Sins Against the Holy Spirit

Based on a lesson by Keith Sharp -
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I. Introduction
   a. Every sin is against God – Psa. 51: 4
   b. But some more directly than others
   c. Several sins in Scripture are described as being directly against the Holy Spirit

II. Blasphemy – Matt. 12:31-32
   a. Won’t God forgive any sin?
      i. Yes –
      ii. Is. 1:18 – Even sins like scarlet
      iii. 1 Tim. 1:15 – Even the chief of sinners
   b. What is going on here then?
      i. Jesus had performed a miracle to prove he was from God – v. 23
      ii. The Pharisees weren’t denying the miracle, but attributed it to Satanic powers – v. 24
      iii. This was absurd, and Jesus said so – v. 25-30
         1. They were hypocritical and self-deceived
      iv. He accused them of an unpardonable sin – How so?
         1. If divine miracles only produced blasphemy, what could cause them to change their minds?
   c. Can we commit this sin?
      i. No – There are Divine miracles to witness in our day
         1. So this specific sin is not one that is committed today.
         2. But
            a. some deny the miracles altogether
            b. Or attribute the work of the Holy Spirit to fallible men or corrupt religious leader
      ii. Others are hardened so it is near-impossible to bring them to repentance
         2. Others turn away from what they have heard – Heb. 3:7-13;6:4-6

III. Resist – Acts 7:51-53
   a. Resist - Fall upon, run against, strive against, oppose, Thayer
   b. It is to attempt to prevent the Holy Spirit from accomplishing His work
   c. You know what the Holy Spirit want and you try to stop it
      i. They tried to silence the Holy Spirit’s messengers
      ii. Even killing them
      iii. Christ
      iv. And now Stephen – v. 54-60
d. Like Moses – Num. 27:14 – “rebelled against my word”
e. When human resist God’s messengers, they are opposing God Himself – Luke 10:16

IV. Test – Acts 5:9
   a. Not tempting in the sense of inducing to sin, but testing
   b. Ananias and Sapphira did this by attempting to deceive the inspired apostle of God
      i. They wanted to see if they could get away with it
      ii. They couldn’t
      iii. Great fear came upon the church
   c. We should be fearful to try to be deceitful
      i. We may wonder if we can get away with it
      ii. We may put one over on our enemy or friend our customer or neighbor or even a close family member
      iii. But God knows, and dishonesty is testing Him and His Spirit
      iv. We NEVER GET AWAY WITH IT
         1. Either Jesus pays the price for us
         2. Or we pay the price at the judgment
      v. Do NOT test the Spirit of the Lord!

V. Grieve – Eph. 4:30
   a. Any parent is grieved when their children act contrary to their parent’s love and wishes
   b. God is grieved when His children sin
   c. The spirit is a seal of our inheritance
      i. It identifies us as God’s children
      ii. Some would confine this to the miraculous spiritual gifts that some Christians had in the first few generations of the church
      iii. But my own view is that it refers to the Spirit-led life that produces the fruit of the Holy Spirit
      iv. This identifies us as God’s children
      v. But we sometimes bear both good and bad fruit, and this is not as it should be
   d. If we act as though we were children of the world, we grieve the Holy Spirit
      i. Disobedience
      ii. Strife among God’s children

VI. Quench – 1 Thess. 5:19
   a. To suppress or stifle, to extinguish
      i. Some brethren did not want to pay attention to the spiritual gifts of others
      ii. 1 Th. 5:20-21
         iii. Some not want to use their own gifts
            1. Timothy – 1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6
   b. We don’t have miraculous spiritual gifts today
      i. But we should encourage others to use their gifts
      ii. And not suppress our own gifts either
1. Buried Talents
2. Minister our gifts as good stewards – 1 Pet. 4:10

VII. Insult/Outrage – Heb. 10:28-29
a. A very strong word for contemptuous insult
b. How does this happen?
   i. When we willfully sin – v. 26
   ii. After all that God has done for us
   iii. To turn away from him puts us in the position of personally insulting the God who made us, sustains us and saved us.
c. We deserve worse than to die without mercy! – v. 27-29
d. And we will get what is coming to us – 30-31
   i. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God

VIII. Conclusion
a. When the Holy Spirit speaks or acts, we must be on guard to avoid
   i. Rejecting the testimony of the Spirit in unbelief
   ii. Resisting the Holy Spirit by refusing the Gospel
   iii. Tempt the spirit by sin and disobedience
   iv. Grieve the Spirit of the Lord through sin
   v. Quench the Spirit by discouraging others in their service to God or neglecting our own work
   vi. Or insulting the Holy Spirit by willfully turning away from His word to a life of sin
b. If you are not a Christian, the Spirit has an express desire for each one of us this morning – Rev. 22:17
   i. Will you hear and obey?
      1. Or will you refuse the call of the Spirit of the Living God
      2. And the call of the Bride of Christ?
   ii. Come to Jesus today!