

Many wonder if they have committed the "unpardonable sin" – the sin that God cannot forgive! They have made a mistake and it continues to haunt them with relentless fury. They have talked to God about it, but can't seem to forget the sin they committed. They long for a quiet conscience, but can't seem to secure peace of mind. Life has become stale and their faith has become sour. Spiritual things have lost their appeal! Their fire is gone! Their zeal has waned! And they are no longer the same! They wonder, have I gone too far? Is God out of reach? Have I lost all hope? Have I committed the sin God cannot forgive? As we ponder these questions, let us study and discover What God Says About…"The Sin He Cannot Forgive." As we study, we can rest assured that God longs to forgive and free sinners from carrying the guilt and load of sin.

THE BIBLE DEFINITION OF SIN

1. **According to 1 John 3:4, what is the definition of sin?**
   "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is _____ _____ _____ _____ _____." *1 John 3:4*

   Note: *Sin is defined as the transgression or violation of the moral law. Breaking the Ten Commandments is the only definition of sin given in the Bible. The law is a transcript of the character of God and the foundation of His government and throne. The fact that sin exists on earth is abundant evidence that God's law is being broken.*

2. **How much of the moral law are Christians to obey?**
   "For whosoever shall keep _____ _____ _____, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." *James 2:10*

3. **According to Ecclesiastes 12:13, what is the whole duty of man?**
   "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: _____ _____, and _____ _____ _____: for this is the whole duty of man." *Ecclesiastes 12:13*

THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

4. According to Romans 6:23, what are the wages of sin?

"For the wages of sin is _____; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." *Romans 6:23*

5. What ultimately happens when one indulges in sin?

[14]"But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. [15]Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth _____." *James 1:14, 15*

6. What strong appeal does God make to Israel while pleading to save them from the consequence of their sins?

"Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: _____ ye, _____ ye _____ _____ _____ _____; for why will ye die, O house of Israel." *Ezekiel 33:11*

Note: *God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked. He wants all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (see 1 Timothy 2:4). He appeals and pleads for sinners to repent—to turn from their wicked ways and to be saved from eternal death before it's too late!*

GOD IS READY TO FORGIVE

7. According to David, what is God ready to do for sinners?

"For thou, Lord, art good, and _____ _____ _____; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee." *Psalm 86:5*

Note: *According to David, God is ready to forgive, and He is plenteous in mercy. However, we should never be presumptuous and take God's forgiveness and mercy for granted. God will only forgive the contrite in heart (Psalm 51:17). It is never safe to step outside of the will of God and disobey Him.*

8. According to Daniel 9:9, what two wonderful things belong to God?

"To the Lord our God belong _____ and _____, though we have rebelled against him." *Daniel 9:9*

9. According to the Psalmist, forgiveness is found with whom?

[3]"If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? [4]But there is _____ _____ _____, that thou mayest be feared." *Psalm 130:3, 4*

Note: *God longs to forgive every sin that sinners commit or omit. The only way He can forgive our sins is if we repent, acknowledge, confess, and forsake them (see Matthew 3:2; Jeremiah 14:20; 1 John 1:9 and Proverbs 28:13). Why be lost when Jesus has already paid for our sins on Calvary? No sin is worth losing our soul salvation!*

THE SIN GOD CANNOT FORGIVE

10. What miracle did Jesus perform on the demon-possessed man who was unable to see or speak?

[22]"Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and _____ _____ _____, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. [23]And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?" *Matthew 12:22, 23*

11. To whom did the Pharisees attribute the miracle of healing that Jesus performed on the demon-possessed man?

"But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____." *Matthew 12:24*

12. According to Matthew, by whom did Jesus cast out devils?

[27]"And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges. [28]But if I cast out devils by _____ _____ _____ _____, then the kingdom of God is come unto you." *Matthew 12:27, 28*

Note: *In the account of the healing of the blind and mute man spoken of in Matthew 12, the Pharisees accused Jesus of casting out devils by Beelzebub the prince of the devils. In other words, the Pharisees were accusing Christ of casting out devils by the power of Satan. In response to their false assertions, Jesus told them that He casts out devils by the Spirit of God. By revealing this truth, Jesus was telling the hardhearted Pharisees that to attribute the work of the Holy Spirit to Satan was extremely dangerous. Through their flagrant and defiant accusations against Christ, they were obstructing and preventing any possibility of their hearts being reached by God. They were placing themselves beyond hope and the reach*

of God. According to Romans 2:4, the goodness of God leads sinners to repentance. However, if one resists, hinders, and defiantly cuts off the work of the Holy Spirit upon their heart, they will eventually become unimpressible and cut off the only means by which God can reach them. They will not repent nor receive forgiveness. It is dangerous to defiantly and willfully reject the Holy Spirit.

13. According to the Gospel of Matthew, what specific sin against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven?

"Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the _____ against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men." *Matthew 12:31*

14. According to the Gospel of Mark, what specific sin against the Holy Spirit shall never be forgiven?

[28]"Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: [29]But he that shall _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation: [30]Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit." *Mark 3:28-30*

Note: *According to Jesus, as recorded in the gospels, blasphemy against the Holy Spirit cannot be forgiven. This dreadful sin, known as the unpardonable sin, is especially dangerous in that once a person reaches this point, they are beyond the hope of salvation. Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, the unpardonable sin, is progressive. It doesn't occur at once. It happens as a result of persistently resisting the wooing and promptings of the Holy Spirit upon one's mind and heart. The more a person stifles the work of the Holy Spirit, the easier it becomes for them to continue down that deadly path, and the harder it becomes for them to obey and yield to the will of God. The natural result will be that their conscience will eventually become seared, and they will become incapable of responding to the impress of the Holy Spirit.*

15. While no one can be forgiven for sinning against the Holy Ghost, we may be forgiven for sinning against whom?

"And whosoever speaketh a word against _____ _____ _____ _____, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come." *Matthew 12:32*

Note: *It's dangerous to sin against Christ, but, if we sin against the Holy Spirit, we are without hope. We are eternally lost!*

INSULTING THE HOLY SPIRIT

16. According to Hebrews 10:26, what type of sin will eventually place a person beyond the reach of salvation?

[26]"For _____ _____ _____ _____ after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, [27]But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries." *Hebrews 10:26, 27*

Note: *It must be reiterated that reaching the dire condition of committing the unpardonable sin is progressive. It doesn't occur at once. Therefore, the reference to sinning willfully in our passages under consideration must be understood in the light of deliberately, persistently, and defiantly resisting the work of the Holy Spirit upon one's mind and heart. Each act of resistance against conviction hardens the heart and deepens the sinner's resistance against the Holy Spirit's work in their life. If their course doesn't change, they will insult the Holy Spirit and reach the point of no return. Their love of sin will lead them to willfully extinguish the voice of the Holy Spirit and reject Christ and the joy of salvation that they once experienced.*

17. In what dreadful manner did people die who despised or openly violated the law of Moses in Old Testament times?

"He that despised Moses' law died _____ _____ under two or three witnesses." *Hebrews 10:28*

Note: *According to Hebrews 10:28, those who despised or rejected the law of Moses died without mercy under the testimony of two or three witnesses. When the flagrant violator of the law of Moses was found guilty by the testimony of the witnesses, no other recourse was available to them. In other words, they could not appeal to a higher authoritative body. They were found guilty and died without mercy.*

18. Calloused sinners will be severely punished for showing contempt for Christ's death on their behalf and also for having done what to the Spirit of grace?

"Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and _____ _____ _____ unto the Spirit of grace?" *Hebrews 10:29*

Note: *It is dangerous to trample on the blood of Christ, but it is even more dangerous to despise the Holy Spirit. Grave punishment is certain!*

19. The three-fold work of the Holy Spirit is to reprove or convict the world of what three things?

[7]"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. [8]And when he is come, he will reprove the world of _____, and of _____, and of _____: [9]Of sin, because they believe not on me; [10]Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; [11]Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged." *John 16:7-11*

Note: *We insult the Holy Spirit when we reject His three-fold work on our behalf. Don't reject His work!*

GRIEVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

20. What does the Holy Spirit caution us not to do when he appeals to us through his voice today?

[7]"Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To–day if ye will hear his voice, [8]_____ _____ _____ _____, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: [9]When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. [10]Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways." *Hebrews 3:7-10*

Note: *The Holy Spirit makes direct appeals to sinners to obey His voice as He works upon their hearts today. It is important to note that the phrase "Today if ye will hear his voice" does not mean that the Holy Spirit only speaks or appeals to the heart of a select few. On the contrary, the Greek word for "if" in verse 7 is "ean," which also means "when" as used, for example, in the Revised Standard Version of the Bible. Hence, the meaning of the text is that today when we hear the voice of the Holy Spirit, we are cautioned against hardening our hearts. If we do, our hearts will eventually become calloused, and we will grieve God just as the children of Israel did in the wilderness.*

21. God's Spirit will *not* continually do what for sinners?

"And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always _____ _____ _____, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years." *Genesis 6:3*

Note: *Prior to the flood, God instructed Noah to build an ark and preach for 120 years to the antediluvian world due to their wicked and sinful deeds and condition. According to Genesis 6:5 and 6, sin had reached such proportions that every imagination of the thoughts of the heart of man was evil continually. The wickedness was so great that it grieved God to His heart that He had created man to dwell upon the earth. Furthermore, according to Genesis 6:11, "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence." As a result, God told Noah that He would destroy the earth and its inhabitants with a flood (Genesis 6:13). As Noah built the ark and preached to a world fast approaching destruction, the Spirit of God wooed and tugged upon the heart strings of the antediluvians. As Noah preached in the power of the Holy Spirit, many were under deep conviction and their consciences were pricked, especially as they observed the animals entering the ark. However, they would not yield to the earnest promptings of the Spirit. They resisted His appeals, stifled His voice, and rejected His warnings until their probation closed! Therefore, God withdrew His Spirit from the wicked antediluvians and destroyed the corrupt world with a flood.*

22. What does the apostle Paul warn Christians not to do?

"And _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." *Ephesians 4:30*

Note: *In Ephesians 4:30, the apostle Paul warns the Ephesians against grieving the Holy Spirit. This passage indicates that our course of action can distress the Holy Spirit and cause Him sorrow. We are to heed His warnings, yield to His promptings, and obey His voice lest we hurt and grieve the Holy Spirit.*

23. The goodness of God leads sinners to what?

"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to _____?" *Romans 2:4*

Note: *According to Romans 2:4, the goodness of God leads sinners to repentance. Paul cautions the Roman Christians against despising the riches of God's goodness, mercy, and patience which was invaluable to their spiritual well-being. Hence, repentance is a direct result of being led to the point of true heart contrition in direct response to the goodness of God. Surely, if the sinner heeds the voice of the Holy Spirt and sincerely repents, they are not in danger of committing the unpardonable sin. However, if they persistently resist God's loving appeals and refuse to repent, they will eventually and surely commit the unpardonable sin. They will be lost without hope.*

A SEARED CONSCIENCE

24. In the last days, what terrible thing will happen to the conscience of some who will depart from the faith?

[1]"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; [2]Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____." *1 Timothy 4:1, 2*

Note: *According to 1 Timothy 4, there will be some in the last days whose conscience will become seared or branded with a hot iron. Through persistent resistance against truth and a love of sin, their conscience will harden and will reach a state of utter insensibility. They will be past feeling—spiritually numb—and won't even realize that they have reached that terrible condition. Indeed, they will be incapable of heeding the voice of the Holy Spirit because their branded conscience will have become incapable of receiving any impressions from the Holy Spirit. Therefore, they will be unable to repent or receive forgiveness. They will be lost because of their own terrible course of action.*

25. Paul warns Christians not to do what to the Holy Spirit?

"_____ _____ the Spirit." *1 Thessalonians 5:19*

Note: *The apostle Paul is saying do not extinguish or put out the Spirit. When we do so, we are lost and beyond the reach of Salvation.*

SUMMARY

God requires Christians to obey His law which defines sin. God is ready and willing to forgive any sin of commission or omission, but will only do so if we acknowledge, confess, and forsake our sins. It is dangerous to resist and reject the three-fold work of the Holy Spirit upon one's heart. A progressive and persistent refusal to repent will eventually cut off the only channel in which the Holy Spirit can reach the sinner. The sinner who seeks to quiet his troubled conscience by silencing the convicting voice of the Holy Spirit and attributes God's work upon his heart to be that of Satan, deliberately places himself beyond God's reach and cannot be forgiven! Their conscience has become seared, and they are insensitive and incapable of responding to the Spirit's appeal! They have committed the sin that God cannot forgive. Our only safety is to respond now to the Holy Spirit's call to repent, amend our ways, and obey without delay.

26. Dear friend, are you willing to heed the voice of the Holy Spirit as He appeals to you today? _____

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