body.

2.) Have something in common

(1John 1:6-10 ASV)

(6) If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in the darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: (7) but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanseth us from all

sin. (8) If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (10) If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

3.) Spirit, like Jesus, reach out to lost, work with weak to help them grow strong, turn back on the backslider

Conclusion:

A.)DESPISING THE SPIRIT

1.) What you DO determines whether you despise, not what you say!

(1Thessalonians 4:1-8 KJV)

(1) Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort {you} by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, {so} ye would abound more and more. (2) For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. (3) For this is the will of God, {even} your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: (4) That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor; (5) Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: (6) That no {man} go beyond and defraud his brother in {any} matter: because that the Lord {is} the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. (7) For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. (8) He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

2.) Fall away;

(Hebrews 6:4-6 ASV)

(4) For as touching those who were once enlightened and tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, (5) and tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the age to come, (6) and {then} fell away, it is impossible to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

The Distinction is made...

oversight, inadvertence, ignorance....

(Leviticus 4:2,13,22,27; 5:15 ASV)

(2) Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If any one shall sin unwittingly, in any of the things which Jehovah hath commanded not to be done, and shall do any one of them:

the presumption, deliberately, intentionally

(Exodus 21:14 ASV)

(14) And if a man come presumptuously upon his neighbor, to slay him with guile; thou shalt take him from mine altar, that he may die.

(Numbers 15:30 ASV)

(30) But the soul that doeth aught with a high hand, whether he be home-born or a sojourner, the same blasphemeth Jehovah; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

"Delivered unto Satan.." 1 Cor. 5

May not be literal, but you better take it as a warning.

Just because the man in 1 Corinthians was able, through the efforts of the church there, to return, doesn't mean you will.....

.....Or that your church will help you.

Just because the Prodigal son lasted long Enough to "come to himself" doesn't mean that you will be that humble or ever have that opportunity.