

Sorry God

If I'm going to title this chapter, which technically I need to do, the title will be *Sorry, God*. Ephesians 4:30: "***And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.***" The passage is not too complex. Many of you have read it many, many times before. The word *grieved* is not the same as the word *quenched* in Thessalonians. *Grieved* is a Greek word that means to make sad.

The statement that God is making to His people is, "Don't make the Holy Spirit sad." In a Bible study, we were discussing the Trinity. Listen. This is not "Candyland 101." This is Christianity, and that's what we're talking about. There's a Trinity, and it's the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It's three in one and one in three. All three are there. All three are equal. All three are a part of the process.

There's something called the *ordo salutis*, which is not something you'll ever use for the rest of your life. It means the order (or the process) of salvation.

There is also a process within the Godhead, and it has to do with the following: The Son doesn't send the Father, but the Father sends the Son, and the Son sends the Spirit. The Spirit does not send the Son. But the Spirit led the Son during the incarnation (When Jesus (God) became a human).

What I think has happened in the universal church today is that we have become an overly culture-oriented group. We are so image-focused that it's not too difficult for the church to acknowledge God the Father. People understand the concept of a father. It's not that difficult to understand God the Son who's supposed to be the Savior. That's kind of "Okay." Somebody is saving the day. Similar to somebody hitting a home run at the last minute. That's saving the day. We get that.

But God the Spirit... that's a different story. The church has a very tight, restrictive mentality when it comes to the Holy Spirit. Do you want to know why? Because we don't get the Holy Spirit the same way, we can get God the Father or God the Son. Because we don't get it, we're like, "Eh, let's not go too far into talking about this. We don't know much about the Holy Spirit."

Well, we do know a lot about the Holy Spirit. We know He is God. We know Peter referred to Him as God in Acts, chapter 5, when Ananias and Sapphira were told that they lied to the Holy Spirit, and then in the very next breath, Peter goes, "You

didn't lie to men; you lied to God," calling the Holy Spirit God. So we know He's God. When we sing, "Holy, Holy, Holy," the famous hymn, we're singing to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Nobody has any arguments with that.

But I'm telling you that there is a special position regarding the Holy Spirit because only the Holy Spirit gets this little tag: "If you blaspheme the Holy Spirit, you will never be forgiven, not in this life or the next." Amazingly, Jesus said that. He didn't say that about the Father, and He didn't say that about Himself.

What's going on? What's the deal there? So the Triune God knows that men would belittle the work of the Spirit, and the Spirit Himself (being God) wanted us to be aware of that. As Christians, that is not the way we should treat God.

The Holy Spirit is an active part of our existence, but you may be similar to me... I think I have grieved the Holy Spirit on more than one occasion. I have definitely quenched the Holy Spirit on a regular basis, but I've also grieved him. I've made Him sad. I think I've done things and said things (and thought things) that the Holy Spirit was not appreciative of. "That's impressive, Dave. Way to think those wrong thoughts." I know the Holy Spirit was declaring, "That's not good. Don't do that." Every one of us has had that happen to us.

Quite frankly, as mature Christians, we should all **BE SORRY** for the things we've done that have made the Holy Spirit sad. But I don't know if you ever feel like you've done that. If you haven't, you've only been a Christian, probably about 10 minutes, because the reality is that in your Christian walk, you do wrong things. Sometimes, bad things.

Have you ever thought to yourself or said to yourself, "I shouldn't do that. That's bad. That's dumb." Afterward, you're hitting yourself in the head.

So, I just want to review the reality that we've made the Holy Spirit sad. Then, I want to talk about what the Holy Spirit has done for us and what we need to do to flip that around. I want to show you how important the Holy Spirit is in the whole process of our Christian walk. I want to show you that the Holy Spirit is involved in our spiritual birth process.

Luke 1:21-34: *"In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and*

said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.' Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.' 'How will this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?''

What Mary said was, "How are you going to do that? I'm a virgin." She was kind of curious as to the methodology that was taking place, so she goes, "How will this be? I don't get it." Not that she doubted; she was curious.

Some people get confused between Zechariah and Mary. They think Zechariah asked the same question as Mary did when he heard the angel's announcement regarding his wife Elizabeth getting pregnant. However, it was not the same question. What Zechariah said was, "How do I know you're for real?"

Back to Mary. Luke 1:35-37: *"The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth, your relative, will have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.'"*

Let me explain to you how profound this statement is. We talk about it at Christmas, and we have a little pageant, we have a little play, we have a little nativity scene, and "Ooh, that's so nice." The Holy Spirit of God, the essence, power, personality, and most intimate element of God Himself, moved into a virgin woman and created life. That life is Jesus Christ. Every time you think of Jesus, you must understand that His birth and existence literally transpired by the exacting and the moving of the Holy Spirit of God.

Jesus was born by the Holy Spirit. Do we understand how important that is? You have to wrap your mind around it. "Wait a minute." He is a man (the Mary part) and God (the Holy Spirit part). He was a man and God. He's the only one who could represent God to man and man to God (*one Mediator*). He's the only one qualified because He has both natures in Him. He has both human nature and

Divine nature. He's the only one who could bring the two together. That's the whole point. But He's born of the Holy Spirit, as are we.

Titus 3:3 states, *"At one time, we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit...."*

You are born again by the Spirit of God. How important is that? If you ain't born again, you ain't getting in. That's pretty important. It's significant to understand that the Holy Spirit was crucial in the birth of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit is crucial in **your** rebirth.

Now, it comes through the justification of Jesus Christ. **Everything does.** But the Holy Spirit has an active role in you becoming a Christian. Without the Holy Spirit, you're not getting in. It's just that simple.

"Oh, those born-again...." Yeah. Us born-again are the ones who are going in. Sorry. I can't help that. That's not my fault (John 3:3).

Not only is the Holy Spirit involved in our spiritual birthing, but He's involved in the start of our ministries. Did you know that God didn't save you so that you could go to church? Your ministry is not to sit on your blessed assurance and go to church. That's not what the ministry is. That's not the purpose. Ministry means service. Does everybody get that? The point of ministry is to serve others, love others the way Christ commands, and reflect Jesus in everything.

So, you have a ministry. Everybody reading this has a ministry. It might be the simplest thing. It might be passing out bulletins. It might be picking up or cleaning chairs at the end of the service (which somebody has to do). It might be any of those things, but what I'm telling you is you need to recognize that you have a ministry, a purpose, and a call from God, and the Holy Spirit is crucial in that process.

Look at Luke, chapter 4. This is the beginning of Jesus' ministry. This is how Jesus started *His* ministry, faced the enemy, and did what *He* had to do. *"Jesus, full of*

the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert...."

The Spirit of God filled up Jesus Christ so He could get to **getting on His mission to save us, help us, and redeem us**. But, first, He used the power of the Holy Spirit.

Another text is Matthew 3:13: *"Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' Jesus replied, 'Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.' Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment, heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him, I am well pleased.'"*

The Holy Spirit is not only involved in our salvation process to get us saved; the Holy Spirit is necessary for our life to get our ministry rolling, whatever that ministry is. I don't care if it *is* passing out bulletins. Or sweeping parking lots. We need the Holy Spirit to do this stuff with the right *servant* spirit. We can't do this right servant stuff in our strength. How strong do we think we are?

Here, I'll give you one. You tell me how you are doing in *this* one. Love your enemy. How do you do that by yourself? I can't even love my friends right, let alone my enemies. I can't even love *myself* the right way, let alone my enemies. Without the power of God, without the Holy Spirit, it cannot be done. Then it's going to come to the things that are a little more fun. This is all coming down to a single point, as it often does.

Not only is the Holy Spirit responsible for starting our birth and participating in the beginnings of our ministry and empowering us to live like Jesus. I don't know about you, but in my life, from time to time (every three hours), I need help. I don't know. Maybe it's me, but I feel I need God to support me, guide me, direct me, and teach me. It's just one of those things I'm often thinking, "What am I doing?"

Here is John 16:12. This is critical instruction from Jesus. *"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth."* Did you know the Holy Spirit is supposed to be your guide? Isn't that unbelievable? We talked about this before. The Holy Spirit is

supposed to be your counselor. **How are your counseling sessions going?** He's your comforter. **How are your comforting sessions going?**

"Oh, man! We're in trouble here, aren't we?" Well, a little bit.

Here, the Holy Spirit is supposed to guide us. Hey, do you need guidance in life? The B-I-B-L-E tells you what you have to know. The Holy Spirit wrote the BIBLE. Jesus says the Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth.

Wow! I need help with that. Is it just me? I need to spend time with the Holy Spirit. The Bible says I'm supposed to fellowship with the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 13:14). **Am I supposed to fellowship with the Holy Spirit?** How is that going? Wow! I need help.

Again, this might be me. I'm sure this is me. There are sometimes where I wake up in the morning, and I think, "I just don't know if I can do another day." I don't know if you guys have ever felt that way. You wake up sighing. Instead of getting up and going, "All right!" you get up and sigh. It's the same as you saying, "Okay. I'm going to force myself to get up." I know what that is. I'm feeling weak, and I'm feeling tired.

Ephesians 3:14: *"For this reason, I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches, he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being...."*

Are you feeling weak? Are you feeling tired? Feeling run down? Well, guess what the Holy Spirit's job is to do? **To strengthen you and me, internally.**

Do you ever feel like you need internal strength? Unfortunately, I cannot be the only person on this planet who needs that. I mean, there are times when I'm thinking, "Ugh!" That's when you get up and think, "Getting up and doing all of the things I'm supposed to do or putting my head back down on the pillow and telling everybody I'm sick." Confess. Which one?

It's when you feel that way; you need strengthening by God. The part of God that's going to strengthen you in this is called the *Holy Spirit*. He's right there waiting for you to ask Him to help you.

Did anybody ever go through the honeymoon period in Christianity? The first beginnings when you became a Christian, it was akin to, "Oh my gosh! I'm a Christian!" Right? You would pray, and you would pray *anything*, and it seemed as though God answered *everything*, and you were just rocking and rolling. You were thinking, "I'm in touch with the divine." You were walking around with that mentality.

You can pray a prayer, and it halfway dribbles out your mouth in that honeymoon period. God still said yes. "There it is. All right!" I had a great season of the honeymoon period, and I could know, feel, and rejoice in the love of God because the love of God was everywhere. I was loved. Awesome! "I don't care *what* happens in the universe. I'm loved."

Then after a little while, it seems as though you go through this period where the honeymoon is over. You know that fun feeling, 'every prayer answered,' experience isn't happening quite the same. So then you're contemplating, "I don't feel the love of God the way I used to feel the love. I really wish I could feel the love of God again."

Then you start praying, and God doesn't say, "Yes." So now He starts saying "No." Before, it wasn't the same.

The honeymoon period is over, and now you're into the *working it out* part of it, and you're going, "Uh Oh."

We all get to this space where you want to feel the love of God just as you did in the very beginning when everything was on fire. Remember that? Do you guys know what I'm talking about? Check out Hebrews 10:32.

But here's a way to go to the bank, take out a loan, and buy a clue; Romans 5:5:

"And hope does not disappoint us because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us."

Do you know why we've gotten away from that? It's because we're not sensitive to the Holy Spirit the way we used to be. We're making the Holy Spirit sad. We're not paying attention or recognizing His position. And that love we felt in the beginning? This was coming from the Holy Spirit. That love is ours through the Holy Spirit.

This is not to glorify feelings. I repeat; **This is not to glorify feelings.** Feelings need to follow The Truth. Always. But being Christians does not mean we have lost our loving feelings (Get it?).

Or we say *this* because we're dumb enough to buy into *this* one: "Well, now that God really knows me...." Now that He really knows you, huh? That's good. It's a good thing God is not omniscient. But, again, that love is ours through the Holy Spirit.

I'm coming right down to a single point. Two more, and then you'll get it. Romans 8:16: ***"The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."***

Does the devil ever come up to you and whisper, "If thou be a Christian...?" "If you're really saved...." "If God really loves you..."? Just as he said to Jesus. "If thou be the Son of God...." Same thing. Same exact temptation. Same exact line. **Same exact lie.** Same one. No different.

Here, in Romans 8:16, the Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit assures us that we're His. "Ooh. What do you mean?" Well, I can read it again. I think I got that right. ***"The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."*** Yeah. I think that's right. The Holy Spirit testifies to that affirmation.

"I just want to know I'm going to make it. I just want to know I'm God's kid." Well, perhaps you should be listening to the Holy Spirit a tad bit more because that's one of the great places where you find that out.

Last and not least, by any means, is Luke 10:21. ***"At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit...."*** Oh, man! The Holy Spirit guides me, He strengthens me, He loves me, He starts the ministry, He starts my birth, He assures me, *and* He's responsible for joy in my heart? Yep! That's it. ***"Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit...."***

Has that joy of yours been long lost to the left side of the lake somewhere? Well, guess what. If you have more of the Holy Spirit in you, you will have more of the joy in you. If you have more of the joy in you, you'll have more of the strength in you. That's the bottom line. You need to have the Holy Spirit active. **You need to have the Holy Spirit active in everything.**

Look at how many... I just picked out six or seven. Do you know how many I could have pulled out of this? But we've spent a lot of time making the Holy Spirit sad. Not the best plan. So, here's the answer to stop doing that and to do what is right.

It's just one verse. It's all you need to know. Ready? Luke, chapter 11, verse 9:

"So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

I do not believe I can make this any clearer than what this just said. I don't believe I can expound on this to make it any more obvious.

It's really simple. All of these things that we lack because we're not in communion with the Holy Spirit can be rectified in one moment of all of us going, "God, I need the Holy Spirit, please."

The Scripture is quite clear. If our children ask us for bread, do we give them scorpions? No.

God will give you the Holy Spirit if you...*wait for it*...**ask Him**. Wow!

What a novel concept. He is going to be the same as a father who gives something His child needs. Do you think, "Well, do I have to respond to this in a certain fashion? Do I have to speak in tongues, prophesy reminiscent of an Old Testament prophet, dance, sing, spin, twirl, preach a perfect 4-point homiletical message, or start talking with long-drawn-out sounds? Or do I have to bark in the same way as a dog? **None of that is here.**

Just ask Him *for crying out loud* (yeah, **that** crying out loud). He's more than capable of taking care of the answer. It's a simple matter of... Do we recognize the Holy Spirit is in on the beginning of our salvation? Does He stop? Check out Galatians 3:1-5.

He helps start your ministry; He guides you; He strengthens you, and He loves you. Don't you feel that you would enjoy that love in your heart again? He assures you. Isn't that assurance important? It's important to me. He gives us joy. Oh! I could use *that*.

The bottom line is we *need* the Holy Spirit, and we can *have* the Holy Spirit, but it does take this big thing: **ASKING**. The Father wants us to ask, or it wouldn't be in the book. What's the point? We just have to get this stuff on track. Do you want to get more joy into your life? Do you want to have more peace? Do you want to have more grace? Well, get more of God in your life. It's all coming through the Holy Spirit.

As was wisely said in a Bible study not too long ago, the Holy Spirit is doing the job for Jesus that Jesus was doing when Jesus was on the earth. Now the Holy Spirit is doing it for Jesus while Jesus is at the right hand of the Father. It's not that complex. He has never left us. He's always there for us. Just ask.