

# What is “The Unforgivable Sin?”

## 1. *Matthew 12:31,32:*

“And so I tell you, **every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.** Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.”

A. Jesus said that there was only one sin that couldn't be forgiven: “...*every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.*”

B. Blasphemy is the Greek word “*blasphemia*” which means: “*profane speech, writing, or any action concerning God or anything Divine (as in the Holy Spirit). Any remark or action held to be irreverent or disrespectful.*”

## 2. *Acts 5:1-11:*

“Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also **sold a piece of property. With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the Apostles' feet.**

**Then Peter said, ‘Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God.’**

When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. Then the young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.

About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. Peter asked her, ‘Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?’

‘Yes,’ she said, ‘that is the price.’

Peter said to her, ‘How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also.’

At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. Great fear seized the whole Church and all who heard about these events.”

A. Ananias and his wife, Sapphira, were two of the first Christians. According to **verse 1,2:** They “*sold a piece of property...kept part of the money for themselves, and brought the rest and put it at the Apostles' feet. Then Peter said, ‘Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have **lied to the Holy Spirit** and have kept for yourself some of the money you received from the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal?...**You have not lied to men but to God!**’*”

(1) Why didn't they just ask God to forgive this sin?

2. ***1 John 5:16*** says that when a “brother” commits a sin, we should pray that God will forgive them; but, John goes on to say: “...*There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying he should pray about that.*” There is “a sin” (one sin) that God won’t forgive.

3. Obviously, lying to the Holy Spirit is one way to commit “*blasphemy against the Spirit*” or “the Unforgivable Sin.”

**3. *1 Corinthians 3:16,17*** says: “*Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s Temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God’s Temple, God will destroy him; for God’s Temple is sacred, and you are that Temple.*”

A. So, if you are the Temple of God, and His Spirit dwells within you, and then you desecrate it in an unholy manner (adultery, drunkenness, lying, stealing, slandering, etc.), then the Holy Spirit can no longer dwell inside this desecrated Temple.

**1. *1 Corinthians 6:9-11*** tells us: “*Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*”

2. So, if you refuse to repent of these sins that God forgave when He gave you the Holy Spirit, and continue to leave your Temple an unholy place. The Spirit will leave, and you won’t go to Heaven.

**3. *Romans 8:9-14*** says: “*You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ...Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation — but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live...*”

4. Every Christian still has the choice (as did Ananias and Saphira) to either obey the Holy Spirit or, as ***1 Thessalonians 5:19*** says: “*...put out the Spirit’s fire.*”

**B. *1 Corinthians 6:19*** says: “*Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.*”

#### 4. II Peter 2:20-22:

*“If they have **escaped the corruption of the world** by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are **again entangled** in it and overcome, **they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning**. It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred commandment that was passed on to them. Of them the proverbs are true: ‘A dog returns to its **vomit**,’ (Proverbs 26:11) and ‘A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the **mud**’.”*

**A.** Here Peter warns that if Christians are “*entangled*” again in the “*corruption of the world*” and “*overcome*” (leaving the Christian life to go back to the “*vomit*” and “*mud*” that they once lived in), that Christian will be “*worse off at the end (Judgment Day) than they were at the beginning (before they were saved)*.”

**B.** As long as a Christian continues to live in a sinful state (making his temple an unfit place for the Holy Spirit to dwell), he is in danger of dying without the Holy Spirit.

#### 5. Hebrews 6:4-8:

*“It is **impossible** for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, **if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance**, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting Him to public disgrace.*

*Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessings of God. But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is **in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.**”*

**A.** Paul gives a detailed description of a Christian, and warns that “*if they fall away*,” it will be “*impossible*” for them “*to be brought back to repentance*.” They are in danger of “*being cursed. In the end they will be burned.*”

#### 6. Hebrews 10:26-31:

*“If we **deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the Truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of the judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God**. Anyone who rejected the Law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. **How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?** For we know Him who said, ‘It is mine to avenge, I will repay,’ (Deuteronomy 32:35) and again, ‘The Lord will judge His people.’ (Deuteronomy 32:36). **It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (when you’re doing evil).**”*

**A. Paul, again, warns Christians that** “*if we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the Truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of Judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God...How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant*

(New Testament) *that sanctified (saved, and made holy) him (Christian), and who has insulted the Spirit of grace (made their temple into a place unfit for the Holy Spirit to dwell)?...It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the Lord (If you have committed Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit — the only unforgiveable sin!)*”

**1. The key phrase here is: “deliberately keep on sinning.”** As long as a Christian is deliberately defying the Holy Spirit (refusing to repent), he is keeping his temple from being holy or fit for the Holy Spirit to dwell in it. If the Holy Spirit is absent, then your sacrifice for you sins (Jesus Christ) is also absent, and God will not be able to give you forgiveness (thereby, the Unforgivable Sin or Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit).

**7. In Revelation 2:4-5** Jesus warned the entire Church in Ephesus: “*Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.*”

**A.** Notice, Jesus is giving the Christians here a chance to repent and make their temple a fit place for the Holy Spirit to come back and dwell so that they might receive forgiveness of their sins.

**8.** So, James urges us in **James 5:19,20**: “*My brothers, if one of you (fellow Christian) should wander from the Truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner (your fellow Christian) from the error of his way will save him from death (remember I John 5:16) and cover over a multitude of sins.*”

**A.** Only the Lord knows if a Christian has committed Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, and will never repent and come back to the Truth making his temple a holy and fit place for the Spirit to dwell again. So, don't give up on a fellow Christian who has gone astray!