

THE BIBLE VIEW

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The Unhindered Holy Spirit

Bill Brinkworth

The Holy Spirit indwells a Christian. Those that have trusted Christ alone as Saviour, become the residence of the Spirit of God.

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” 1 Cor. 3:16

His Spirit never leaves the person, as some unbiblically teach. The Spirit is “sealed”, or permanently confirmed, and the matter is closed in God’s eyes (Eph. 4:30). He does not come and go out of the believer’s life.

However, there are some things in a believer’s life that can cause God’s Spirit not to work or have control as He desires. Sin is the culprit that can sadden the Spirit of God that wants to work in a Christian’s life.

“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.” Eph. 4:30

I understood this best after raising a child. On a rare occasion, my child would do something that broke my heart. I did not do it out spite, out of anger, or to “teach a lesson”,

nor was it a planned reaction, but the child's commission of some wrong-doing made me so sad I could not talk to or even look at the child. The act did not change my love for the child one bit, and in a short time I was "over it" and things were back to normal, but for that brief, rare moment, my spirit was crushed. That is exactly how the Holy Spirit must feel when we commit sin, or violate what God intends for us to do. Our activity, or lack of it, can grieve the Holy Spirit.

Not only can the indwelling Spirit be saddened, because of what we do or not do, His excitement and zeal in working in us can be "quenched". Just as water puts out a fire, our sin can put out the flames of anticipation God has for using us for His glory. The "putting out" of the Holy Spirit's activity in one's life may be why so many have lost the joy of being saved (Psalm 51:12), when their sins do not allow God to work in their life.

"Quench not the Spirit." I Thes. 5:19

Nowhere in the New Testament is it suggested that Holy Spirit goes in and out of one's life like He is in a revolving door, as some would have us believe. He is in us for good. We do not have to get saved again, but we do have to get some things resolved with the Holy Spirit in order to have Him work in us again.

The easy and fast way to resolve my broken-heart when my child grieved my spirit was for my child to simply admit the wrong-doing and apologize. After that was done, everything was back to normal, and it was never spoken or thought of again (on my part).

The loving Spirit of God reacts much the same way. Although He knows exactly what we have done, humbling ourselves and admitting the sin is the first thing in soothing the broken heart of the Spirit. Secondly, a genuine apology and a sincere desire not to commit the sin again is what it will take to have the Holy Spirit again working in our lives. There is not one sin He will not forgive, except rejecting Him.. The Holy Spirit will always love the believer and always desire the best for his life.

“The Spirit-filled life is life at its very best.”

Keep the Temple Clean

Bill Brinkworth

I had waited a long time to spend the weekend with my friend. Finally, the time had arrived. After being dropped off, with suitcase and sleeping bag in hand, I was ready for the games to begin!

Up the steps I was guided to where I was to sleep. As the door creaked open, I was aghast at the sleeping quarters where I was to spend the next couple of nights. Clutter, mess, and filth would be my bedfellows, if I were to spend the night in that bedroom.

Dirty, tattered curtains blocked most of the light filtering through the windows. I wondered if they had ever been washed, since they were installed. Strips of wallpaper curled off the wall, exposing the paste that clusters of roaches were feasting on. Spider webs laced across most

of the corners and crevices. Clothes lay where they fell, after they were removed. I can't swear to it, but I am positive I saw a dirty sock move slightly across the dusty, stained rug under its own power. A smell of armpits, sweat, and filth permeated from unwashed clothes and bedding. It was not a place that I would relish spending the night.

As politely as I could manage, I complained, "I really want to spend the weekend here with you. We could have such a good time together; but to be honest with you, um, this room is too filthy for me to even sleep in. I would not be comfortable here."

My host surveyed his room, and agreed with a nod that it was a mess.

"If I am to stay here, we've got to clean it up," I suggested.

He was agreeable, and soon we were both working together to clean his room. Curtains, clothing, and bedding were washed more than once. Pests were sprayed and removed. Windows were scrubbed. Walls were wiped. Floors were vacuumed and scrubbed.

After much hard work, the room was cleaned. It even smelled clean and fresh. It was now a room I could comfortably sleep in.

When a person gets saved, that person becomes the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. He becomes the living temple, that the Spirit of God indwells. As I, and others, would not be comfortable in such a filthy environment in

the above story; so the Holy Spirit is not comfortable with His dwelling place in many lives. The uncleanness in one's "living temple" that displeases the Spirit and stifles His working in our lives is our sin.

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" I Corinthians 3:16

"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?" I Corinthians 6:19 Also: II Cor. 6:16.

When a person is first saved, it is the voice of the Holy Spirit that whispers in his heart to work at eliminating sin. For each person, the Holy Spirit's directions to clean up his temple are different. It may be lying, or a drinking problem that the Holy Spirit urges the child of God to eliminate in order for the Spirit to be comfortable enough to work in his life. For others it may be the sin of adultery, deceitfulness, cheating, or gossiping that He demands be stricken from the temple of the Living Spirit.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."
Romans 12:1

Too many disregard, disobey or ignore the whispering voice of the Holy Spirit to remove sin from their lives. In doing so, they grieve the Holy Spirit of God. Not doing as He commands is the same as telling him, "No!". He does not leave, but He becomes silent. That is why so many people after being gloriously saved, never do much or are used by God. The Holy Spirit insisted they clean up their

temple, and they refused to do so. A dirty temple is one that will never bring honor to God, nor will it be used by God.

“Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.” Romans 6:13

All of us that are saved have many sins in our lives that need to be cleaned up. The Holy Spirit is so gracious in that He does not demand they all be cleaned up at once. One by one, He will point them out and help us clean up where only He knows the “filth” is hiding. Is there an area in your life that God’s Spirit is urging you to clean up? You will never be perfect and sin-free, but you can be a cleaner “temple” that can bring honor and glory to God.

“I believe the holier a man becomes, the more he mourns over the unholiness that remains in him.”

— Spurgeon

Remember the Indwelling Spirit

August Van Ryn

Inasmuch as the Holy Spirit indwells the believer, He naturally is grieved by every manifestation of the old man; of our former sinful self. It does not say that we grieve the Holy Spirit away, as it is sometime wrongly quoted. No, indeed; He is ever with us, for we are sealed with the Spirit of God until the day of redemption; until the Lord Jesus comes to take us home to glory¹.

The serious thing is that the Holy Spirit is ever with us, so that when we sin we deeply grieve Him, for He indwells us. When we grieve Him, He has to leave His pleasant work of occupying us with the loveliness of Christ, and begin to show us our own unloveliness.

A realization that He, the Holy Spirit of God, is our ever present Host will keep us, in a great measure, from saying and doing things to grieve Him. We grieve the Spirit when we do things that we are told not to do. We quench Him when we do not do things we are told to do.

¹ Van Ryn, August. *Ephesians*. Neptune, NJ. Loizeaux Brothers, 1963. Pg. 127

“The Holy Spirit equips us to keep sin out of our lives.”