

### IS THERE AN UNFORGIVABLE SIN?

#### Sharing

1. Is it possible to be too wicked to be saved?
  - Explain: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Is it possible to be a church member, do all the right things, keep the commandments, and *still* be lost?
  - Discuss: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Have you ever known somebody who died right in the middle of committing a sin? Perhaps they were shot and killed while they were robbing a bank. Do you believe they will be saved in God's kingdom?
  - Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Studying

4. Chapter 11 of the Book of Hebrews lists what many scholars call the 'Biblical Hall of Faith.' This chapter takes us through a museum of Old Testament heroes. It is a remarkable collection of sinners whose sins were not unpardonable. Can you name some of these Biblical characters?
  - Name at least three: \_\_\_\_\_
5. The people listed in Hebrews 11 were all sinners. The difference between the sinners who will be saved and those who will be lost lies in their response to Holy Spirit's call to repentance.
6. The unpardonable sin is rejection of truth. Truth is Jesus Christ.
  - Read John 14:16 "Jesus answered, "I am the way and the \_\_\_\_\_ and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
7. The Bible describes the unforgivable sin committed by the Pharisees of His day. It describes it as absolute rejection of God and as attributing to Satan the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus as the Messiah—the Son of God—repeatedly and publicly defeated Satan and his demons. Jesus' sinless miracle-working power and popularity with the people drove the Pharisees wild with envy and hatred.
8. The Pharisees had observed the sinless life of Jesus from the beginning of His ministry. Through His miracles they had undeniable evidence that His power was from God. Jesus' miracles were freely performed in unselfish kindness and love to release people from suffering and oppression of the evil one.
  - Read Mark 3:20,21 "Then the multitude came together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, "He is out of His \_\_\_\_\_." (Note that Jesus' own people said that He was crazy.)
  - Read Mark 3:22 "And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul," and, "By the ruler of \_\_\_\_\_ He casts out demons." (The religious leaders are accusing the Son of God of being under the control of the devil.)
9. The Pharisees had so firmly set their hearts against accepting Jesus as the Messiah that they rejected the obvious truth right before their eyes. In fact, they perversely twisted Jesus' words to influence the crowds.

10. They publicly credited the most evil being in the universe with the miracles of the Son of God. They called the Holy Spirit of God the unclean spirit of Satan. In effect, they charged Jesus with sorcery and being in league with Satan. Jesus responded immediately!
- Read Mark 3:23,24 “So He called them to Himself and said to them in parables: “How can Satan cast out \_\_\_\_\_? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.”
  - Read Mark 3:26-27 “And if \_\_\_\_\_ has risen up against himself, and is divided, he cannot stand, but has an end. No one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house.”
  - Read Mark 3:28-29 “Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; but he who blasphemes against the Holy \_\_\_\_\_ never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation.”
11. Jesus had performed miracles of both healing and casting out a demon, but the Pharisees rejected this clear witness of the Holy Spirit and closed their minds to truth. When they attributed Jesus’ powers to Satan, they had permanently closed their minds to truth. Once a mind is irrevocably closed to truth, the Holy Spirit can no longer do His work in the person. However, since we can’t read hearts we can’t judge, therefore we continue to work for the salvation of all men.
12. God’s ability to save is infinite. Nevertheless, the Bible shows there are certain conditions under which He will not save: Blasphemy of the work of salvation!
- Read Hebrews 10:29 “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 \_\_\_\_\_ thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?” NIV
13. Jesus was adamant that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit couldn't be forgiven.
- Read Matthew 12: 31,32 “And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the \_\_\_\_\_ 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.” (Blasphemy shows utter contempt for God and His plan of salvation for man either by words or acts.)
14. Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit cannot be forgiven because in the work of salvation:
- **It is the Holy Spirit who convicts us of sin.**
    - ⇒ Read John 16:8-11 “When he comes, he will \_\_\_\_\_ the world of sin and righteousness and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me.” The word ‘convict’ literally means “to reprove.”
    - ⇒ Only the Holy Spirit can convict us that we are not just sinners by choice, we are sinners by nature; and we sin by choice because that is our nature. We do what we do because we are what we are! We do what we do on the outside because of what we are on the inside. A knowledge of our sinful condition is necessary to our salvation and comes directly from the Holy Spirit.
  - **It is the Holy Spirit who convicts us of the remedy for sin.**
    - ⇒ Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for \_\_\_\_\_, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”
    - ⇒ Only the Holy Spirit can convict us that Jesus’ death on the cross is the only remedy for our sin—the only way we can be saved and live in the presence of a righteous God.

- **It is the Holy Spirit who convicts us of the judgment for sin.**
    - ⇒ Read 2 Corinthians 5:10 “For we must all appear before the \_\_\_\_\_ seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”
    - ⇒ It is the Holy Spirit who strives to show us the horrendous end that will come to those who harden their hearts and close their eyes and ears to the reality of Jesus Christ as our Savior. He convicts us of judgment so that we can never say, “I didn’t know what would happen if I *didn’t* choose salvation.”
15. Committing the unpardonable sin can be accomplished in two different ways both of which cause us to drift further and further away from God and cause our hearts to harden against His truth:
- By deliberate choice. That is to outrightly reject the truth of God’s Word or to refuse to repent of a sin condemned in God’s Word, thereby shutting the voice of the Holy Spirit out of your mind.
  - By deliberate neglect and disinterest. That is to fail to pray, read the word of God or have fellowship with Christian believers. This also effectively blocks the Holy Spirit from reaching the mind.
16. Everyone who commits the unpardonable sin will be living in a state of rebellion against the God of heaven. That rebellion may not be obvious to the casual observer. We might even be a regular member of the church holding a church office. But, in our heart, we will be harboring sin —or indifference to spiritual things. Keep in mind that indifference is contempt of God and therefore blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.
- Read Hebrews 10: 26,27 “For if we sin \_\_\_\_\_ after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment...”
17. It is a very serious and frightful thing to commit the unpardonable sin. The Holy Spirit is involved in our salvation. Without Him, we cannot be saved because we will not desire repentance.
- Read 1 Thessalonians 5:19 “\_\_\_\_\_ not the Spirit.”
18. **How can we be positive that we will never commit the unpardonable sin?**
- **Confess all known sins.**
    - ⇒ Read 1 John 1:9 “If we \_\_\_\_\_ our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
  - **Yield every area of our life to Jesus Christ.**
    - ⇒ Read Romans 6:13 “Neither yield ye your members [as] instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but \_\_\_\_\_ yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members [as] instruments of righteousness unto God.”
  - **Do everything to the glory of God.**
    - ⇒ Read 1 Corinthians 10:31 “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye \_\_\_\_\_, do all to the glory of God.”
19. The Holy Spirit is God’s perpetual, indwelling gift to us. As we let Him fill us, He will produce the Fruit of the Spirit in our lives so that we may live in the fullness of the glory of God not only in this life but also in the life to come.

## Applying the lesson

20. The Holy Spirit, who is truly God, is the One who implants a desire for salvation in our minds.
- After studying this lesson I have a more thorough understanding of the role of the Holy Spirit in my salvation.
  - \_\_\_\_A check mark at left indicates that I desire salvation through the work of the Holy Spirit in my life.
21. We commit the unpardonable sin when we have contempt for the spiritual things of God.
- If we have contempt for the things of God we have chosen to turn our minds away from the Holy Spirit's prompting.
  - \_\_\_\_A check mark at left indicates that I will prayerfully listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in my daily life.
22. Every person born on this earth is a sinner by nature.
- I have learned that the root of every problem in my life is the result of my sinful nature.
  - \_\_\_\_A check mark at left indicates that I understand that only through the power of the Holy Spirit can I overcome the sin in my life.
23. Righteousness is an internal condition that is the result of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- This lesson has taught me that a man is not righteous because of what he does. A man is righteous because of what he is inside with the help of the Holy Spirit.
  - \_\_\_\_A check mark at left indicates that I understand that my own righteousness is unacceptable to God and that I must put on His robe of righteousness in order to be saved.