

How Does God the Holy Spirit Mortify Sin in the Soul?

Romans 8:13

“For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.”

1. Through the Spirit the soul of the believer becomes a habitation for God.
 - *Ephesians 2:22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*
2. The way the soul becomes a habitation for God is through a purification process rooted in gospel obedience.
 - *1 Peter 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:*
3. Of particular concern is how the Holy Spirit works to purify the soul resulting in mortification of sin and gospel obedience in the saint.
4. As very God of very God the Holy Spirit can and does work directly to arrest sin and purify the heart. Mostly however, the Holy Spirit is pleased to use means.
 - *Spiritual weapons of warfare: truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, the Word of God and prayer. Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*
 - *Conviction. John 16:8 And when he [the Holy Spirit] is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.*
 - *Memory. John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

- Conscience. *Hebrews 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*
 - Visualization. *1 Peter 1:15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*
 - Mental restraint. *Acts 16:7 After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.*
 - Scripture. *Psalms 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*
 - Fear. *Acts 5:1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, 2 And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. 3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? 4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? And after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. 5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. 6 And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him.*
5. In the matter of sanctification there is a human responsibility based upon divine enablement for Romans 8:13 reads, “*but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.*”
6. What hinders spiritual growth are the sins committed against the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit can be blasphemed. Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit takes place when the works of the Spirit are ascribed to Satan. *Matthew 12:31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. 32 And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.*
 - The Holy Spirit can be lied to. The Holy Spirit is lied to when a promise is made to Him and then broken. *Acts 5:3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? And after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.*
 - The Holy Spirit can be resisted. The Spirit is resisted when the gospel message is rejected. *Acts 7:51 Ye stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.*

- The Holy Spirit can be grieved. The Spirit is grieved when there is unconfessed sin in the heart. *Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*
 - The Holy Spirit can be quenched. The Spirit is quenched when the heart is stubborn and persistent in a given sin. There is no sensitivity to the Spirit's corrections. *1Thessalonians 5:19 Quench not the Spirit.*
7. The sins against the Holy Spirit are committed when His indwelling presence is not respected. Consider the following illustration offered by W. Ian Thomas. Let the human spirit represent the Royal Residence of the heart prepared by God for the Royal Resident, the Holy Spirit. Inside the Royal Residence is a music room wherein sits a grand piano. At the keyboard to the grand piano sits God the Holy Spirit to play every chord in perfect harmony. But the Will must be present to allow the Holy Spirit to touch the keyboard. But what happens when the Will is not present to allow the Holy Spirit to touch the keyboard. He can in His sovereignty force Himself upon the soul or He can be sensitive enough to be grieved and go away quenched.
 8. If any soul is to be saved and sanctified it must and will be through the Holy Spirit.
 - *2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:*
 - *1 Peter 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.*
 9. However, there is a divine respect by God to acknowledge the will of individuals created in His likeness whereby a holy life is either rejected or embraced.
 10. When the renewed heart learns the mystery of godliness which is Christ in you the holy of glory (Colossians 1:27) then the will shall get up from the keyboard in the music room and allow God the Holy Spirit to take His rightful place. The will yields to the Holy Spirit because self has died in the sense it is no longer operative and hostile to the ministry of the Royal Resident.
 11. No disrespect is intended against the Holy Spirit by acknowledging that He is sensitive and can be grieved and quenched.
 12. The objective is not to exalt the human will at the expense of the Holy Spirit's sovereign power but it is a matter of recognizing that God does honor the will of individuals which is the basis of any faith-love and faith-rest relationship.
 13. In as far as the believer accepts responsibility to "*mortify the deeds of the body*" by relying upon the Holy Spirit, there will be spiritual life and that more abundantly.

- *John 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)*