

# “YE DO ALWAYS RESIST THE HOLY GHOST!”

By Keith Greer

*“You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it.” {Acts 7:51-53}* Stephen’s words cut to the hearts of his listeners. This audience knew they were guilty of the charge, but instead of repenting they killed Stephen! Can people today “resist the Holy Spirit?” Yes! We resist the Holy Spirit by our:

**Inattention.** *“Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him.” {Luke 8:18}* We need to give sober attention to what we hear. Indifference and allowing what we hear to go in one ear and out the other can bring about failure to apply the things we hear from God’s word.

**Unbelief.** *“When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ. But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook his garments and said to them, ‘Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.’” {Acts 18:5,6}* Sadly, Paul’s audience rejected the Holy Spirit’s words.

Unfortunately, many today, when confronted with the Spirit’s words contained in the Scriptures, deny and disbelieve them. Atheists who deny God’s existence reject the Spirit when they fail to believe His words recorded in Genesis 1 and 2. Still others deny the existence of Hell, even though the Spirit’s words are clear and bold in passages, such as *Matthew 25:30*, that discuss *“weeping and gnashing of teeth in a place of outer darkness.”*

**Procrastination.** *“We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: ‘In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you.’ Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” {2 Corinthians 6:1,2}* In this old world, so many put off till tomorrow acceptance of the Holy Spirit’s words. When we recognize the truth of the Spirit’s warning but fail to act upon it, we are resisting the Holy Spirit. Let’s examine two Bible examples of procrastination.

*“Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, ‘Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.’” {Acts 24:25}*

*“King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe. Then Agrippa said to Paul, ‘You almost persuade me to become a Christian.’” {Acts 26:27,28}*

Both Festus and King Agrippa, knew what they needed to do, but they delayed. Sadly, the Scriptures do not reveal that either did so at another time. Folks today play out this same scenario.

They are waiting for someday. Where is this day on the calendar? Such attitudes are just another example of resisting the Spirit.

***Unfaithfulness.*** “*Do not quench the Spirit.*” {1 Thessalonians 5:19} People today quench the spirit when they fail to obey, for whatever reason, the teachings found in God’s word.

Have you resisted the Spirit, or are you yielding by obeying His commands? Each of us can choose to resist or yield. Please give prayerful consideration to what you may be doing. Our actions toward the Holy Spirit have eternal consequences – one way or the other. \*\*\*