

## Deny the Holy Spirit

Whenever a person allows the Gospel to produce obedient faith, they will do whatever Christ requires for them to become His new spiritual creation without sin. They will acknowledge Jesus as God (Lord), change from a sinful life (repent or die to sin), be buried (*baptistheis* from *baptizo* in Greek but transliterated as baptized in English meaning immersed or totally submerged) in water, receive the Holy Spirit and resurrected and added to Christ's Body by God to live a righteous or holy life. The Holy Spirit intercedes with God on one's behalf whenever he sins while the Blood of Christ continually cleanses him. Thus, anyone in Christ, the Body, the church, a Christian, who denies the existence of the Holy Spirit, blasphemes the Holy Spirit leaving no avenue open for him to seek forgiveness.

Acts 19:1-5 shows this is not so for non-Christians for twelve disciples had heard only of the baptism of John and were not even aware of the existence of the Holy Spirit. After more teaching they were baptized into Christ. Therefore, they had an avenue open to forgiveness.

Paul stated in Romans 8:26-9 the Spirit makes intercessions for Christians according to the will of God. Verse 37-9 clearly shows that nothing outside ourselves can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. Furthermore, 1 John 1:7 states without mentioning the Holy Spirit "But if we walk in the Light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all unrighteousness." Therefore, an avenue is always open for anyone who is willing to forsake self, put Christ first trusting in His power by acknowledging sin, changing from evil and corrupt way of life and pleading to God through prayer for the Christian and baptism for the non-Christian.

However, if denying the existence of the Holy Spirit is sinful, perhaps even blasphemy, and one refuses to repent, his condition may be best described as sin unto death as mentioned in 1 John 5:16. Christians are to desire whatever is best for fellow Christians, therefore we must help those who have denied the existence of the Holy Spirit to come to a clearer understanding while praying for them to have an open mind and heart desiring to know God's will so their denial will not lead to a sin unto death.