

# What Does It Mean to Grieve the Holy Spirit?

Rick Railston

Given on February 3, 2024

As we get older, at least in my experience, most of my life is behind me and you realize you don't have that many years left. So, your mind starts thinking about not the trivial things of life—they don't mean anything anymore, you just blow them off. Our minds begin to think about first things—the most important things, the most meaningful things. We've learned over the years to not pay attention to garbage that comes our way. We know what's important. We've learned the hard way what's important. We've learned the hard way what is meaningful.

With that in mind, I want to talk about one of the greatest gifts that can be bestowed upon a human being. What that is? It is the very spirit of our Father and His Son dwelling inside of us. Think of the gift of that. We were called out of the world, from billions of other people and our Father called us with the idea, with the purpose, of Him and His Son coming to dwell inside us through His Holy Spirit. Let's turn to John 14:16 and see that. This is just before Jesus was taken and He is speaking His last words to the disciples during His last night before He was taken captive and started the proceedings that led to His death. I'll be reading out of the King James unless otherwise noted.

**John 14:16** *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that [the King James says he, it should be "it"] he may abide with you forever;* (KJV)

He says *another Comforter*. This indicates that Jesus was the other Comforter and when He left, the Father would send a second Comforter for His people. The Greek word for *comforter* is Strong's #3875, the Greek word *parakletos* and Thayer's Lexicon, under the word *comforter*, says:

*In the widest sense a helper, an aide, or an assistant.*

So Jesus promises the disciples that after He leaves, He is going to send a helper, an aide, or an assistant. We have to ask the question, to help with what? To assist with what? To aid us in doing what? He goes on to answer that in verse 17.

*17) Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you ...* (KJV)

That was the attraction to follow Jesus when He called them. They just dropped everything and followed Him. That was the Holy Spirit working with them.

*17) continued) ... and shall be in you [referring to Pentecost].* (KJV)

The Holy Spirit of truth is with us before our baptism to open our minds, make God's word comprehensible to us, and then lead us to a closer relationship with our Father and His Son that would ultimately lead to repentance and to baptism. So the Holy Spirit came to us after baptism with the laying on of hands. It was with us prior to baptism. Verse 26.

*26) But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (KJV)*

The Holy Spirit teaches us not as a human teaches, but rather as an opening of the mind, where we can understand spiritual matters. This we experienced when we were first called. The Bible beforehand made no sense to us. Then, as the mind becomes open, we can begin to understand and see, through the power of the Holy Spirit with us. Then after baptism, comes a deeper understanding of our Father and His Son and frankly, a deeper understanding of ourselves. We see ourselves as He sees us so we can repent and change. But and there is a big but—as we all know; the spirit of Satan and his demons is a different kind of spirit. Satan's spirit can provoke human beings to do unspeakable evil. Our Father's spirit doesn't provoke. Satan's spirit does. It attacks, it provokes. It seems human nature has an open door to Satan's provocations. and to Satan's influence. It's different with the Spirit of our Father. The spirit of our Father is an uplifting spirit. A spirit that leads us. It doesn't kick us, it doesn't push or shove us, but gently leads us. The Holy Spirit does not prod or provoke but leads us to do good and to be good. We have to follow that lead. Notice Romans 8:14 and being led by the Spirit of our Father. Us allowing the Spirit of our Father to lead us is key. We have to allow it to happen. Whereas Satan's spirit is right there, pounding on the side of your head.

**Romans 8:14** *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. (KJV)*

The Greek word for *led* is Strong's #71, the Greek word *ago*. The Complete Word Study Dictionary of the New Testament by Spiros Zodhiates says it means "to lead or to guide". It's a gentle leading or a gentle guidance. An imperfect analogy would be two humans who can't communicate unless they share a common language. The incident at the Tower of Babel—the dividing of the languages—proves that concept. Two human beings can't communicate meaningfully if they don't share a common language. An analogy would be, the Holy Spirit allows our Father—as Spirit—to communicate with physical human beings like us in a more intimate and more personal way than a booming voice from Mount Sinai; a far more intimate way and a deeper way.

Paul amplifies this concept of the Spirit dwelling in man in 1 Corinthians 2:11-12 and then verse 14. Paul dives into this more deeply so we can understand.

**1 Corinthians 2:11** *For what man knoweth the things of a man ... (KJV)*

What is he talking about the things of a man? The things that differentiate a man from an animal—science, art, philosophy.

*11) continued) ... save the spirit of man which is in him? even so [in a like manner] the things of [the Greek word "TOU" which means "the" is not translated here] God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of [again, "the" is not translated] God.  
12) Now we have received [that means it's a gift], not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know [the Greek word means "to understand"] the things that are freely given to us of God. (KJV)*

His word, His mind and that comes through the very Spirit of Him.

*Continuing in verse 14)*

*14) But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (KJV)*

The human mind cannot understand the things of God without the Spirit of God guiding that human mind. Humans cannot know the things of the Father without the Spirit of the Father opening that door.

This is all by way of introduction, we have this tremendous gift from God Almighty that we should treasure, we should cultivate, we should grow, we should exercise. Here we are getting to the point, think on this. We are capable, as human beings, to do harm to this most precious of gifts. We can do harm to the very Spirit of God. Do we ever think about that possibility? That little ole me—a human being—can do harm to the very Spirit of God? That's what the Bible says—that's what God Almighty says. Let's go to Ephesians 4:30 and we'll see this. Paul is revealing this to us. God Almighty is revealing to Paul who is revealing it to us.

**Ephesians 4:30** *And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. (KJV)*

He's warning us that we can grieve the very Spirit of God. It's possible for a human being to do that. When we think about that, that's a scary concept isn't it? Do we want to be in a position where we're grieving the very Spirit of God? I don't think we want to. But the fact is, Satan would love to provoke us to do that and separate us from God Almighty.

This leads us to the title today.

### What Does it Mean to Grieve the Holy Spirit?

We're going to look at this through three points today.

## 1. Define our terms.

What do we mean by *grieving the Holy Spirit*? So let's define our terms. The Greek word for *grieve* is Strong's #3076 and is the Greek word *lupeomai* and The Complete Word Study Dictionary of the New Testament by Spiros Zodhiates says it means "to grieve or afflict with sorrow". To afflict with sorrow. It's amazing that a human being can afflict our Father's Spirit with sorrow, but that's what we are told. If we grieve the Holy Spirit of our Father, then we by definition grieve our Father. We cause grief to come to our Father Himself and to His Son. They share the same Spirit. Let's go back to John 14, Christ's last night on earth. Jesus' last night on earth as a human.

*John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. (KJV)*

This is the tremendous gift we talked about in the beginning. It happens after repentance, baptism and the laying on of hands. The point, closing our defining terms, is that we can actually bring sorrow to the very Spirit of God, which is dwelling in us as a human.

Now let's get to the subject.

## 2. How can we actually grieve the Holy Spirit?

Point A if you like to outline:

### 2A. We grieve the Holy Spirit by disobeying the Father.

That's logical. Our Father and His Son come to dwell in us and to lead us into a righteous way of life and yet we listen to Satan, follow Satan's provocations and we go do something that is just the opposite. What would we expect? The Father to be happy about that? Would we expect Him not to be sorrowful about that? Of course He would be. When we disobey our Father, it distresses His Spirit, therefore distresses Him. Notice Ephesians 2:2; Paul gives a very important spiritual principle.

**Ephesians 2:2** *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: (KJV)*

We were all there before our conversion and even afterward, if we go astray, if we get off the path and we move away from the commandments and the mind of our Father and His Son. Then we become the children of disobedience and we have the spirit of Satan working in us. That causes distress with our Father through His Spirit. Notice Ephesians 5:6; this is the end result of following that path. Our Father is not going to have someone in His Kingdom who walks contrary to His wishes and His nature.

**Ephesians 5:6** *Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. (KJV)*

None of us wants, at the end of the day, to stand before God and face His wrath. The ultimate power of the universe and we stand as a naked human being before Him and His wrath? No, we don't want to do that. Notice what Paul says again in Romans 6:16. Another spiritual principle that is absolutely sound and solid.

**Romans 6:16** *Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? (KJV)*

The bottom line is, we have to decide who are we going to serve? We all serve somebody. Every human serves somebody and something. We have to decide, who do we serve? Who are we going to please? Who are we going to obey?

So point A is, we grieve the Holy Spirit by disobeying our Father.

## **2B. We grieve the Holy Spirit by not putting our Father first in all matters.**

We all love our Father and His Son. Everybody in this room, everybody watching and listening—we all love our Father and His Son. But the question is, do we put our Father first in everything? Everything? Most things? Some things? What do we do? Do we put our Father first in all matters or do we save a few areas where we put ourselves first. We set them aside and say, I'm going to put myself first over here. It could be in any given area—generally one of our weaknesses. We decide, I'm going to put myself first here. It may be subconscious or it may be overt. It depends on the individual. We have to analyze ourselves—certainly as Passover approaches. Do I put my Father first in everything? All matters? Of course, Jesus came to this earth to set a perfect example of putting His Father first. Let's go to John 8:28. Jesus could come to this earth and exalt Himself with His power and His might and with His teachings, but He chose not to do that. He put His Father first. Jesus is talking to the Jews in verse 22.

**John 8:28** *Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. (KJV)*

He's not giving Himself credit; He's giving His Father credit. Then notice Luke 22:39-45. Jesus is coming out of the upper room after Passover.

**Luke 22:39** *And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him.*

40) *And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation.*

41) *And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,*

*42) Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless, not my will, but thine, be done. (KJV)*

Putting His Father's will before His own. Having helped design and make the human body, He knew exactly what He was going to face over the next few hours. His Father and Jesus designed pain. They designed the mechanism for delivering pain. They designed the mechanism and the brain for receiving pain. He knew exactly what He was going to go through.

*43) And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. (KJV)*

This one verse tells us that our Father always, always, provides for us. When we get in a jam, He always provides for us.

*44) And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

*45) And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow ... (KJV)*

They just didn't want to think about it. Now let's go to Matthew 7:21 about putting our Father first. Jesus now is stating one of those bottom-line scriptures that we need to pay attention to. This contradicts "once saved, always saved", and "nothing bad happens to God's people."

**Matthew 7:21** *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; (KJV)*

It's just not going to happen. Not everybody is going to make it. Some will die forever in the lake of fire.

*21) continued) ... but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. (KJV)*

This is the bottom line. Do we do our Father's will or do we do our own will? Which is it going to be? He tests us every day, several times every day, of what we're going to do. Who are we going to put first? When we put our Father's will before our own will, it sends a powerful message to our Father that we are putting Him first before ourselves. Just as Jesus did the last night. That brings joy to our Father when we do so. When you think about it, when we have a mindset of putting our Father first in all matters, how can we disobey Him? If our mind is set and focused on putting Him first, then how can we turn around and do something that is in direct opposition to what we know He wants us to do? When we always put Him first, it brings joy and happiness to Him and not grief.

Point C is one we don't think about very often and we should—I'm guilty too.

## 2C. We grieve the Holy Spirit by not respecting or honoring our calling.

Sadly, most of the time we take our calling for granted. We don't think about it all that much. We just take it for granted. We don't give it a second thought. When you think about our calling, look at the chain of events that our Father has set in place so that we can be here today. So that we can have Him and His Son dwelling in us. Think about this chain of events. Our Father loved us before we even knew Him. Look at 1 John 4:19.

**1 John 4:19** *We love him, because he first loved us. (KJV)*

We would not love Him if He hadn't love us first. He loved us first, He called us, He opened our minds to understand who He is—that He is a God of love—and then we started loving Him in return when we found out who He is, what He is like and the fact that He wants us in His Kingdom. Each one of us has been called for a specific purpose. Let's go to Romans 8:28. We've read this a lot—most of the speakers have—over the last couple of years. We focus on the first part of this verse but today we want to focus on the second part. Paul is writing to church in Rome and to us by extension.

**Romans 8:28** *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God ... (KJV)*

When we go through trials, we really focus on this. But notice the last part.

*28) continued) ... to them who are the called according to his purpose. (KJV)*

We're not randomly called and it's a fuzzy calling. We are called because our Father has a specific purpose for us in mind. What is that purpose? Let's look at some of the parts of that purpose. One area we are called upon—sometimes we don't think of ourselves this way—we are called to be saints; we are called to be holy people. Most of us don't think of ourselves as holy people. But that's what a saint is. We are called to be saints; we are called to be holy people. Let's go to Romans 1:7. Paul says this directly to the church at Rome and to us by extension. We don't think about this; we just don't often focus on this, that we are called to be saints or to be holy.

**Romans 1:7** *To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. (KJV)*

Defining our terms, what does it mean to be a *saint*? Strong's #40, *hagios*, and it means "sacred", it means "morally blameless", it means "a holy person". We don't think of ourselves as "a holy person", but we are called to become holy people. We are called to become *morally blameless*.

Now let's notice what Paul says in Ephesians 1:4; I'll read this out of the New Living Translation.

**Ephesians 1:4** *Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. (NLT)*

If we're going to be holy, then we are called to take on the character—the very character—of God. Thereby becoming holy. That's possible through the Holy Spirit, it's possible through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, that wipes away our sins when we repent and are in a right standing with our Father and our sins are wiped away. Then we remain as holy people and in a right standing with our Father. Notice 2 Timothy 1:9. We are called to lead a holy life. Out of the New Living Translation.

**2 Timothy 1:9** *For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus. (NLT)*

To live a holy life, to follow in His Son's footsteps. Notice what Peter says in 1 Peter 1:2. I'll also read this out of the New Living Translation. Peter is writing here.

**1 Peter 1:2** *God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. May God give you more and more grace and peace. (NLT)*

This obedience, this cleansing, is an ongoing process for all of us. We cannot neglect that. In putting God first, if we stray, He will show us where we strayed and how we strayed and then we repent of that. We ask for forgiveness through the blood of Jesus Christ and then we continue to lead a holy life because we are obeying Him and His Spirit in us is what makes us holy.

Our calling also includes a promise—receiving a promise. Peter mentions that in Acts 2:38-39. The Jews were gathered, all the commotion at Pentecost was taking place, and they were gathering all about. Peter is talking to them, explaining what's going on.

**Acts 2:38** *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins ... (KJV)*

He previously told them that their sins required Jesus Christ to die and by those sins you have put Him to death.

*38) continued) ... and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

*39) For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. (KJV)*

Our calling includes this promise and this gift. This promise of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us makes it possible for us to know the Father and to know His Son. It gives us the power—their power—to obey Him. Then, what we all hope for and what we all wait for, is we are called to be eternal with our Father. For those of us toward the end our lives,

that becomes more and more real. We are called not to muddle through a physical life—a temporary life that ends in many cases in a painful death—but rather we are called to be eternal with our Father. There will be no pain, no sorrow, no crying—unspeakable joy.

Let's go to 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18. This is what we look for, this is part of the promise of God Almighty. This is one of the keys of respecting our calling because we are called to be eternal with our Father. Are we going to turn our back on that and reject that? I'll read this out of the New King James.

**1 Thessalonians 4:15** *For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. (NKJV)*

There are a lot more people dead now than when Paul wrote this.

*16) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.*

*17) Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

*18) Therefore comfort one another with these words. (NKJV)*

No matter how difficult this physical life can be. No matter how much pain, suffering, and disappointment there is, we always look forward to the fact that there will come a day when we will have a perfect body, a spiritual body with no pain and no suffering and we will be in the Presence of God Almighty. Let's go to what Jesus said in Revelation 3:12. This is a promise of becoming eternal.

**Revelation 3:12** *Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. (KJV)*

Be a pillar in the Temple of God and not go out. In other words, the promise we have is being eternal, being spirit, and being in the presence of God Almighty. What more could a human ask for? Now let's go to Revelation 20:4; John is writing here. Notice something even greater—adding to eternal life in the presence of God.

**Revelation 20:4** *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (KJV)*

What a calling. God has picked us and called us for this specific purpose. The fact is, it's so easy to neglect and ignore this calling. We just put it in the background, we don't

think about it as much as we should. Let's go to 2 Peter 1:10. Peter gives us this warning about this very subject. It's so easy to neglect our calling.

**2 Peter 1:10** *Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: (KJV)*

That's a promise. Let me read the translation of this verse out of the New Living Translation. It has a little different slant on it.

**2 Peter 1:10** *Do dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things and you will never fall away. (NLT)*

Work hard to prove to God Almighty that you are one of His chosen and that means by putting Him first. If you do these things, you'll never fall away. What things is he talking about? It goes on to say, in verses 4-7.

*4) Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises [promises that are tied in with our calling]: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (KJV)*

The rest of the verses I'll read out of the New King James.

*5) But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue [this is what we are supposed to be doing], to virtue knowledge,  
6) to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,  
7) to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. (NKJV)*

It all comes back to love. That is the essence of the very Spirit of God. How can we sin, how can we get off a Godly path if we have our calling foremost, in our minds. If we have our calling—and what a special gift that is—if we have that foremost in our minds, we will be much less likely to get off the path, especially after all the things our Father has done for us.

In the time remaining, the third and last point, let's ask the question:

### **3. What can we do to bring joy to the Spirit of our Father?**

This is the opposite of grieving the Spirit, bringing distress to the Spirit. What can we do to bring joy to the Spirit of our Father? We started in Ephesians 4 and it has the answer. Ephesians 4:22-24 and then 30-32. Paul is writing here.

**Ephesians 4:22** *That ye put off concerning the former conversation [we know it means conduct] the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; [We've all been there—selfishness]*

23) *And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;*  
24) *And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (KJV)*

Continuing in verse 30) ...

30) *And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. (KJV)*

Verse 31 goes on to explain what we should be doing to bring joy to our Father.

31) *Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: (KJV)*

*Malice* is the motive behind *the evil speaking* and *the anger* and *clamor*. *Malice* is the motive to do harm. If someone has malice towards somebody else—it's a legal term—you want to do harm to that individual.

32) *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. (KJV)*

Forgiving those who have harmed us is one of the hardest things to do. I've known people in God's church, ministers in God's church, who to this day find it very difficult to forgive. Who hold grudges and will just not let something go. This is telling us, if we want to be faithful to our calling, if we want to bring joy to the very Spirit of God Almighty, we must forgive because His Son forgave us. We bring joy to our Father and His Son when we say, "No!" to the old man and we follow, rather, in the footsteps of His Son.

Let's turn to Colossians 3:6-10. Paul is writing here and I'll read this out of the New Living Translation.

**Colossians 3:6** *Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. (NLT)*

That is something that we will all face, if we live a life of sin.

7) *You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world.*  
8) *But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language.*  
9) *Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds.*  
10) *Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. (NLT)*

Isn't that our job? To know Who God is—our Father—and then become like Him. Now let's go to 2 Corinthians 10:5. Paul adds to this in his writing to the church in Corinth. This is what we do to bring joy to our Father and His Spirit.

**2 Corinthians 10:5**  *Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God ... (KJV)*

Anything that exalts itself above God; causing us to put whatever that is—imagination, whatever it is—ahead of our Father.

*5 continued) ... and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; (KJV)*

When you think about it, Christ never had a sinful thought; not once. I think of the sinful thoughts I've had and yet He never once had a sinful thought. That's quite a mark to live up to. It can only occur if we yield to the Holy Spirit. When we change from the old person to the new person, we bring joy to our Father, to His Son and even the angelic hosts in heaven. When we make a turn and we turn away from an evil path and we repent and we walk down the path that Christ trod, we bring joy in heaven. It's hard to believe that sometimes. We think God is too busy to watch us and be concerned about us. Satan wants us to think that way. The fact is, rather than grieve the Holy Spirit, we can bring joy to the Spirit of our Father and His Son and bring joy to Him and His Son and the angelic realm. Christ said so in Luke 15:7 and 10. Jesus is speaking after the parable of the Prodigal Son. We've all identified with the Prodigal Son because parts of our lives have been like the Prodigal Son's.

**Luke 15:7**  *I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. (KJV)*

That's a fact. There is joy in heaven when we repent.

*10) Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth. (KJV)*

When we repent, it is noted in heaven by our Father and His Son and by the angelic host. I can imagine there is singing and praising in heaven when we repent and when we change. It brings joy in heaven. We don't think about that, but that's a fact. That's what we're told. This includes us after baptism, the laying on of hands—any time we turn from sin. Our repentance, our changing, our growing to be like the Father and His Son, brings joy to the very throne of God Almighty.

Let's conclude now. We've seen that one of the greatest gifts bestowed upon a human being is the very Spirit of our Father dwelling in us. That gift of God's Spirit in us, leads directly to our salvation, it leads directly to our eternal life. Today we've seen that we can actually grieve this Spirit, this gift—this wonderful gift—that we have been given.

*Grieve* meaning “to afflict with sorrow”. We don’t want to ever get to the point where we afflict our Father with sorrow from the standpoint that He regrets calling us. That we have turned so far away from Him, that He regrets He ever called us. We never want to be in that position.

We’ve seen how we can grieve the Holy Spirit of our Father. By disobeying Him, by not putting Him first in everything, and by especially not respecting or honoring our calling. This awesome calling we have. Then we’ve seen what we can do to bring joy to our Father and His Son—the very throne of God—through His very Spirit, when we repent and change. When we grow spiritually and become like His Son and follow His Son’s example.

Where do we go from here? It’s time to reemphasize our calling, that’s for sure. Passover is about 12 weeks away and it’s time for us to reevaluate ourselves with regard to our calling. Are we living up to our calling? Are we putting our Father first in every matter? It’s time for our self-evaluation on this subject. Am I always obeying Him? Am I always putting Him first? Am I always honoring and respecting this awesome calling that I’ve been given. Given what we’ve seen today, we need to treasure the Holy Spirit in us. We need to use it, we need to exercise it, we need to honor the fact that we have the Holy Spirit in us, every minute of every day. If we do that, then we demonstrate to our Father, the value of this vital, essential gift that He has bestowed upon us as His *called out* ones.