

THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL NOT ALWAYS STRIVE WITH A PERSON

Genesis 6:3

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: The Bible makes it very clear that God loves every one and it is His desire that every human being be a part of His family, but because of sin that just doesn't happen. God has made a way for every person to be a part of His wonderful family and that is what Jesus, God's Son, came to do and He did it perfectly. The Holy Spirit comes to people and enlightens them about what Jesus has done and how that Jesus is the ONLY way to have eternal life and be a part of God's family. However, Jesus made it very clear that the Holy Spirit won't continue to work with a person who keeps on refusing to believe in Him. (text). To "strive" is to "struggle" and with many people the Holy Spirit struggles to bring them to belief in Jesus.

I. WHAT DOES "STRIVING" WITH MAN MEAN? (Text)

1. The Holy Spirit "strives" with some people some of the time.
 - People do resist the Holy Spirit.
 - The Holy Spirit struggles sometimes with people in order to turn them to Jesus.
 - "Striving" happens when a person resists the Holy Spirit's work.
2. "Striving" is not a physical thing but a moral influence, a persuading, a reasoning, a convincing.
 - It is a striving of one's mind.
3. "Striving" occurs when the Holy Spirit presents the truth and there is resistance of it by the person.

II. HOW DOES ONE KNOW WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT IS STRIVING WITH A PERSON?

1. The mind does not SEE the Holy Spirit, but perceives what the Holy Spirit is presenting.
 - Truths and considerations presented to one's mind when the Scriptures are read or a sermon is heard.
2. One's attention is drawn to a religious truth and his/her mind begins to think upon that truth, causing that person to become aware of his/her present condition in relation to that particular Biblical truth.
3. Some people are blind to certain forms of sin in their lives, but when the Holy Spirit begins to strive with them, they suddenly have an awareness, a clear picture of that sin or sins that they never thought about before.
4. Most people never think of themselves as an enemy to God and some even profess to be Christians. However, just because one goes to Church, does not make one a genuine Christian and the Holy Spirit will strive to make such a person uncomfortable and to realize that he/she is not saved.
5. The Holy Spirit strives to make the Gospel uncomfortable to those who are not "right" with God.
 - "Almost" Christians do not see their true, real condition and will not acknowledge Jesus publicly.
6. Sometimes the Holy Spirit will try to convince the sinner of his/her danger when he/she dies and there arises a fear within that person of dying.
7. The Holy Spirit will sometimes follow a person's excuses for not believing in Jesus and slowly strip them away until there is no excuse to hide behind anymore.
8. Sometimes the Holy Spirit is able to convince a person that he/she has been totally selfish and that he/she has not cared anything about God nor the Lord Jesus Christ, that he/she is not living to or for God, that he/she is totally selfish in all areas of his/her life.
9. Then the Holy Spirit will cause a person to think that there won't be any more opportunities to be saved and that this one is the last call and if he/she resists this one, he/she is damned to Hell.

III. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL "NOT ALWAYS STRIVE?"

1. After so many "strivings" and a person just will not repent and believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit may leave that person and leave him/her to his/her own lostness.
 - Such people sometimes hope that God will, in the future, give them another chance.
2. God will not leave it to people to decide when they will be saved or under what conditions they will be saved. It is God's way or NO way!
 - If a person persists in resisting the call, the strivings, the struggles of the Holy Spirit, there may well be an end of the Holy Spirit's efforts to bring that person to belief in Jesus.

IV. WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT CEASING?

1. There is no interest in prayer and an increased interest in sin.
2. There is a numbness of the conscience about the truths of the Gospel and there are no more thoughts about whether to believe or not believe in Jesus.
3. Sins are committed without any pang of the conscience.
4. Sometimes there is a fearful feeling of something that should have been done but now it's too late.
5. The Holy Spirit will not lead a praying Christian to pray for that person any more.
6. Nothing spiritually oriented will affect them any more and evil habits once put away will come back strongly.

CONCLUSION:

1. The Holy Spirit is essential to bringing a person to a saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and without the presence of the Holy Spirit salvation and restoration to God cannot happen.
2. If the Holy Spirit is not present, then there will be no interest in Spiritual things.
3. Have YOU felt sometimes that the preacher's sermon was directed at YOU?
4. Have YOU been considering, thinking about Jesus and the Gospel message?
5. Have YOU been resisting, making excuses, promising to commit yourself to Jesus later?
6. There could come a day when YOU will no longer be interested in what YOU are thinking about right now, Spiritual matters, Jesus, being saved, eternal life in Heaven, a child of God, etc.
7. It was God, Himself, who said ***"My Spirit will not always strive with man....."***
8. NOW, is the time of salvation!