
ENABLE 3.5

**Resisting the Holy Spirit
Small Group Session Thirteen
Week Beginning 3rd March**



Grieving the Holy Spirit

Over the last few weeks we have been thinking about the person and work of the Holy Spirit - two more sessions to go, although there is much more we could learn about the Holy Spirit if we had more time.

Last week, we saw that everyone who comes to Christ receives the gift of the Holy Spirit; every Christian has the Spirit living in them right now - amazing! More than that, last week we explored what it looks like for a Christian to be to be filled with or by the Holy Spirit.

It seems that being filled with or by the Holy Spirit is not so much about lacking the Holy Spirit, as if we are leaky and need filling up. The Spirit is a person who dwells in us, He is not a force or a power that drains from us.

Rather, being filled is all about allowing the powerful Holy Spirit to transform every aspect of our lives or to fill all parts of our lives with the attitude and lifestyle of Jesus.

Filled Christians are Christians who allow the Spirit's influence to flood into all areas of their lives, to allow Him to change and to shape and to mould.

If you want to explore this truth more, why not go back and look at last week's session again. A number of us are also aiming to get together to reflect on this truth some more - for more information about that just let me (Marc) know.

But as we read last week's verses, about being filled by the Holy Spirit, allowing him to change the whole of our lives, we also saw a different idea - not being filled but instead 'grieving' the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30). This is the idea we are going to explore today.

Before you begin, why not pray for your time together. Ask God to shape you as you look at His word, to shape us to be more like Jesus, by the work of His powerful Spirit.

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption”

Ephesians 4:30

Resistance

Ephesians

So what does it mean to grieve the Holy Spirit. **Read Ephesians 4:29-5:2**

- What does the immediate context in verses 4.29 and 31-5:1 tell us about grieving the Spirit?
- What does the wider context we looked at last week (4:17-5:21) tell us about what it means to grieve the Holy Spirit?
- Time for a summary - How would you summarise what it means to grieve the Holy Spirit in no more than 15 words?

Acts

To help us think further about this we are going to look at a passage in Acts that talks about a different but similar idea. In Acts 7 Stephen accuses some who were opposing his teaching (6:9-10) of 'resisting the Holy Spirit'. **Read Acts 7:51**

- In what different ways is resisting the Holy Spirit described in that verse?

These phrases are each taken from the description of God's people in the desert in Exodus. God had rescued His people from slavery and was taking them to the promised land; He had given them His law, yet they rejected God and His ways.

- What does it look like to be 'stiff-necked' in Jeremiah 7:24-26?
- What does it look like to have un-circumcised hearts and ears in Jeremiah 6:10?

We are starting to get a clear picture of what it looks like to grieve or resist the Holy Spirit. But let's think what this actually looks like in practice. **Read Acts 7:51-53.**

- In 7.52 Stephen says resisting the Holy Spirit looks like rejecting the prophets. How can we at times reject those who bring the word of God to us?
- In 7.53 Stephen says it looks like rejecting the law. How can we at times reject God's word itself?
- In 7.52 Stephen says it looks like even rejecting Jesus, the righteous one. In what ways might we, even as Christians, be tempted to reject Christ?

Drawing things together

We don't like to be told we are doing it wrong, we often don't want to be told we need to change, we resist! Why should it be any different when the Spirit of God makes His home in our lives and seeks to transform us? We need to be careful, our natural instinct is to resist His work which grieves Him. **Yet God is full of grace.** He forgives us when we fall short and the Spirit moves us to be transformed - to be open once more to God's word and His teaching, being open to His inner transformation, that is the most wonderful thing.

- What challenges you most from this session?
- How might you seek to be open to the Spirit's transforming work?
- How might you help each other in your group not to grieve or resist the Holy Spirit?
- What do you want to pray in light of this session?
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Now spend some time praying in response to everything you have seen in this session.



TRANSFORMATION



Spring Term Timetable

Introducing ENABLE - Central Meeting
7:30pm Thursday 11th January

Prayer Meeting Week
7:30pm 17th/18th January

Small Group Session 3.1
The Work of the Holy Spirit: New Life
Week beginning 21st January

Small Group Session 3.2
The Work of the Holy Spirit: Knowing Jesus
Week beginning 28th January

Small Group Session 3.3
The Work of the Holy Spirit: Adoption into God's Family
Week beginning 4th February

Half Term Break - Week beginning 11th February

Prayer Meeting Week
7:30pm 21st/22nd February

Small Group Session 3.4
Being Filled with the Holy Spirit
Week beginning 25th February

Small Group Session 3.5
Resisting the Holy Spirit
Week beginning 03 March

Small Group Session 3.6
Gifts of the Holy Spirit
Week beginning 10 March

Prayer Meeting Week
7:00pm Trinity Church (Kenwyn) - 20th March

support and
encouragement
to live for Jesus