

Reading: Mark 3:21-30

“How much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has insulted the Spirit of Grace?” (Heb 10:29)

“All sins will be forgiven the sons of men and whatever blasphemies they may utter, but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness but is subject to eternal condemnation” (Mk 3:28,29; Mt 12:31,32; Lk 12:10). Pentecostals use these words of Jesus against non-pentecostals when the latter question the genuineness of certain pentecostal manifestations. But what did Jesus actually mean by such strong words?

Blasphemy against God was punishable by death. It could not be atoned for under the Old Testament law (Lev 24:10-16). But what about the provision under the New Covenant that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from “all” sin? Why did Jesus say that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit was more serious than that against Himself?

The Holy Spirit is the only force that can convict us of our sin and lead us to repentance (Jn 16:7-11). Without His help, no one will be able to call Christ as Lord (1 Cor 12:3). If anyone blasphemes against the Spirit, there will be no one left to cause him to repent. It was when the people and certain religionists judged Jesus as mad and demon-possessed, He spoke about blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Blasphemy means denouncing with abusive and malignant language. Putting the Son of God to an open shame is “insulting the Spirit of Grace.” Immediately after warning against blaspheming against the Spirit, Jesus served several analogies like “bad tree” and “brood of vipers” (Mt 12:33-35,39). So it is clear that their blasphemy was not merely an utterance of the lips, but an expression of character.

Stanley Horton (1916-), an outstanding Pentecostal leader, has warned, “Only God knows whether in any particular case a person’s denial of the work of the Spirit comes from wilfulness or from ignorance.” There are thousands who attributed the Pentecostal experience to the devil, but who later repented or had their eyes opened and were even baptised with the Spirit.

There are many strange phenomena these days which are claimed to be of the Spirit. No one is under obligation to accept them so, when they lack clear Scriptural evidence. We must stay cautious but judge nothing before the time.

“Once I was BLIND; but now I SEE !”

*Reading: Mk 3:21-30**Memorising: Heb 10:29*

Our Father in Heaven, thank You for the Gift of the Holy Spirit! It's impossible for us to enumerate all the blessings received thro' Him.

Thank You for the Holy Spirit who convicted us of our sin and pointed us to the Cross of Christ.

Thank You for the Holy Spirit who witnesses with our spirit that we are Your children.

Thank You for the Holy Spirit who enables us to call Jesus as Lord.

Thank You for the Holy Spirit who enables us to worship You in spirit and in truth.

Thank You for the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us and adorns us with His fruits.

Thank You for the Holy Spirit who reveals to us Your will and leads us to walk in it.

Thank You for the Holy Spirit who fills us with His power and equips us with His gifts to witness for Christ with boldness.

Thank You for the Holy Spirit who teaches us Your Word and leads us into all truth.

Thank You for the Holy Spirit who comforts us in all our suffering and assures us of Your abiding presence.

Thank You for the Holy Spirit who pours into our hearts Your love to love others as we love ourselves.

Thank You for the Holy Spirit who strengthens us to face opposition and persecution for the sake of the Gospel.

Thank You for the Holy Spirit who helps us in our weaknesses in prayer, and intercedes for us with unutterable groaning.

Thank You for the Holy Spirit who prepares the Church to become the bride of Christ, without any spot or wrinkle.

We confess to You, Father, our sin of resisting this Holy Spirit, grieving Him, and quenching Him. Forgive us for whatever we have spoken against Him in ignorance. Help us to yield ourselves totally to Him so He may have His full sway in our life. In Jesus' Name, we pray! Amen!

*(Jn 16:8; 1 Cor 12:3; Rom 8:16; Jn 4:24; 1 Cor 14:15; Gal 5:22,23; Rom 8:27;
Acts 1:8; 5:32; Jn 16:13; Acts 9:31; Rom 5:5; Acts 7:55-60; 13:50-52; Rom 8:26,27;
Eph 5:26,27; Acts 7:51; Eph 4:30; 1 Thess 5:19; Mt 12:31,32; Lk 12:10)*