

HOLY SPIRIT: GRIEVING THE SPIRIT

The presence of certain sins in our lives grieves the Holy Spirit. You can't yield to sin and the Spirit at the same time. You must choose at any given time between the leading of the Spirit and the leaning of your sin nature. Being indwelt by the Spirit does not keep us from temptation. The indwelling of the Spirit does provide us with an alternative power to resist and overcome temptations to sin. That power comes from the filling of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). When we tolerate our sins, the Holy spirit is grieved. He will not leave us, but He will not fill us, thus His fruit will be not be present. When the Spirit is grieved we will know it. We will experience an inner grief that may exist for some time, before we recognize the Spirit is bearing witness with our spirit (Romans 8:16). Sins that grieve the Holy Spirit are mentioned in Ephesians 4:30-31: "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." These sins not only affect other people, they harden our own spirit and stop the fruit of the Holy Spirit in us. Bitterness is the quality of being sharply disagreeable in language or tone. It comes from a word meaning acridity or poison. Wrath is hot anger. Anger is an excitement of the mind and a violent passion for punishment. Clamor means outcry, signifying a tumult of controversy. Evil speaking refers to railing. Malice is a reference to vicious character resulting from unforgiveness (v. 32). The sins that grieve the Holy Spirit are sins of the spirit. They are progressive. They impact character and cease the filling of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life. The Spirit will remain grieved as long as sin is present. To receive the filling of the Spirit we must confess our sins to God and forgive those who have grieved us (v. 32). When we do this our self-centered sins will be replaced with kindness and tenderheartedness toward others (v. 32).