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1-800-611-8080 / www.cgom.org
PO Box 54621, Tulsa, OK 74155-0621

The Unpardonable Sin

by Bill Faith

Over the years there are those who question as to whether or not they have committed the unpardonable sin. Jesus spoke of that sin when He told the Pharisees, *"...Every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come"* (Mt. 12:31-32).

To better understand what the unpardonable sin is, we first should consider what the Holy Spirit is. It is the essence, power, mind and spiritual extension of God. It is what God uses to convert our mind and spiritually strengthen us.

If we look at the content of the scriptures just previous to Jesus' statement concerning the unpardonable sin, we notice that Jesus had just been using this divine power, the Holy Spirit, to cast out the demonic spirit of a man that was both blind and mute (Mt. 12:22). The multitudes were amazed and asked concerning Jesus, *"...Could this be the Son of David"* (Mt. 12:23)?

However, when the Pharisees saw the miracle, and could not deny it, they tried to convince the multitude that the miracle was performed by satanic power. It was because of this false accusation that Jesus proclaimed to them that blasphemy, or to speak against the Holy Spirit, is a sin that would never be forgiven.

Jesus had severely reproved the Pharisees for being so malicious as to attribute to an evil spirit that which they could not deny was a good work. We are told in

James 1:16-17, *"Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights..."* It was plainly evident, even to the Pharisees, that the spirit that possessed this man was demonic. Therefore, the Pharisees were inexcusable when they claimed, without a cause, that the miracle Jesus had performed was attributed to the power of Satan.

Sins committed in ignorance may be forgiven, but deliberate and malicious sins committed against clear manifestations of the Holy Spirit cannot.

God, however, in His gracious mercy offers mankind a way to be reconciled to Him. The apostle Paul wrote in Rom. 5:10, *"For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."* Jesus made atonement for our sins. He, in fact, was made a sin offering for us.

For those who are willing to repent of their sins and accept the sacrifice that our Savior Jesus Christ made for us, they have the opportunity to be baptized and receive the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of their inheritance (Eph. 1:13-14). However, when we first come to God it is important that we have faith in Him, *"...For he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him"* (Heb. 11:6).

Paul warns, however, *"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life"* (Gal. 6:7-8).

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Once we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior and receive the Holy Spirit there can be no turning back. In Hebrews 6:4-6 we find the following warning, *“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.”* Later in the same letter to the Hebrews we find this being reiterated again, *“For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries”* (Heb. 10:26-27).

The writer of Hebrews then adds the following dire warning, *“Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?”* (Heb. 10:28-29)

Our God is a very loving, gracious and merciful God and His desire is that all men be saved. Yet, the severe suffering that our Lord had to go through to make it possible for us to be reconciled to Him can never be taken lightly.

God is a God of love. His mercy, we are told, never fails. He is willing to forgive our sins if only we sincerely repent of them. Yet, if we deliberately and willfully deny the Holy Spirit there is no forgiveness. Neither will unrepented sins be forgiven (Heb. 10:26-29).

It is through the Holy Spirit that God works with mankind. To reject God’s Spirit is to cut off our lifeline to God. In fact, it is because, *“The Spirit Himself (Itself, KJV) bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God”* (Rom. 8:16). If that Spirit is

rejected, we cannot be reconciled to God. Therefore, we would be committing a sin that could not be forgiven.

In Mk 16:16 Jesus is quoted as saying, *“He who believes and is baptized will be saved...”* God’s desire is that all would be saved (I Tim 2:3-4). Those who question as to whether they have committed the unpardonable sin probably need not worry. By the mere fact that they are concerned reveals their sincere belief in God, otherwise they would not be concerned.

Peter also adds some very comforting words in II Peter 3:9 to anyone who may be concerned about having committed the unpardonable sin. He wrote, *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”* Knowing that the Lord is not willing that any should perish should be very comforting to anyone who believes in God and is willing to repent of their sins.

(All Scripture references are NKJV)

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