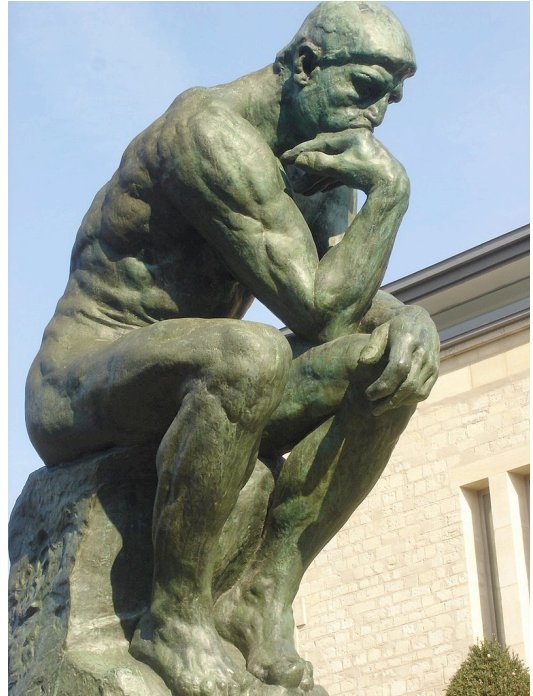


Chapter 10: Be careful Not To Hinder The Holy Spirit's Influence in Your Life!

Some do not let the Holy Spirit produce fruit in their lives. Christians may "quench" the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5: 19), and are warned against such. They may "grieve" the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4: 30), and are warned against this. Those who grieve the Holy Spirit and quench the Spirit cannot bear the fruit of the Spirit.



QUENCHING HOLY SPIRIT

Paul, in writing to the church at Thessalonica, commanded them to stop quenching the Holy Spirit; some of them were trying to put out the fire of the Holy Spirit, and were growing indifferent toward the work of Christians as taught by the Holy Spirit.

Indifference, lukewarm-ness, and idleness all hinder the work of the Holy Spirit. To discourage the work of the Lord is to quench the Holy Spirit who prompts and guides in this work.

GRIEVING HOLY SPIRIT

Another sin against the Holy Spirit is that presented by Paul when he said: "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." (Eph. 4: 30.) One may grieve the Holy Spirit by speaking impure language, using bitter and angry words against others, and doing anything that is displeasing to the Holy Spirit. The precepts enjoined by Paul here are practical; the Christian is to walk an exemplary life before men and imitating the life of Christ. The Holy Spirit is grieved when unholy actions, wicked deeds, or anything that is contrary to the teachings of Christ are done.



“Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.” Genesis 6:5,6

Another sin against the Holy Spirit is that presented by Paul when he said: "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." (Ephesians. 4: 30.)

TWO PLANES - ONE LIFE

There are two levels of life or two planes upon which children of God may live—a lower and a higher, a carnal and a spiritual. The Christian who enjoys the Christian life and develops most nearly into the likeness of Christ must live upon the higher plane.

Those who live upon the lower plane live as the world does. They are those who live after the flesh.

"For they that are after the flesh mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For the mind of the flesh is death; but the mind of the Spirit is life and peace: because the mind of the flesh is enmity against God ; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can it be: and they that are in the flesh cannot please God." (Rom. 8: 5-8.)



It is sad to find so many who have been converted, but are living upon this low level. The higher, spiritual level is where the fruit of the Spirit is manifested. The lower level of life is the fleshly, the carnal level, the level of the world; the higher level of life is the spiritual, the Christian level. There are just these two ways of living—"in the flesh" and "in the Spirit." The carnal nature and the spiritual are both in the same person; There is a conflict between the two—which shall prevail?

"I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish." Galatians 5:16,17



WORKS OF THE FLESH

Those who are living on the lower plane of the flesh are minding the things of the flesh. They do the works of the flesh. "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these : fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousies, wraths, factions, divisions, parties, envyings, drunkenness, revellings, and such like." (Gal. 5: 19-21.) . There are fifteen specific works of the flesh mentioned here ; the phrase "and such like" may include all other works of the flesh; hence, all the catalog of sins is here mentioned. Those who practice such things live on a very low level, and can never develop into the likeness of Christ, and "shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." I Corinthians 6:9-11

These "works of the flesh" are very similar to "the works of the devil." (1 John 3: 8.) "The mind of the flesh is enmity against God" (Rom. 8: 7) and "the mind of the flesh is death" (Rom. 8: 6). So "the works of the flesh" are tantamount to "the works of the devil."

This is why those who do the works of the flesh cannot be pleasing to God. Christians who do the works of the flesh cannot abide in Christ ; such works are far out of harmony with the Spirit of Christ. The wide contrast between "the works of the flesh" and "the fruit of the Spirit" stands out so 'prominent that the dark background of the works of the flesh makes the fruit of the Spirit more attractive.



Some who have been "born anew" do not bear the fruit of the Spirit because they live on the lower level of life. We can ask and receive the Holy Spirit's help to increase our emotional intelligence and strengthen our self-control over our passions and desires.

These "quench" the Holy Spirit (1 Thess. 5: 19). They "grieve" the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4: 30). Those who grieve the Holy Spirit and quench the Spirit produce works of the flesh instead of the fruit of the Spirit.

Chapter 10 Test: Be careful Not To Hinder The Holy Spirit's Influence in Your Life!

1 How do we prevent and overcome the works of the flesh?

Ask and receive the Holy Spirit's help to increase our emotional intelligence and strengthen our self-control over our passions and desires.

2. "And _____ of you. But you were _____, but you were _____, but you were _____ in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God." 1 Corinthians 6:11

*¹¹ And **such were some** of you. But you were **washed** but you were **sanctified**, but you were **justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God." 1 Corinthians 6:11*

3. How do we "grieve the Holy Spirit?"

We grieve the Holy Spirit when we have unholy actions, wicked deeds, or do anything contrary to the teachings of Christ.

4. "Do not _____ the _____." 1 Thessalonians 5:19

*"Do not **quench** the **Spirit**." 1 Thessalonians 5:19*

Define/Explain 1 Thessalonians 5:19

To quench the Spirit is to avoid or resist His presence within you and others. 1 Thessalonians 5:19

5. “And do not _____ the _____ of God...” Ephesians 4:30

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God...” Ephesians 4:30

Define/Explain Ephesians 4:30

It pains and sorrows the Holy Spirit when we behave sinfully.

6. “Then the LORD saw that the _____ of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his _____ *was* only evil continually. And the LORD was _____ that He had made man on the earth, and He was _____ in His heart.” Genesis 6:5,6

“Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.” Genesis 6:5,6

7. “For those who live according to the flesh _____ their _____ on the things of the flesh, but those *who* _____ according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be _____ _____ *is* death, but to be _____ _____ *is* life and peace. Because the carnal mind *is* _____ against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the _____ cannot please God.”
Romans 8:5-8

“For those who live according to the flesh **set** their **minds** on the things of the flesh, but those *who* **live** according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be **carnally minded** *is* death, but to be **spiritually minded** *is* life and peace. Because the carnal mind *is* **enmity** against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the **flesh** cannot please God.” Romans 8:5-8