

**GOOD NEWS**  
for the unsaved  
WORLD!

(#36)  
About those who do not have the Holy Spirit;  
about sinning against the Holy Spirit

**THE HOLY SPIRIT**

❖ **THE BOOK OF ACTS** – tells us about the Spirit's work during the growth of the early church.  
❖ **THE REST OF SCRIPTURE** – tells us much more.

**THE SPIRIT'S PRESENCE IN A PERSON IS DESCRIBED 2 WAYS:**

- ✓ His **SAVING** presence: He is present in all who repent of their sins and turn to God – all of Jesus' followers.
- ✓ His **EMPOWERING** presence: He is present to accomplish God's purposes among his people.

**WHAT IF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS NOT PRESENT IN YOU?**

**IF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS NOT PRESENT IN YOU:**

- ✓ You do not belong to Christ; you are controlled by your sinful nature ("flesh").

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.  
Romans 8:9 (NIV)

**{ IF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS NOT PRESENT IN YOU ... }**

- ✓ You are unsaved, and cannot accept the Spirit; you are of the world, and do not recognize the Spirit for who he is.  
... the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.  
John 14:17 (NIV)
- ✓ You will never be able to receive the Spirit, unless you reject your present ways (= repent) and follow Jesus.  
Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."  
Acts 2:38 (CSB)

**{ WITHOUT THE SPIRIT, THIS IS WHY ... }**

- ✓ You do not accept the things of the Spirit (wisdom / Scriptural facts / perspective / values), and can't do so.  
But the person without the Spirit does not receive what comes from God's Spirit, because it is foolishness to him; he is not able to understand it since it is evaluated spiritually.  
1 Corinthians 2:14 (CSB)
- ✓ You go against God's Word, by believing and doing as you please, and by trying to get others to go along with you.  
" ... scoffers, propelled by their own ungodly desires." These people are divisive, worldly, devoid of the Spirit.  
Jude 1:18b-19 (NET)

**CAN THE HOLY SPIRIT INFLUENCE AN UNSAVED PERSON? PERHAPS TEMPORARILY.**

Maybe, as an external influence (not an indication of salvation). Also, the devil may try to imitate the Spirit's work.

**TWO OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLES:**  
In both cases, the Spirit restrained an unsaved person's sin!

- ✓ **Example 1** – King Saul, wanting to kill David, found himself in the presence of some prophets, and began to prophesy.  
But the Spirit of God came even upon him, and he walked along prophesying ... He stripped off his [royal] robes and also prophesied in Samuel's presence.  
1 Samuel 19:23b-24a (NIV)

✓ **Example 2** – Balaam, a false prophet,\* was hired to curse Israel, but blessed the nation, instead.

When Balaam looked up and saw Israel encamped tribe by tribe, the Spirit of God came on him, ...  
Numbers 24:2 (CSB)

His donkey was smarter than he!

... Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness. ... he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey--a beast without speech--who spoke with a man's voice and restrained the prophet's madness.  
2 Peter 2:15b-16 (NIV)

\* [ To Balaam, the God of Israel was just one of many gods. ]

**NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLES:** These examples show that fakes may have counterfeit expressions of the Spirit and his power.

✓ **Example 1** – Counterfeit expressions of the Spirit's activity.

[Doing] the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles.  
2 Thes. 2:9b (NLT)

**IN CONTRAST** The anointing of God's Spirit, which God's people have, is not counterfeit. The Spirit teaches us to keep on living\* in Christ!

... as that anointing is real, not counterfeit--just as it has taught you, remain in him.  
1 John 2:27b (NIV)

\* [ The Spirit will never encourage us to live a life of sin! ]

✓ **Example 2** – Counterfeit expressions of the Spirit's fruit.

Examples of the Spirit's fruit ...  
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control ...  
Galatians 5:22-23a (NASB)

The world does not have these, but offers counterfeits.

**TWO EXAMPLES: PEACE & LOVE** Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, give I to you.  
John 14:27a (WEB)

... lovers of self, lovers of money, ... unloving, ...without love for what is good, ... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ...  
2 Tim. 3:2b-4 (CSB)

**THE WAY YOU RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A SERIOUS MATTER!**

A wrong response can be eternally devastating!

✓ **WORST CASE SCENARIO:** If you so totally reject the Spirit's ways, that you believe they are from the devil, you will lose the ability to be saved.

Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for all sins and whatever blasphemies they utter. But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin ...  
Mark 3:28-29 (CSB)

[ This was spoken against religious leaders who claimed to be "Bible-believing," but who actually followed their own teachings. ]

**Don't respond like a church-going FAKE!**

Any type of sin against the Spirit is never to be considered a legitimate option!

✓ **THEY MAY:**

- **ASK:** "How far can I go in sinning against the Spirit... and still be saved?"
- **POINT:** to Scripture passages, written to saved people, which mention sin against the Spirit, ... and
- **ARGUE:** "This proves it must be possible for saved people to do it!"

**EXAMPLE OF SUCH A PASSAGE** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.  
Eph 4:30 (ESV)

**SHOULD WE LOOK FOR WAYS TO SIN AGAINST THE SPIRIT?**

**DON'T EVEN THINK THAT WAY!!!**

Scripture was often written to groups of people, having both genuine followers and fakes.

The GENUINE try to obey Scripture... the FAKES look for ways to get out of obeying.

**CONSIDER SUCH ACTIONS "NOT AN OPTION"!!!**

- ✗ **GRIEVING THE SPIRIT**  
And don't grieve God's Holy Spirit.  
Ephes. 4:30a (CSB)
- ✗ **RESISTING THE SPIRIT**  
You stiff-necked people, ... you always resist the Holy Spirit.  
Acts 7:51 (ESV)

[ **Consider these NOT an option ...** ]

- ✗ **QUENCHING THE SPIRIT**  
Do not quench the Spirit.  
1 Thes. 5:19 (ESV)
- ✗ **LYING TO THE SPIRIT**  
But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit..."  
Acts 5:3a (ESV)
- ✗ **TESTING THE SPIRIT**  
Then Peter said to her, "Why did you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? ..."  
Acts 5:9a (CSB)

[ **Consider these NOT an option ...** ]

- ✗ **INSULTING THE SPIRIT** (by deliberately sinning, after learning the truth)  
How much worse punishment do you think one will deserve ... who has insulted the Spirit of grace?  
Hebrews 10:29 (CSB)
- ✗ **FIGHTING THE SPIRIT** (by choosing a way of life that opposes the Spirit)  
For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, ...  
Galatians 5:17 (NIV)
- ✗ **[OR ANYTHING ELSE OF THE SORT!]**

➤ **GOD'S PEOPLE** try to figure out how far they can get away from sin (and into righteousness)!

**I KEEP AS FAR AWAY AS I CAN!**



➤ **THE UNSAVED** try to figure out how far they can dive into sin, and get away with it.

**I THINK IT'S SAFE TO PLAY ALONG THE EDGE!**

➤ **THE UNSAVED** think "a small amount" of sinning against the Holy Spirit won't be too harmful.



**I JUST MAKE SURE I DON'T GET IN TOO DEEP!**

**THIS WEEK...**

**PURSUE A LIFE THAT ENABLES THE SPIRIT TO BE PRESENT!**

**If the Spirit is NOT present in you:**

**CHANGE YOUR WAYS WHILE YOU STILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY!**

Peter replied, "Each of you must turn from your sins and turn to God, and be baptized\* in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. "  
Acts 2:38 (NLT)

➤ **\*(Baptism was a public expression, indicating that you were rejecting your old ways, and were going to follow the God of the Bible.)**

## Credits (1)

### SCRIPTURE

- Scriptures marked "NLT" – Scripture quoted from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights reserved. ([www.newlivingtranslation.com](http://www.newlivingtranslation.com))
- Scriptures marked "NIV" – Scripture quoted from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved. ([www.zondervanbibles.com](http://www.zondervanbibles.com))
- Scriptures marked "ESV" – Scripture quotation from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. ([www.gnpob.org](http://www.gnpob.org))
- Scriptures marked "NASB" – Scriptures quoted from the New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation Used by permission. ([www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org))
- Scriptures marked "NET" – Scripture quoted by permission. Quotations designated (NET) are from the NET Bible® copyright ©1996-2006 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. <http://netbible.com> All rights reserved.
- Scriptures marked "CSB" – Scripture quotations marked CSB have been taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible® and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.
- Scriptures marked "WEB" – Scripture quoted from the World English Bible (Public Domain). ([www.ebible.org](http://www.ebible.org))

### PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Megaphone – roshellin / CC0; <https://opendropart.org/detail/167691/megafono>

## Credits (2)

### PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Quicksand, sign and arms/hands – Quicksand: BlankeVia at German Wikipedia / CC BY-SA (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>), <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Treibsandgebiet.jpg>; Sign: Ralf Schulze from Koblenz, Germany / CC BY (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>), [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Quicksand\\_waiting\\_sign\\_Tewel\\_2004.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Quicksand_waiting_sign_Tewel_2004.jpg); Arms/hands: Australian Paralympic Committee / CC BY-SA (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>), [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:301000\\_-\\_Athletics\\_track\\_Tim\\_Sullivan\\_hands\\_up\\_-\\_3b\\_-\\_2000\\_Sydney\\_race\\_photo.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:301000_-_Athletics_track_Tim_Sullivan_hands_up_-_3b_-_2000_Sydney_race_photo.jpg)
- Presentation – Dennis Hinks © 2020.