

PRAYER STUDY #86

BLASPHEMY AND SINS AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT

Wherefore, I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven men; but the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit shall not be forgiven men.

Matthew 12:31

This is perhaps the most feared and most misunderstood scripture in the whole Bible. Let me say first that if you are worried about blasphemy against the Holy Spirit and know the Lord, you obviously have not committed it. It is a sin that can be committed only by unbelievers. Also, it is not a one time act, and it is generally done knowingly. Scofield puts it this way, "*The blasphemy against the Holy Spirit consisted in ascribing to Satan the work of the Holy Spirit. Such a sin was unpardonable because of the unusual circumstances of their rejection of Christ. This most serious sin of the Pharisees was the climax of their continual denial of the obvious truth that the miracles of Jesus represented the power of God so that Jesus' message was heaven authenticated.*" What then is "Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit"? It is simply rejecting Christ, never coming in relationship with Him, and never being born again.

Mark puts it this way, *But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Spirit hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation* in Mark 3:29, and Luke in Luke 12:10 says, *And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him, but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven.*

John does not speak of this sin in his Gospel writing, but he does allude to it in his epistles. The New Living Translation puts it this way: *If you see a Christian brother or sister sinning in a way that does not lead to death, you should pray, and God will give that person life. But there is a sin that leads to death, and I am not saying you should pray for those who commit it. Every wrong is sin, but not all sin leads to death.* (1st John 5:16 New Living Translation) Obviously we do not want to pray forgiveness over people for the sin of not accepting Christ!

The announcement of the conception of Jesus to Joseph including these remarks from the angel sent by the Father God, "*that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she shall bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He shall save His people from their sins.*"

What is Blasphemy in General

1. Speak evil of(Jude 8, Ephesians 4:31)
2. Rail(1st Timothy 6:4, 2nd Peter 2:11)
3. Revile(Matthew 27:39)
4. Defame(1st Corinthians 4:13)
5. Slander(Romans 3:8)
6. Insult(Matthew 12:31)

4 Things Can Be Blasphemed

1. God's Name(Isaiah 52:5, Romans 2:24)
2. God Himself(Isaiah 65:7, Ezra 20:27, Revelation 16:9-11, Matthew 12:31-32)
3. The Doctrine of God(1 Timothy 6:1)
4. The Word of God(Titus 2:5)

5 Sins Against the Holy Spirit

1. The Sin of Blaspheming the Holy Spirit(as in the verses above, especially Matthew 12:31) referred to as THE UNPARDONABLE SIN. This can be committed only by unbelievers.
2. The Sin of Resisting the Holy Spirit: *You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.* (Acts 7:51) This also is done by unbelievers and again has to do with rejecting Christ.
3. The Sin of Grieving the Holy Spirit: *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.* (Ephesians 4:30-32) This is committed by believers.
4. The Sin of Quenching the Holy Spirit: *Do not quench the Spirit.* (1st Thessalonians 5:19) This is committed by believers.
5. The Sin of Lying to the Holy Spirit: *But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira, his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out and buried him. Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" She said, "Yes, for so much." Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband. So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things. Acts 5:1-11)*