

Blasphemy - cont.

By rejecting the way of salvation, there is no hope of salvation “in this world” (Old Testament age) or “in that which is to come” (after Pentecost). If one rejects Christ, he can be forgiven in time like the Jews or Paul (Acts 26:9; Romans 11:5, 23; 1 Timothy 1:13). However, if one rejects the works and words of the Holy Spirit, there is nothing left for God to offer.

Can this sin be committed today? In one sense, no. Since Jesus and the Holy Spirit are not personally performing miracles today on earth, we cannot repeat what the Pharisees did. But, in another sense, yes. By rejecting the way of salvation today revealed by the Holy Spirit, there is no hope of salvation (Hebrews 6:4-6).

God stands ready to forgive everyone who repents (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9) and all sins repented of will be forgiven (Matthew 12:31; 1 John 1:7). But, the un-forgiven sin is the sin of unrepentance! As long as you resist and reject the Holy Spirit you cannot be forgiven (Acts 7:51).

There are three kinds of sinners in the Bible and the world today: 1) sinners that are pardoned (forgiven); 2) sinners that are pardonable, but un-

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forgiven (the conditions of forgiveness have not yet been taught or met); and, 3) sinners that are unpardonable (after hearing the conditions of forgiveness they refuse them and blaspheme them).

Friend, “Today” is the day to obey (Hebrews 3:7-8; 4:7). Do it before you pass the point of no return. - *Chris Reeves*

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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

June 22, 2025



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

The Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit

Background and Context

In this portion of Jesus' ministry, he had been falsely accused by the Pharisees of casting out demons by the power of Beelzebub. Jesus responded in two ways: 1) he answered his critics and showed the illogical fallacy of their false charge; and, 2) he charged his critics with the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. So, what is this sin? It is not murder (see the Mormon, *Doctrine and Covenants*, 132:26-27), suicide, profanity, adultery, backsliding, or delaying obedience until death, as some suggest. It is something else.



Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit: What Is It?

The blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is attributing the powers of Jesus to Satan. In this case, the Pharisees had rejected the Holy Spirit's work – “the finger of

Therefore I say unto you, Every sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men; but the blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him; but whosoever shall speak against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, nor in that which is to come - Matthew 12:31-32

Verily I say unto you, All their sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and their blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: but whosoever shall blaspheme against the Holy Spirit hath never forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin: because they said, He hath an unclean spirit - Mark 3:28-30

And every one who shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Spirit it shall not be forgiven – Luke 12:10

One of the most popular questions concerning the Holy Spirit today has to do with the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. Many want to know if they have committed this sin that will not be forgiven. So, what is the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, or as some call it, “the unpardonable sin”?

God” (Luke 11:20). Indirectly, they made the Holy Spirit unholy and they called the Holy Spirit unclean (see Mark 3:30).

Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit to perform miracles (Matthew 12:18; Luke 4:18; Acts 10:38) and the Holy Spirit came to convict the world of sin by his works (miracles) and by his words (inspiration).

The Pharisees' blasphemy constituted a threat to the cause of Christ; it was opposed to the very nature of the Holy Spirit and the purpose of Jesus' miracles (John 3:2; 5:36; 20:30-31). Their blasphemy was a vain and desperate attempt to discredit Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Their opposition had been building for some time and they experienced a slow hardening of the heart beyond the point of repentance (note Mark 3:5).

To reject the Holy Spirit's works and words is to reject the only means by which man can be saved. When one blasphemes (lit. to speak hurt; to speak against; slander) and rejects the Holy Spirit, a person, he is left without the means for divine forgiveness. There is no other means for conviction and conversion. - continued