

THE HOLY SPIRIT ... and the unpardonable sin  
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(MATTHEW 12:22-32)

The Lord Jesus said, " Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, nor in the world to come " (vv. 31, 32). This great utterance often leads to error and fear. In various parts of the world, despairing people have confessed their terror because they believe they have committed the unpardonable sin. The judgment of God appears to be a guillotine. The eternal death sentence has already been passed, and life is but the interim before the execution takes place. These poor people are utterly miserable, very foolish, and do not understand the Scriptures.

#### An Unaccepted Testimony

All who believe they belong to this category should consider the circumstances in which Christ uttered these words. He had just delivered a man possessed of a devil, and excitement prevailed among the onlookers. " But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils " (v. 24). They recognized that Christ was the medium through whom power was manifested, but they failed to recognize whence that power came. In actual fact, the last Adam had been manifested to show the fallen first Adam what might be accomplished when man fully surrenders to God the Holy Spirit. Thus it is written that Christ was born of the Spirit -led of the Spirit-returned in the power of the Spirit-spake of the Spirit-and ultimately offered Himself to God through the Spirit. When men ascribed to Satan the deeds of the Holy Spirit, they endangered their souls. The Lord realized that soon a major change would take place in the workings of God. He Himself would return to heaven, in order that the Comforter might come to earth as the representative of the Godhead. He would have a unique commission, and would constantly witness of Christ. " Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all the truth: for he shall not speak of himself . . . He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you " (John 16: 13, 14). Christ knew that many people would reject this testimony.

#### An Unending Tragedy

If the Divine Spirit constantly affirms the truth of redemption as found in Christ; if as Christ taught, "He shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you "-if this ministry came forth from God the Father, and men rejected it, what more could be done for them? Christ was God's answer to human need. The Holy Spirit was God's method of bringing Christ to human need. To reject His message, to spurn Christ, would mean immeasurable guilt. Since Christ alone can deal with human sin, a man without Christ must remain unpardoned. Thus the statement was made: " It shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come." The unpardonable sin is the rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Language is inadequate to express the disaster of a lost soul.

#### An Unnecessary Terror

When God finally abandons man, all spiritual promptings

THE HOLY SPIRIT ... and the unpardonable sin will cease. The soul will be dead; the opportunities gone for ever. When a man is worried about this matter, it is evident that some power is at work in his consciousness. A whisper says, "You need Christ," and fear responds, "It's too late now; you have committed the unpardonable sin." Whence came the first whisper? If God has departed, would He return to torment the guilty soul? If the prompting be heard, there is reason to believe that God is still seeking the man's soul. The objection represents Satan's greatest effort to thwart the purposes of God in the man's salvation. It may be safely assumed that all who have committed the unpardonable sin are not in the least worried about it. The souls who are tormented by such thoughts have the least reason to fear. If God has come near enough to whisper "Jesus," He cannot be far away. Let us kneel to pray, and the sunshine will shine through the clouds. God is a Father, a wonderful Father -not a tyrant!

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