

To profit withal  
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If a man swore but once, lied but once, stole but once, hated but once it could be called a mistake or an accident. When it keeps happening, it is something bigger than the man. It penetrates him. It is sin. Sin, an archery term, means to miss the mark. It is more than misfortune. It is more than a low economic level. It is more than a lack of education. It is more than race. It is not a birth defect or physical handicap. It is the things which proceed out of the mouth, coming forth out of the heart; that defile the man. For out of the heart come forth evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, railings: the things which defile the man (Matthew 15: 18-20 ASV).

Jesus told His disciples, you should not stumble when they put you out of the synagogues and think whosoever kills you offers service unto God. These things they do, because they have not known the Father, nor Me (John 16: 1-3 ASV). I tell you the truth: It is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I go, I will send him unto you (John 16: 7 ASV). The Father shall give you another Comforter, that He may be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth: whom the world cannot receive; for it beheld Him not, neither knew Him: you know Him; for He abides with you, and shall be in you (John 14: 16-17 ASV). The Comforter, even the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said unto you (John 14: 26 ASV). The Comforter, whom I will send to you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceeds from the Father, He shall bear witness of me (John 15: 26-27 ASV). He, when He is come, will convict the world in respect of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment of sin (John 16: 8-9 ASV). Weigh these words carefully.

Text: I Corinthians 12: 4-7 ASV

There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are diversities of ministrations, and the same Lord. There are diversities of workings,

but the same God, who worketh all things in all. To each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit to profit withal.

What ever you do, do not abuse the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is charged with the destiny of your soul. So He strives with you. Quench not the Spirit (I Thessalonians 5: 19 ASV). To quench, is to extinguish a fire. God has breathed a warning, saying it is possible for you to extinguish the fire of His Spirit which lives inside you!

If you extinguish Jehovah's presence from your life, pour contempt on His established means of grace, He will pour contempt on you. From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from Mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto Me, and I will return unto you, says Jehovah of hosts. But you say, Wherein shall we return? Will a man rob God? yet you rob me. But you say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with the curse; for you rob me, even this whole nation (Malachi 3: 7-9 ASV).

Disciples continue steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and the prayers (Acts 2: 42 ASV). Breaking of Bread is just another way to say the Lord's Supper. How long has it been since you have broke bread with your Lord? I remind you for as often as you eat this bread, and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till he come (I Corinthians 11: 26 ASV). Notice it is as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, not as seldom. It is a serious thing to miss the Lord's Supper.

This week I witnessed what unharnessed temper and emotional flare ups do to a family. They are born of pride and quench the flame of the Holy Spirit. Temptation to such anger is insanity, stripping its victim of humanity, exposing a cruel demon whose soul is filled with torment. This is the kind of existence you live when you have quenched the Holy Spirit in your life. It is evident when you quench the Spirit from your life making every gift of fruit and grace inoperative. You die a

slow agonizing spiritual death. Professors of religion from whom the Spirit has departed are clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn leaves without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; Wild waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the blackness of darkness hath been reserved for ever (Jude 1: 12-13 ASV). Jesus' youngest brother warns if the Holy Spirit departs, you are ruined. His business is serious. Learn from king David, cry out; create in me a clean heart, O God; renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; And uphold me with a willing spirit (Psalm 51: 10-12 ASV).

The Holy Ghost often returns after He has been quenched, and graciously renews His work: but when He departs to return no more, your case is hopeless, and your ruin inevitable. There is a line of departure. How close to that line are you at this moment?