

**Hebrews 6:4-6** “For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.”

**Hebrews 10:26** “For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.”

This (Hebrews passages) was the very same sin of the Pharisees in Matthew 12.

**C. It was a sin of the heart more than it being a sin of the lips.**

**Matthew 12:33-37** “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

\*It is not possible for a genuine believer to lose his salvation. If someone fears that they have committed this sin, it is likely that they haven't committed this sin at all. Someone who would commit this sin would not care if they have committed it nor desire forgiveness. So doctrinally and biblically, we know it is impossible for a believer to commit this sin.

**John 5:24** “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”

**Mark 3:28** “All sins will be forgiven the sons of men and whatever blasphemies they utter.”

## Soul Check

*Are You Doubting or Delighting in Your Salvation?  
What If I Have Committed the Unpardonable Sin?  
Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor André Rusch / October 10, 2010*

**Matthew 12:31-32** “Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.”

**I. The Context of the Unpardonable Sin (Matthew 12:1-21)**

**A. Conflict #1- Pharisees accused the disciples of plucking grain on the Sabbath. (v.1-8)**

Jesus rebukes them for condemning the guiltless. (Pharisees were an abomination to God)

**Proverbs 17:15** “He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous are both alike an abomination to the LORD.”

**B. Conflict #2- Jesus heals man with withered hand on the Sabbath (v. 9-10)**

Jesus fearlessly had compassion for the afflicted and contempt for the Pharisees' manmade tradition.

**v. 14- Key Verse-** “But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.”

“All experiences of the fear of man share at least on common feature: people are big. They have grown to idolatrous proportions in our lives. They control us. Since there is no room in our hearts to worship both God and people, whenever people are big, God is not. Therefore, the first task in escaping the snare of the fear of man is to know that God is awesome and glorious, not other people.” *When People are Big and God is Small*, Ed Welch, Pg. 95

**C. Conflict # 3- Demon possessed, blind, mute man healed. (v. 22-23)**

**Matthew 9:33** “And when the demon had been cast out, the mute man spoke. And the crowds marveled, saying, “Never was anything like this seen in Israel.”

Their (Pharisees’) rejection was final and their doom was sealed.

**II. The Characteristics of the Unpardonable Sin**

**A. It is extraordinary, not common.**

Paul was a blasphemer...

**I Timothy 1:13-14** “... though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.”

**Lamentations 3:22-23** “The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

**Micah 7:18-19** “Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.”

**Isaiah 55:1-7** “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD

your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”

**Mark 3:29-30** “... but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but, is guilty of an eternal sin” — for they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

But why only against the Holy Spirit?

“But it is the unique and special role of the Holy Spirit to apply the Father's plan and the Son's accomplishment of it to our hearts. It is the Spirit's work to open our eyes, to grant repentance, and to make us beneficiaries of all that the Father has planned and all that Christ has done for us. If we blaspheme and reject the Father and the Son, there is still hope, for the Spirit may yet work within us to humble us and bring us to repentance. But if behind the Father and the Son we see and taste the power of the Holy Spirit and reject his work as no more precious than the work of Satan, we shut ourselves off from the only one who could ever bring us to repentance. And so we shut ourselves off from forgiveness.” *The Unforgivable Sin*, John Piper

“This sin consists in the conscious, malicious, and willful rejection and slander, against evidence, and conviction, of the testimony of the Holy Spirit respecting the grace of God in Christ, attributing it out of hatred and enmity to the Prince of Darkness...in committing that sin man willfully, maliciously, and intentionally attributes what is clearly recognized at the work of God to the influence and operation of Satan.” *Systematic Theology*, Wayne Grudem, pg.508-509

The unforgivable sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is an act of resistance which belittles the Holy Spirit so grievously that he withdraws for ever with his convicting power so that we are never able to repent and be forgiven.” *The Unforgivable Sin*, John Piper

**B. It was deliberate, not accidental.**

**I John 2:19** “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.”