

# "HEAR YE HIM"

## A Devotional Series For Radio

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Evan A. Fry, Radio Minister  
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The Sermon: GRIEVE NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT

Scripture: Ephesians 4:26-32, Inspired Version.

Can ye be angry, and not sin? Let not the sun go down upon your wrath; Neither give place to the devil. Let him that stole, steal no more; but rather let him labor, working with his hands for the things which are good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice; And be ye kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

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Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed  
unto the day of redemption.

There are certain simple, basic principles of human conduct which if observed will always help you to win friends and influence people; and there are other equally simple, basic principles which will inevitably alienate people, make them your enemies, and stir up trouble and strife and discord among men and nations.

Friendship is based on compatibility. If there is to be any close or intimate relationship between two persons, there must be large areas of agreement, and no major areas of violent or radical disagreement. Each party to a close association or friendship must respect the rights, the wishes, and the moral and ethical convictions of the other. Birds of a feather flock together. Respectable and reputable ministers or judges don't choose their bosom friends and constant associates from among known and notorious gangsters, thieves, or racketeers. A sincere tee-totaler would not be apt to find his best friends at a cocktail party. We choose our friends -- other things being equal -- from among people who think, act, feel, and believe as we do, people who share the same convictions, the same ideals, the same goals, the same enthusiasms, the same loyalties and devotions.

The Holy Spirit has many personal characteristics. It is a person in the sense that it is an aspect or a manifestation of a personal God, and in the sense that anything which will alienate, offend,

or repulse God as a person will do the same for the Holy Spirit.

Persons who want to be friends must adjust to each other. Each must defer in some degree to the other. Two people don't have to agree completely on everything in order to remain friends, but they must agree on certain essentials. Someone has said that a friend is one who knows all about you and loves you just the same.

God is your friend. He loves you, whatever you are, whatever you have been. He loves all men. He gave his only begotten Son in order to bring you back into his presence. He will never be very far away from you if you want to call upon Him. He seeks after you constantly by his Spirit. But he can live with you closely, intimately, as a friend and inseparable companion only if you want him and are willing to receive him on his terms. God cannot change. He cannot compromise. He cannot adjust himself on his thinking, or his standards, or his ideals, or his purpose to yours, and still be God. He is the Absolute, the Unchangeable. You must adjust to him -- not he to you. You must forsake everything that would alienate you from him or that would offend him, if you would keep him for a friend.

To reject the pleadings of the Spirit of God when it comes to call you to a higher life of fellowship and sonship with

God, is to grieve the Holy Spirit of God -- and therefore God himself. If you won't change, if you won't repent, if you won't remove from your life the things that make you repugnant to God and incompatible with his nature, then the Holy Spirit won't stay, for the Spirit of God dwells not in unholy temples. "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." That means that God won't stay either, for the Holy Spirit, as we have said, is an aspect or manifestation of God. If you insist on maintaining your incompatibility, you must be left to enjoy your incompatibility alone,, because you will not adjust to God.

Sometimes nations, as well as individuals, reject the pleadings of God's Holy Spirit, and therefore the pleadings of God himself. They reject God; God himself withdraws according to their wishes, and they are left in their own strength, to go down eventually in destruction. This is the great lesson to be learned from the history of many great nations and civilizations of the past. It is especially the lesson to be learned from the history of ancient Israel, which many times rebelled, vexed the Holy Spirit, provoked God, and eventually went its own way into slavery and national dissolution. Our nation today needs to take heed to the warnings of history which show most plainly that it is indeed a dangerous thing for a nation to grieve the Holy Spirit of God! "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all nations that forget God."

Any sin against the brotherhood of man is a sin against the Holy Spirit and against God. Men were made to live together in love. Any thought or act or attitude which separates men from each other, grieves the Spirit of God, and separates them from the Spirit. Much of the fourth chapter of Paul's Ephesian letter is devoted to a warning against various sins which in some way harm others, and therefore alienate them and grieve also the Holy Spirit of God.

First there is a mention of the sins of lasciviousness and uncleanness, which arise out of a basic greediness or desire for the selfish gratification of the physical senses. Then Paul says, "Put away lying, and speak every man truth with his neighbor." There must be perfect honesty and sincerity between friends. Without honesty there can be no trust, no confi-

dence, and no basis for friendship. "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth."

Then comes a peculiar mention of anger. The King James translation says: "Be ye angry, and sin not," although a later verse includes anger in a list of things to be "put away from you." Joseph Smith's revision reads, "Can ye be angry, and sin not?" There is perhaps such a thing as righteous anger, but very few men can keep anger within the bounds of righteousness. To be angry without cause is to give place to the devil, and to grieve the Spirit of God.

"Let him that stole, steal no more, but rather let him labor." Stealing is an offense against brotherhood. It often grows out of another sin -- the sin of idleness. One who is conscious of God's purposes, and of the needs of other men, will desire to "work with his hands, for the things which are good, that he may have to give to him that needeth."

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice." These are all things which separate men from each other, and which grieve the Holy Spirit of God which cannot dwell where these sentiments prevail. "And be ye kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Kindness, tenderness, gentleness, a willingness to forgive -- these bring men together in brotherhood, and make an atmosphere or environment in which the Holy Spirit can dwell.

The Holy Spirit is the conveyor of God's life, power, and intelligence. It is the "earnest" of our inheritance, the seal of our redemption, guaranteeing to us the more complete life that is yet to be. If you do not have the Holy Spirit you do not have God; and if you have not God, you are still dead in trespasses and sins. Dead members are not compatible with the body of Christ; they must be rejected and put away from the body or they will eventually cause the infection and death of the body. Therefore, if you would have life, now or in the world to come, "Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."