

May 16, 2003

Characteristics of the Righteous Walk [Part 5]

Ephesians 4:25-32

25 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one [of you] with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. 26 Be angry, and [yet] do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and do not give the devil an opportunity. 28 He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have [something] to share with one who has need. 29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such [a word] as is good for edification according to the need [of the moment], so that it will give grace to those who hear. 30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Remember that in Ephesians 4:25-32 Paul is emphasizing the characteristics of the righteous walk. Since the old nature has been removed and we have been given a new nature, then we are to respond by walking in righteousness and holiness in truth (cf. Ephesians 4:17-24).

- ***What are the characteristics of the righteous walk that Paul highlights in Ephesians 4:25-32?***

Vs. 25, Lay aside falsehood and speak truth.

Vs. 26-27, Never stop being angry with your sin.

Vs. 28, No longer steal, but work and share.

Vs. 29, No unwholesome words, but words of edification.

Vs. 30, Do not grieve the Holy Spirit.

Vs. 31-32, Put away bitterness, wrath, anger and clamor and be kind, tender-hearted and forgiving to one another; Moving from malice to mercy.

Remember that we are in the midst of examining each one of these characteristics and attempting to apply them to our lives. Our focus this evening will be on verse 30.

Verse 30

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

- ***What is Paul's correction/command in verse 30?***

The command is "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God!" This command in the Greek is in the present imperative. It is certainly a command, but when used with a negative, the root verb carries the idea of "Stop grieving!" or "Do not be in the habit of grieving!" It is also necessary to mention that in the Greek this command is grammatically connected to the preceding injunction.

- ***What is the implication of this command being connected with the preceding injunction?***

The implication is that by speaking unwholesome words the believer grieves the Holy Spirit. It is a relationship of cause and effect and vividly portrays the link between what we say and pleasing God. It appears that His concern is so complete that one worthless word acts to grieve His Holy Spirit within the believer.

- *What does grieving mean?*

Webster: "to suffer or cause grief to." Grief is identified as unhappiness, ruin or failure.

The root of the Greek verb carries the idea of "disturbing," "grieving," "distressing," or "causing sorrow." The sensation of pain accompanies it as well, of body or mind, and thus points to a distinctly personal relationship between the one grieved and the one causing the grief.

- *How do we grieve the Holy Spirit?*

Clearly the idea here is that sin grieves the Holy Spirit. In the particular context it is the idea of unwholesome speech, which grieves the Holy Spirit. However, clearly the Scriptures teach that all sin is painful to God, especially the sin of His own children when they refuse to change from the old way of life to the new.

Certainly the failure to lay aside falsehood and replacing it with speaking truth will grieve the Holy Spirit. Certainly when we keep sinning rather than being angry with our sin, we will grieve the Holy Spirit. Certainly when we steal instead of working or sharing, we are grieving the Holy Spirit. And as already mentioned when we practice unwholesome speech rather than edifying speech, then we are grieving the Holy Spirit.

- *How does this command in Ephesians 4:30 compare with Paul's command to the Thessalonians in 1 Thessalonians 5:19?*

"Do not quench the Spirit." The word "quench" means to extinguish or to stifle. In Mark 9:48 it is used in reference to putting out a "fire." In Matt. 25:8 it is used in reference to putting out a "lamp." This certainly is a very appropriate word to be used in respect to the "Spirit" since the Spirit often times in the Scripture is pictured as a fire.

We know that every believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. **Romans 8:9** makes this very clear when it says, "**.... But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.**" But though we as true Christians have the Spirit indwelling us, it does not mean that the Spirit of Christ is necessarily manifesting Himself. It may very well be that though the Spirit of God is indwelling us and desires to manifest Himself, that through our attitudes and actions we put out His "flame."

- *So, What is the difference?*

Quenching is what we do to the Spirit and grieving is the personal anguish that the Spirit experiences when He is quenched. We do not quench the Holy Spirit without grieving Him. And we

do not grieve the Holy Spirit without having quenched Him. WHEN WE QUENCH THE SPIRIT HE GRIEVES.

- *How does the Spirit of God desire to manifest Himself in the lives of believers?*

In Gal. 5:19-23 we read the following "Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, (20) idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, (21) envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." How can we know if the Spirit of God is present and active in our lives? It is when the fruit of His presence is seen in our lives. In other words, He wants to manifest Himself in holiness.

When the Holy Spirit enters our lives on the very first day of our salvation this is the direction he wants us to go. We can either cooperate with this work that He is seeking to perform or we can resist His work and effectively quench and grieve Him. If we are a believer He will continue to remain present in our lives but He will not be able to manifest Himself. [Dale Whitehead]

There are a number of things that the Holy Spirit is seeking to do in order to take us along the proper path.

1. HE ILLUMINATES THE WORD

2 Peter 1:20-21 In other words the only one who truly understands the Scripture is the author of Scripture.

John 14:26 He will teach you all things

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 God revealed them through the Spirit...

2. HE LEADS US INTO WILLING OBEDIENCE

We must come to the place in our lives where we know that continuing to act on our thoughts, on our desires, on our feelings, on our wishes will only lead us to ruin.

Proverbs 14:12 Our ways lead to death...

Ezekiel 36:27 **God gives us His Spirit to lead us to willingly obey Him.**

3. **HE SEEKS TO PROVIDE STRENGTH**

Zechariah 4:6 **not by might or by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord of Hosts.**

Ephesians 3:14-16 **to be strengthened with power through His Spirit...**

4. **HE CAUSES US TO FEEL A CLOSENESS WITH GOD- Our obedience to God will hopefully not be characterized by cold and mechanical compliance to the God of the universe but rather a heartfelt expression of affection for our Heavenly Father.**

Romans 8:14-16 **"For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God..."**

Galatians 4:4-6 **...God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba Father!"**

5. **HE KEEPS US FIXED ON THE GOAL**

- *What is the goal?*

Phil. 3:10-14, *"That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; (11) In order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. (12) Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. (13) Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do; forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, (14) I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."*

2 Corinthians 3:18, *"But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit."*

WE ARE GUILTY OF QUENCHING AND GRIEVING THE SPIRIT IF WE BY OUR CHOICES RESIST THE SPIRIT'S WORK OF:

1. ILLUMINATING THE WORD

2. LEADING US INTO WILLING OBEDIENCE

3. STRENGTHENING US

4. CREATING IN US A FEELING OF FATHERLY INTIMACY WITH GOD

5. FOCUSING ON THE GLORY OF CHRIST.

- *According to Ephesians 4:30, why should we not grieve the Holy Spirit?*

Because we have been sealed for the day of redemption.

- *What does it mean to be sealed?*

In Paul's day an official document would be sealed with wax. An impression would be made in the hot wax with the signet ring of the king or another official. The seal would signify that the document was official. The Spirit of God is our seal. The seal of the Spirit signifies 1) Security; 2) Authenticity; 3) Ownership; and 4) Authority. He has guaranteed our eternal redemption. We are forever His! We are eternally secure!