

How Not To Grieve The Holy Spirit

Every day I miss my little kids. My momma warned me this was going to happen. Mom was a working lady up in northern Canada. Raised in harsh conditions, she only knew how to make sure her kids were fed. For a few years after my father died, she was a single mother of four children. Having to provide for us, we were what are called latchkey kids, which means we walked home from school to an empty house and used our keys to open the door. I would take care of myself until Mom came home from work.

One of the first pieces of advice was my mom sharing her regrets from those days of her children growing up. When we were pregnant with our firstborn, she told me to spend as much time with my children as possible because it would go by faster than I realized. Sooner than you know it, they will grow up, and you cannot get that time back. You will hurt from within when they no longer run to see you or need to spend intimate time with you. “So don’t worry so much about life as I did,” she said to me.

From that advice, I’ve done my best to keep my children close; however, before I knew it, I am at the time when they’re ready to spread their wings and fly out of the nest, and I can feel it deep in my heart. I miss my little kids. I miss them needing me, needing my hugs and stories at bedtime. As usual, my momma was right.

God isn’t much different in His heart toward His children. Isaiah 41:10 shares His heart toward us in the Old Testament: *“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”* He doesn’t want us to face every battle, trial, and struggle without His help.

In the New Testament, for us today, God has also made a very specific way for Him to be our intimate and personal Helper. Unfortunately, most of His children are not allowing Him to do it. Many believers unknowingly keep His help at arm’s length, forging through life in their own wisdom and strength. The way He helps us now is different than how He could help those in the Old Testament.

Jesus describes this change of relationship to the disciples in John 14:16–18: *“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”*

At that moment in time, they could not be born again because Jesus had not yet died and been glorified. Their only experience with the Holy Spirit was with Him as a person on the outside. They could receive His help by the anointing He brought and by the power they saw and felt on the outside. They could hear His voice, follow His lead, and yet not even be born again.

Jesus tells them that the person of the Holy Spirit dwells with you. Then Jesus said something monumental that so many miss in our churches today: *“and will be in you.”* He is explaining to them that the way God will not leave them as orphans was through this relationship of the Holy Spirit being

in them. The way God helps His children in the New Testament is what He does in us. The way He could help those of the Old Testament was what He could do from the outside of them.

The word “orphans” describes children without parents to teach or help them. They are on their own to survive and to figure everything out. God’s answer for us after we are born again is to help us with a work on the inside. So many believers today, two thousand years later, are still establishing their relationship with the Holy Spirit on the outside—seeking anointing, power, experiences, glory clouds, encounters, open heavens, mantles, and laying on of hands. This is all wonderful, especially if you are an Old Testament saint. Does God want to deal with you like He had to deal with David and Abraham? Absolutely not! Yet if that’s all you allow Him, then He will accept it.

The way God wants to be your Helper is by the work that the Holy Spirit accomplishes in you. If you want my opinion, this is primarily done through praying in other tongues, where He can teach your spirit man the mysteries of God directly. He educates you and establishes victory and maturity in your inner man. Your time spent with Him in the classroom of the Spirit is equivalent to me teaching my son to play soccer and sharing life’s wisdom as we spend time together.

This understanding has helped me see what Paul meant in Ephesians 4:30: “*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*” I used to think this meant if I failed in sin or obedience, I would grieve Him. I now understand this grieving is the same feeling my momma felt when her children moved out of the house. This isn’t Him being disappointed in your struggles; this is Him knowing how to help you and what to teach you on the inside, but you not allowing Him. Please, please, let’s not be so busy winning the world for Him that we don’t take the time to allow Him to pray through us the perfect will of God. He loves you, and He is waiting for you. Let us pray in the Holy Spirit.

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