Do Not Grieve the Holy Spirit

TUNE: I Will Arise Ephesians 4:25, 29-31; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22



TOPICS: Relationships; Holy Spirit; Church

LEAD-IN: Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God... Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger... Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:30-32, NIV)

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

Speaking and Listening

Father, I need Your Spirit living in me constantly.
We need Your Spirit in each of us, and among us.
But we hear Your warning:

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God. (Ephesians 4:30, NIV)
Do not cause Him sorrow or pain.
Do not destroy the joy He has planted in you.

And:

Do not put out the Spirit's fire (1 Thessalonians 5:19, NIV).
Do not ignore His wisdom or frustrate His love.

Lord, how do I grieve You?

What do I do that causes You pain?

Ephesians says:

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body...Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God...Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. (4:25, 29-31, NIV)

I grieve You by what I saw to my fellow believers.

I wound You with words spoken against

my brothers and sisters,

words that are careless, angry, hasty, and self-serving. When I hurt any member of Your Body, You feel the pain.

And how do I quench Your Spirit?

What do I do that hinders Your work?

In 1 Thessalonians Paul tells us:

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 (5:19-22, NIV).

When I fail to listen when other believers speak,

When I turn them off without hearing them,

I may be ignoring You.

For Your words don't usually come to us

through a booming voice from heaven,

And prophecies are not just predictions of the future

thundered by strange men dressed in camel's hair.

But through ordinary human lips Your Spirit speaks

Your guidance, warning, comfort, and love.

Your precious wisdom is delivered by Your children.

Savior, help me cherish Your presence in each of my brothers and sister. As I speak to them, may I always do so with the love I owe You. As they speak to me, let me listen from my heart and hear Your voice, my loving Lord.

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