

March 25th 2007: The Holy Spirit: Getting Personal with the Holy Spirit: Eph 4:30

My grandson Harrison.....avid fan of Thomas the tank engine.....(face painting)

For him Thomas is not just an engine....A piece of machinery.....

A Person→ Who has feelings.....can be happy...sad....angry....disappointed

And the reason he feels like thatis because the person who created Thomas

Knew.....could turn a bunch of machines.....into people type characters.....

by giving them traits.....they did not possess

SUCH as..... feelings personalities..... the ability to communicate

• **For such is the difference**.....between a Thing.....like a train.....

• **Or a force** like electricity....AND a person like youme.....like God

A person has feelings.....a personality.....can communicate certain depth

That's also why....when we consider the Holy Spirit...**We know**...considering a person

For the Bible tells us...that He feels deeply....can be sad / joyful...Grieved or gladdened

The Jehovah's Witnesses are totally wrong in all their teaching

Especially relating to the HS.....For them the Spirit is an impersonal force...

....like electricity.....Yet Electricity does not have feelings....It cannot be grieved

Yet the Bible says this of the Spirit in Ephesians 4:30

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

Now its here that wewho are believers.....start Getting Personal with the HS

For we are here being told.....that we must not grieve.....

We are obviously able to do so....because He is a Person with...who lives within us

The word translated grieve.....generally means ...

to cause distress....to occasion grief or sorrow to...

HOWEVER.....The tense and form used ...makes its meaning harder than that

Here it means→make cross.....to vex

**(Imagine someone you love and trust lets you down....At first disappointed
but if they do it again and again.....W/out getting angry,,,,,cross.....vexed)**

It can be the same between us and HS.....if we are not careful

• **Look at the verses that surround Ephesians 4:30**

The things that cause the Spirit pain,,,that vex Him.....are not necessary huge

V29.....Our Society seems to accept bad language as the norm

Young children.....

Constant contact with those who swear and curse.....tends to wear some down

• **This is one area where believers**.....should be so diff

And if we are not.....we cause the HS much pain

The Spirit knows that He can give us the power to overcome.....

If we don't ask Him

But continue as though it doesn't matter....THEN you can understand why He is grieved

• **Then in v31-32** we find other things that grieve the HS:::v31—32.....

We are talking about ongoing stuff.....Habits that need to be addressed

Is the HS holding back His power...His blessing.....Until you see how you grieve Him

Until you are ready to acknowledge.....and face it in His strength

ANOTHER WAY THAT WE CAN HURT THE SPIRIT WITHIN

Is mentioned in 1 Thess 5:19 ***Do not put out the Spirit's fire***

The Holy Spirit has a joyful...enthusiastic and positive personality.....I'm sure of that How He must detest....living in Christians who are always full of doom and gloom

That's the context of this particular command

Look at v16—22.....

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil.

I have a picture... of a few people gathered together.....All dressed in dark sombre.... One sits and mopes by themselves.....Another complains.....

Yet another predicts doom and gloom ahead.....While another decries the naïve preacher who had dared to suggest that God had a way forward for them

Into the room comes a brightly glad young man.....**Full** of joy.....enthusiasm

Encouraging them to focus on the good.....**To** see the positive....

To trust the messages of the preacher.....

And to go forward in faith....In the strength

And they bark at him....Stare him down.....Tell him that his joy is not welcome

And they pour water on his fire

- **We surely can not believe**...that we can live a joyless life

Worry and complain often.....Be continuously negative and critical

Without upsetting the Spirit within

He wants to fill us with joy.....for the Joy of the Lord is our strength

And He feels it when we pour cold water on His stirrings within

- **We need to test everything**.....But when the Spirit truly leads....

We need as individuals...as a church.....To courageously follow with joy filled hearts

Rejoice in the Lord always...and again I say rejoice

- **The third emotion** that the Bible attributes to the Spirit....is envy

It may sound strange...

But this envy is not the sinful wanting ...comparing...**It's not coveting**

- **It's the jealous nature of a God**....who refuses to share us with another

Turn with me to James 4:5.....

A verse that could be interpreted in two possible ways

NIV says *Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the Spirit He caused to live in us envies intensely.*

Now the Greek is not clear whether...Spirit here begins with a capital =reference to HS

Or with a lower case S.....reference to the spirit that God has put within all

If it refers to the spirit that God has placed in everyone.....**then** it only makes sense to say that God envies the spirit of man for Himself.

But in fact....the Greek fits better with the idea of the Spirit being the Spirit of God

Then it reads that this Spirit...that God has caused to live in believers

Longs jealously for all that we are.

This ties in well with the context in James 4:4—5

James writes this

You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred towards God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the Spirit He causes to live in us envies intensely?

God's Spirit in us---- longs jealously for our full devotion to God

The Spirit knows that the Christian belongs to Jesus

The Scripture tells us that we are not our own.....we are bought with a price
And He is jealous.....of anything in our lives....that comes between us and our Lord
*(The news story....surely been the suspension of Ben Cousins. As a great footballer
He was paid....a lot.....to put his club first.....But he allowed drugs
He had everything going for him.....but he has put it all at risk.....destructive habit)*
• **The Holy Spirit seeks constantly....to keep our hearts and lives focused on Jesus
He wants nothing else...to take His place of pre-eminence**

For He knows....that when we honour Jesus first.....then we too.....

Have everything going for us

SO To Summarize:→

- **never forget that The Spirit ...who dwells within.....is a person
Who feels along with us in our joy and our sorrow**

- Let us avoid grieving Him.....

- Avoid quenching His fire within our hearts

And especially.....

- Let us follow His voice as He seeks to keep our hearts true
To the One true God.....our Saviour.