

Jesus Denounces Hypocrisy and Encourages Fearlessness

Luke 12:10 is one of the more sobering and often misunderstood verses in the New Testament. Here's the verse:

"And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven." (Luke 12:10, ESV)

Let's expound on this verse by examining it in context, comparing it with parallel passages, and breaking down what "blasphemy against the Holy Spirit" means.

Context in Luke

- This teaching comes in the context of Jesus warning His disciples about **hypocrisy** (v.1), **fear of man vs. fear of God** (v.4–5), and **acknowledging or denying Jesus** (v.8–9).
- The audience includes both **disciples** and a **large crowd** (v.1).
- Jesus is preparing them for situations where **they will be under pressure** and must choose **truth or self-preservation**.

Parallel Passages

This teaching appears in:

- **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."
- **Mark 3:28–30**
"...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."

In both Matthew and Mark, this statement follows an incident where the **Pharisees accuse Jesus of casting out demons by the power of Beelzebul** (Satan), not by God.

What Is Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit?

Definition:

Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is the persistent, willful, and conscious rejection of the Spirit's testimony about Jesus as the Christ.

In other words, it's:

- ✓ Attributing the Spirit's work in Christ to evil
- ✓ Repeatedly hardening the heart against conviction
- ✓ A final, settled refusal to believe in Jesus, even when one has seen the truth clearly

This is not about **accidental** or **ignorant** words said in anger or doubt. It is about a **deliberate and ongoing refusal** to believe the Gospel even when the truth has been fully presented.

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Comparison with “Speaking Against the Son of Man”

Jesus makes a distinction:

Speaking Against the Son of Man	Blaspheming the Holy Spirit
Forgivable	Not forgivable
May come from ignorance or doubt (e.g., Peter denying Jesus)	Comes from hardened, willful rejection
Temporal rebellion	Final rejection

This suggests **God shows mercy** toward those who misunderstand or even insult Jesus (e.g., Saul/Paul persecuted the church ignorantly — 1 Tim 1:13), but not toward those who **knowingly resist the Spirit’s work and reject the truth** of the Gospel.



Why Is It Unforgivable?

- Not because God **can’t** forgive it, but because the person **refuses to repent**.
- The Holy Spirit is the one who **convicts the heart** (John 16:8). If someone **rejects** the Spirit’s witness, they **cut off the only means** by which they might repent and be saved.



Old Testament Echo

There’s no direct Old Testament law called "blasphemy against the Spirit," but this echoes Israel’s hard-heartedness in the wilderness:

“They rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit.” – Isaiah 63:10

Persistent rejection of God’s Spirit led to judgment in both Old and New Testaments.



Application Today

If you’re worried you’ve committed this sin—you likely haven’t.

- Concern about grieving the Spirit is a **sign of a tender conscience**.
- Blasphemy against the Spirit is a **settled, final rejection**, not a moment of doubt or weakness.
- Christians may grieve or quench the Spirit (Eph. 4:30; 1 Thess. 5:19), but they are **not in danger** of committing the "eternal sin."