

# DISCOVER PROPHECY



## The Unpardonable Sin

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### A God of Forgiveness

What is the unpardonable sin? Is it murder? Some feel that once someone commits murder, there is no longer any hope for salvation. But when you look at the life of Moses, you find that not to be true. He committed murder in Egypt before leaving and yet he was a special instrument of God's in the salvation of the Israelite people.

Is it lying or deception? Some feel that once you lie, there is no hope of salvation. But we see in the life of Abraham, a man following the Lord and the father of the Hebrew nation, despite his deceptive heart towards others in lying about his wife, he too was forgiven.

Could the unpardonable sin be denying Christ; to decide that Christ is not the Lord and are then eternally lost? The man Saul (later Paul) denied Christ as the Lord and eagerly sought the death of those Christians who believed so. But once he accepted Christ, he too was pardoned from his sin.

What about the persecuting of God's people? If someone were to do that, would it mean he or she couldn't ever be pardoned? Again, Paul shows us that once you come to Christ, you can be forgiven of your sins.

We may very well be great sinners but we have a great Savior. The Bible says that we can find forgiveness of our sin. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" 1 John 1:9. It matters not what sin we may have committed, it matters not how great it may be, we can go, by faith, to Jesus Christ and receive forgiveness from our sins.

Beyond that, these sins are not only forgiven but forever forgotten. "For I will be merciful to their iniquities, and will remember their sins no more" Hebrews 8:12. Once we have received the forgiveness of Jesus Christ, the sins are removed from us and forgotten by God. It would be well if we forget them too.

The only sin then that we will not be forgiven of is the one that we choose not to bring to Christ seeking forgiveness for. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" John 3:16.

It matters not what sin you've committed, if you bring it to Jesus Christ, you can find forgiveness of sin and salvation.

This forgiveness and salvation is freely offered by the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed on Calvary's cross and by it we can also find cleansing from our sin. "But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" 1 John 1:7.

If we can find forgiveness from our sin, what is the sin that is unpardonable? Doesn't the Bible say that if we commit the unpardonable sin, we won't be able to find salvation?

"Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven men, but blasphemy against the Holy Spirit shall not be forgiven. And whoever shall speak a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever shall speak against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age, or in the age to come" Matthew 12:31,32.

Notice very carefully that the Bible says, "Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy...." Any sin we may commit can be forgiven. It matters not how great or small what was said or done, we can find the saving grace of Jesus Christ and pardon from sin. But the Bible also says that the sin against the Holy Spirit is not pardoned. Is that contradictory? No, it's not. What sin then cannot be forgiven? We can only understand the unpardonable sin as we understand how the Holy Spirit has worked throughout the Bible in the lives of other people. Let's go through some of the Bible and take a closer look at the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

### The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

"And the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters" Genesis 1:2. Here we see the Holy Spirit actively involved in the creation of the earth. That is because the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead. As the others (Christ and Father) they each have been very involved with the salvation of mankind ever since the beginning.

However, as the Holy Spirit seeks so greatly

to bring people closer to Christ, there are times He removes Himself from people's presence only to find that their lives are ultimately destroyed. Take a look at the destruction of the earth in Noah's day. "Then the Lord said, 'My Spirit shall not strive with men forever'" Genesis 6:3. Because of the great wickedness of the people (they having determined in their own minds to live contrary to God's plan) the Holy Spirit, not wishing to push His way upon others, removes His presence from them. As a result, their lives are destroyed.

"And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment" John 16:8. One aspect of the Spirit's ministry is to convict people of sin in their lives. As He draws close to the lives of people, they sense the need for salvation. As He convicts them of their sin, they go to Christ to find forgiveness and redemption.

Shortly after the baptism of Jesus Christ, He went into the wilderness where He was greatly tempted by the devil. Jesus met temptations and struggles you and I have never had to deal with yet He made it through those 40 days without giving in. Why? Because of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in His life. The Holy Spirit strengthens us against temptations.

As you find yourself struggling with a strong temptation you can find strength in the influence and power of the Holy Spirit to give you victory over the temptation. It matters not how great or strong the temptation may be. It matters not how long you've struggled with it. It matters not how many times you've previously given in to the temptations of the devil, you can go to Christ and seek assistance and He will dispatch His Holy Spirit to give you the victory.

### **Leads Into Truth**

Though the Holy Spirit is very active in the salvation of mankind, we never actually see Him. "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit" John 3:8. And even though we cannot see the Holy Spirit, we can still yet see the results of the Holy Spirit.

As the wind blows the leaves and grass, we can see the results of the wind. Just the same we may not see the Holy Spirit, but there is evidence, in the lives of others, that the Holy Spirit is actively involved. One evidence of His ministry is His leading people into truth.

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you" John

14:26. As you have been coming to these meetings, you have seen the Holy Spirit at work in your life! As He has been leading you into truth, He will continue to lead you into more truth as you accept what He has brought before you.

### **Filled With The Holy Spirit**

How can one be filled with the Holy Spirit? What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit and what is the result?

As Jesus was about to leave the disciples, He promised them that He would send them the Holy Spirit. "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you" Acts 1:8. The disciples returned to the upper room and spent a great deal of time in prayer. Suddenly, the Holy Spirit came upon them like fire and they received the Holy Spirit.

Is the Holy Spirit only reserved for the disciples or is it available for everyone? Who would Christ give the power of the Holy Spirit to?

Well, He doesn't give the Holy Spirit to just anyone. There are conditions to receiving the power of the Holy Spirit. "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth" John 14:15-17.

The Holy Spirit is available to those who are faithfully following Christ. If you have been lead by the Spirit and have been following Him, He will continue to pour Himself out upon you. But if you stop obeying and following Him, the Holy Spirit will be removed from you. "And we are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him" Acts 5:32. You will receive the Holy Spirit as you faithfully obey and follow Him.

### **The Gift of Tongues**

There are several important principles when understanding the ministry of the Holy Spirit and His outpouring. As we have previously noted, there is a strong charismatic movement today. Some feel that it is of God, others do not. What does the Bible teach about the gift of tongues?

1. When the gift of tongues was given on the day of Pentecost, everyone was able to understand in their own native language. The languages spoken that day was not an unknown language, but rather a language understood by others.
2. The gift of tongues was a real language to

communicate the gospel to people. The reason the apostles were speaking in tongues was so that they could clearly communicate the gospel message to the people of various cultures and backgrounds; nothing prohibiting a clear presentation of the gospel.

3. When the gift of tongues was being misused in the Corinthian Church, Paul declared, "I desire to speak five words with my mind...rather than ten thousand words in a tongue." 1 Cor. 14:19. It was far better for people to speak clearly in an understanding language rather than uttering a language unknown.
4. The apostles gave the following guidelines: There must be an interpreter present (vs 27). Only one person at a time may speak (vs 27). The individual must be in control of his words and action (vs 33).

Being filled with the Holy Spirit goes far beyond the concept or ability to speak in tongues. Though it is not the will of God for all to speak in tongues, it is that we are filled with the Holy Spirit. To be filled with the Holy Spirit means to have a heart that deeply loves Jesus, to have a mind filled with His words and to have a determination to follow His truth and will in every aspect of our lives.

### **Sin Silences the Holy Spirit**

When we are living in known sin (living a life that is contrary to the will of God without attempting to follow His will) the ability for us to have the Spirit of God working in our lives is greatly effected. "Do not cast me away from Thy presence, and do not take Thy Holy Spirit from me" Psalm 51:11. Here King David was lamenting the sin that he had committed and was asking that because of his seeking forgiveness, that the Spirit of God not be taken from Him.

"Keep back Thy servant from presumptuous sins; let them not rule over me; then I shall be blameless, and I shall be acquitted of great transgression" Psalm 19:13.

When we are willfully sinning, we are in essence declaring our will over that of God's. When that occurs, the Holy Spirit is taken from us. Continual sin then hardens the heart and prevents the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life.

The unpardonable sin occurs when an individual repeatedly says no to God. An example of this is in the life of King Saul. He often said no to the will of God and the Holy Spirit was taken from him.

Saul was instructed by the prophet Samuel to always follow the will of God. However, as the king took the pride of leadership to heart, he began following his

own desires over the will of God. In many ways Saul was going through the right motions with things he agreed with, but when he was met with something that conflicted with his personal life, he chose to disobey God.

One such time Saul, in defiance to God's will, sacrificed some animals to God. The prophet Samuel showed up later and rebuked the king for his actions. "And Samuel said, 'Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offering as sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice'" 1 Samuel 15:22.

God would rather that we obey Him than follow our own personal desires. To do our own will over His is considered disobedience. Saul continued doing his own thing and finally the bad news was given to the king, "Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him" 1 Samuel 16:14. As Saul continued to make his own choices over the will of the Father, the Spirit continued attempting to reach him. But in time, because Saul chose rather to follow his own will, the Spirit left Saul to his own choices.

That, my friends is the unpardonable sin. As we make the choice to follow the desires of our own heart, the Spirit of God continues trying to reach us. As we say no to God time after time, we begin building a wall of separation between ourselves and God. The Spirit is speaking to us to follow the will of the Father, but we are time and time again saying no. In time, we can no longer hear the Holy Spirit's attempt to reach us and in time, He is taken from us.

As a result, we have committed the unpardonable sin. Because we have not asked for the pardon, we will not receive it. The unpardonable sin is the sin in which we never seek forgiveness for. All we have to do is seek forgiveness from any sin and we can find pardon and ultimate salvation.

When we get to heaven we will rejoice with others in the presence of Jesus. Having made the decision to follow the will of Jesus Christ will not only make us happier here in earth, but will bring us an eternity of joy!

Wouldn't you like to join me and many others in the kingdom of Heaven? Then let's together make the decision to follow the will of the Father in heaven and not deny the Spirit's work in our lives!



