

Ephesians 4:30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Now it is time to look at this and say well what happens when we do not follow-through with this “faith” that we say we have. In the words of John Macarthur *“The Holy Spirit of God weeps, as it were, when he sees Christians lying instead of speaking the truth, becoming unrighteous rather than righteously angry, stealing instead of sharing and speaking corrupt instead of uplifting and gracious words”*.¹

Remember when we studied God and specifically God The Spirit? We mentioned the attributes of the Holy Spirit saying, He has specific attributes such as intellect – the ability to search and think through things [**1 Corinthians 2:10**]; knowledge – the ability to know and understand concepts [**1 Corinthians 2:11**]; and a mind – the ability to feel emotions [**Ephesians 4:30**]. When we did that study I made the statement that when we sin, the Holy Spirit feels pain, grief – because He does not understand how we as Christians can receive the power of Him and still spit in His face. In that He knows all that we think, say and do. I said that when we sin the Holy Spirit literally says: *“Why? How can you do this to me, after all I have done for you?”*

We then focused on, if we are constantly making someone else feel bad, making them feel grief - what happens to your relationship with them? You naturally, begin to think, you were never friends. Then I asked what happens to their relationship with you? Well, they naturally want to take more from you. Finally, we asked how do they feel about you? They feel you are ungrateful, inconsiderate, and never really a friend in the first place. That is why I said last week, that you cannot be a Christian and never experience change in your life, you can't say you are a Christian and “call on the name of Jesus” and not “do the will of the Father”. [**Mathew 7:21-24**]

Moreover, **1Thessalonians 5:19 - 20** states the same concept when it states: “Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances.” One of the things that happen when you grieve/make someone else feel bad is you quench it. You are literally putting out the fire or passion you once had for that person.

Let me give you an example. Have you ever known someone who got a job, maybe where you work, and they were a superstar at first? Your employer may have given them promotions and they won employee of the month or perhaps your employer was going out of their way for this employee. Then the employee begins to take advantage of their employer, taking days off

¹ The Macarthur New Testament Commentary, Ephesians. 1986, Moody Press. P189

when it wasn't needed, then maybe taking things from work or asking favors that are inappropriate and pushing the envelope. Then getting written up or losing hours? The Employers is not longer on fire for that person, they are not excited about that person but rather, disappointed as if to say – I invested so much time in you and you go and let me down.

Perhaps you have a friend, whom was awesome and always there for you perhaps thinking you like them so much that you would cover their portion for lunch or a movie. You really like that person and so you get excited when you hang out with them – you get pumped up and think to yourself, Yes we are going to have such a good time. Then your friend surprisingly loses their job or just strapped for cash, they always need you to front money. What you originally thought about them being so awesome soon begins to go down. You begin to think to yourself, “Dude, you need to get a job”. You quickly begin to think – “Where they just being my friend because they knew I would get them out of a bind when they needed it?”

Or maybe you had a boyfriend or girlfriend at one point that was so cool, you get flustered when they are around and begin to say really stupid things. I can remember when Rachel was swooning over me at Applebee's. We were discussing the Cubs one night, and I told her I liked Derrick Lee, to which she replied I like Derrick “Wee” too. Then her sister and friends began to secretly crack up inside, because Rachel did not noticed she was all “goofed” up when we first spoke. Let us move on to a relationship that doesn't work out, what happens? After a few months you realize the front they were putting on a “Front” and that was just to please you rather than who show you who “they really are” and you feelings about them begin to diminish and you realize you feelings for them begin to dim.

But I don't want to focus on the negative side of this verse. I want to focus on the positive side. See, if we read these verses in **Ephesians 4:25-32** and actually do them with the motivation of glorifying Jesus, then you won't “grieve the Holy Spirit of God” or “Quench the Spirit” but you will actually bring Joy to the Holy Spirit of God and actually start, satisfy, or set the Holy Spirit.

This is awesome actually – if you want that life that is on fire for Jesus, then follow the verses we read in **Ephesians 4:25-32** and just trust and obey for the purpose of Jesus.

Be Honest, Angry, Hard Working, Uplifting, Gracious, and Motivated for Jesus.

Which Is Why Paul Focuses On Relationships in Philippians:

Philippians 2:1-2

Therefore if there is *any encouragement* in Christ, if there is *any consolation of love*, if there is *any fellowship of the Spirit*, if *any affection and compassion*, **make my joy complete** by being of the *same mind*, maintaining the *same love*, *united in spirit*, *intent on one purpose*. [Emphasis mine]

The Writer of Hebrews Focus On Being A Hard Worker:

Hebrews 13:17

Obey your leaders and submit *to them*, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

James Tells Us To Be Faithful To God

James 1:2-4

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

John Tells Us To Be Responsible & Uplifting In Raising Up Christians

3 John 1:3-4

For I was very glad when brethren came and testified to your truth, *that is*, how you are walking in truth. I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.

Paul Summarizes That All of This Is The Work Of The Holy Spirit:

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Where Did The NT Writers Get This Concept?

In **Mathew 13:44**, Jesus tells us that if we truly found Him, we will make sure that nothing takes precedence over him and in fact we will do whatever it takes to be with Him.

Mathew 13:44 "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid *again*; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

In **Mathew 25:21**, Jesus tells us that those who do go and are faithful with what He provides, He will give many things for us to be in charge of.

Mathew 25:21 "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.

In **John 15:11**, Jesus tells us that He came to earth, invested His time so that His joy may live in us and we will be made full.

John 15:11 "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.

Finally, in **John 16:21**, Jesus tells us that just like a woman who is in labor is in the highest degree of pain to date in her life and she struggles to give birth – it will bring her much joy when her baby is resting in her arms.

John 16:21 "Whenever a woman is in labor she has pain, because her hour has come; but when she gives birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy that a child has been born into the world.

So, let us take these last few weeks and instead and know we have the opportunity to bring joy to Jesus by doing the will of the Father. Let us make Him proud, give Him glory, and raise Him up for all that He has done for us and let us not "... grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."**[Ephesians 4:30]**

In order to help us committee and be Faithful to this I let us get into prayer groups and pray over the attached handout.

Prayer Groups

Adoration

Begin by telling God how great He is. You may want to focus on a specific attribute of God (Holiness, Truthfulness, Power, Omniscience, Omnipotence, Sovereignty, or Love)

Confess

Once you have reflected on God, recognize how you cannot compare to His power, holiness, truthfulness, or love. Bring anything you want before Him that you have not aligned with Him.

Thank

Follow up with thanking God for all that He has done in your life. (Salvation, Jesus' willingness/obedience to on the cross, the kindness of God by not sending you to hell when you sinned, your church, your parents or the gift of the Scriptures)

Supplicate

Ask God to:

- Grow Up Our Faith
 - *The growth of Christ likeness of everyone in our church*
 - *The growth and spiritual protection of our children and youth*
 - *The growth of development and faithful volunteers/workers to use their spiritual gifts to labor in the harvest.*
- Grow Deep In Our Worship
 - *To recognize our lives are worship to God (What we say, do and think)*
 - *To develop a deeper sense of the presence of God's power in our services.*
 - *To faithfully worship the Lord of the Harvest.*
- Grow Close In Our Fellowship
 - *To develop relationships with the new to Lake Hills would find a real home here.*
 - *To unify and direct our church in the building project.*
 - *To continue to pray and guard the spiritual unity of our body and to work together in the harvest.*
- Grow Out In Our Reach
 - *To reach out to northwest Indiana during the 2008 Journey to Bethlehem.*
 - *To meet the financial needs of the building project to make room for new people.*
 - *To be used in the salvation of loved ones in our community.*