

What is the
Unpardonable
Sin?

What is the Unpardonable sin?

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THIS BOOKLET IS NOT TO BE SOLD. The information provided is for the benefit of former members of the congregations of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), and of current and prospective members of God's Church.

What is the unpardonable sin is something which is of great interest to all true Christians. If ever this sin is committed it leads to loss of salvation. How can you know if you have or not committed this sin?

Preamble

Please Note: All comments in brackets [] or in parentheses () as well as highlighted text (bolded and/or in blue) are from the author of this study. Bible quotations are in maroon.

I think it is essential to clarify the question of the “Holy Spirit” before we begin this study. If we say that who or what is the “Holy Spirit” is the question that needs to be answered, we are starting from the assumption that there exists such a being as the Holy Spirit and that it is a separate and distinct being from God and the Word. The question which should be asked is who are the beings the Bible tell us are holy, whose composition is spirit and who have existed eternally? Either the Bible plainly tells us who are the separate and distinct beings that existed from all eternity who created all things (spirit beings and the material universe) or we have no way of getting an answer to our question.

The Holy Spirits of the God Family

The Bible tells us in Gen 1:1 that:

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The Hebrew word translated “God” is “Eloheem” which is the plural form of “Eloah which means “God”. The word “Eloheem” refers to “gods.” It is a uniplural noun like family, group, team, etc. In the beginning, there was therefore more than one God being in existence but how many were there?

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In the beginning when God created the heaven and the earth there was God and there was another being with God who was also God, the Word. How can these two beings both be God; isn't that impossible?

The word God indicates the kind of existence of these 2 beings: their nature is to be God in the same way that all human beings have the same human nature. However, having the same nature does not mean that all human beings constitute a single being; indeed, they are all separate and distinct beings with their own personalities. God and the Word have in common the same nature or, level and type of existence, but they are separate and distinct beings just like all human beings who have the same human nature are separate and distinct beings.

God the Father

We read in the Bible that God became a father when the Word became flesh (Php 2:5-8) by being born of woman after having been conceived in the virgin Mary by the holy spirit being called God (Luke 1:35). God from that point on became God the Father and the Word, who was born as the flesh-and-blood Jesus of Nazareth became God's Son or the Son of God. He was both fully God (his father was God and fully human (his mother was the virgin Mary).

Jesus was God the Father's only begotten son at the time when He was conceived in Mary's womb but He was not to be the only one begotten of the Father. God the Father is the holy spirit being in the Godhead that calls men to salvation.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

Joh 18:9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou [God the Father] gavest me have I lost none.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

God the Word and Spokesman

The Bible term for being called is to be spiritually begotten by God the Father (1Pe 1:3). When we are begotten, we become a spiritual embryo that can be born again as a glorified spirit being with eternal life. Those begotten of the holy spirit God the Father who follow their calling are then able to come to the holy spirit being called the Word and Spokesman (John 6:44; 65; 18:9) who then teaches them. The glorified Jesus-Christ as God the Father's Word and Spokesman is the holy spirit being that works in the minds of God the Father's called and chosen ones.

Joh 7:39 (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.)

Jesus had to first be glorified for it to be possible for Christians to have access to the holy spirit called the Word and Spokesman because the glorified Christ is the holy spirit being who works in the minds of God's saints (John 14:17) in the same way that Satan is the evil spirit that works in the minds of the children of disobedience (Eph2:2).

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he [Christ] dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. [On the day of Pentecost, it would be in them and in all true Christians.]

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, [Satan] the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

The holy spirit God the Father calls men and those who follow their calling are then taught by the holy spirit called the Word and God the Father's Spokesman.

Joh 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.

The Holy Ghost

The expression "Holy Ghost" used in the Bible is in error as there are no ghosts in the Godhead but rather 2 beings that are holy (John 17:11; Isa 6:3) and spirit (John 4:24).

Joh 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy**, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Joh 4:24 **God is a Spirit**: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

These 2 God beings who are holy and spirit are the holy spirit beings of the God family who existed in the beginning at the creation of all things.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

And, the Word who was with God is before all things i.e., *nothing* existed before He created them whether made of spirit or matter.

Col 1:15 **[Christ]** Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature:

Col 1:16 For by him [the Word who became Jesus-Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

In the beginning before anything either physical or spiritual was created, there was God and the Word who existed before all things and no other being is mentioned as having existed with them. There is no bib-

lical evidence that there ever existed a third, separate and distinct personage in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit” who dwelt in eternity with God and the Word.

God is a Family

Throughout the Bible we can find many verses which clearly indicates the existence of family relations between God and the Word and God’s called, chosen and faithful.

Mat 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Mat 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Joh 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but o to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

God is clearly a family in which many can be ultimately born again by a resurrection from the dead to eternal, glorified spirit life in God’s Kingdom.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he [\[God’s Son\]](#) might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Col 1:18 And he [\[the glorified Christ\]](#) is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Christ was the first to be born again by a resurrection from the dead to be followed by many brethren.

Bible Writing Convention

The practice in the Bible has been to simply use the expression “the Holy Spirit” without indicating which God personage in the Godhead the expression represents. Over time, because of this practice, just about everybody has come to believe that the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct God being in the Godhead but, there is no single verse or group of verses in the Bible that prove the existence of such a third being in the Godhead. The words “holy” and “spirit” are adjectives that describe the nature of

God the Father and of God the Word i.e., they are holy beings made of spirit.

Whenever we encounter the expressions the “Holy Spirit” or simply the “Holy Spirit” in the Bible we must look at the context to determine of which holy spirit being of the Godhead the Bible is talking about: the holy spirit, God the Father or the holy spirit, the Word and Spokesman.

The Word is the holy spirit being in the Godhead who carries out the instructions and wishes of the holy spirit, God. He is the faithful son who seeks to do his father’s will in all things. He is the member of the God family that did the work of creating the heaven and the earth, who ruled over ancient Israel through Moses and his human successors, He is the one who became a man who suffered and died to be God the Father’s perfect sacrifice for sin and make the salvation of mankind possible, etc. and He came to reveal the Father to those who follow the Father’s calling.

Making Things Clearer

In this study, when referring to God’s spirit who, depending on the circumstances can be the holy spirit personage called God the Father or the holy spirit personage called God the Word and Spokesman, I will not capitalize either of the adjectives “holy” and “spirit”. This is in order to not perpetuate the false impression in the minds of readers that there is a 3rd being in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit.” Instead, I will refer to either of the holy spirits in the God family as being God’s spirit without capitalizing the word “spirit” to make it plain that we are not referring to a third God being in the God family called the “Holy Spirit” but to one of the 2 God beings in the Godhead.

God’s family is presently made up of 2 holy spirit beings to which are to be added thousands and possibly millions of other holy spirit beings when God’s plan of salvation for mankind has reached its end. The saints that endure in the faith until the end of their natural human life, will be resurrected as individual holy spirit beings in God’s Kingdom when it is established.

There are two studies which you can read regarding what is the “Holy Spirit” and decide for yourself in light of the Bible-based evidence offered if such a being exists in the Godhead. These studies are: [What is the Holy Spirit? Cliff Notes Version](#) and [Who or What is the Holy Spirit?](#)

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In the days of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) under the leadership of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong (HWA), a booklet was written on the topic of the unpardonable sin.

According to HWA, the unpardonable sin occurred when a truly converted Christian, in open rebellion against God, turned away from the truth he had been given to know and goes back into this present evil world. He had been called to come out of it and be separate. This happened because this individual began compromising with the truth he had received and tried to keep a foot in the church and a foot in the world. God is clear that this cannot be done.

Luk 16:13 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

In other words, if you are a Christian and want to remain a Christian you have to dedicate yourself to following the truth you have been given. Compromising with the world, almost all the time, leads to falling away from the truth. Gradually, these persons fully go back into the world and its ways that are contrary to God's law while thinking all is well as they keep on assembling with other true Christians.

But, they are no longer part of that spiritual organism which is God's Church. They are solely physical level participants in what has become

for them a social club where they fellowship with their friends and talk about material things like how well their garden grows, how beautiful is their car, what a nice trip they took, etc.

They haven't committed the unpardonable sin, they have fallen away from the truth. They have not rejected it outright; no, they have become disinterested in the truth and gradually returned to the life they had before their calling. They don't think that what they are doing will cause them to lose their salvation. They reason that God is a God of love who doesn't want them to lose their salvation. God knows they're basically good people so, all is right and nothing to worry about.

Their compromising with the world has resulted in their again becoming spiritually blind and this is why it is impossible to renew them unto repentance.

Heb 6:4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, [the holy spirits of the Godhead]

Heb 6:5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

Heb 6:6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

They don't think they have left the faith and this is why it is impossible to bring them back to it. Only God could do it but this would require that Christ be sacrificed a second time and it won't happen.

What about the unpardonable sin? Is it different from "falling away?"

Let's continue our analysis.

The Unpardonable Sin

In the book of Matthew we read that Christ told his disciples to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

Mat 16:5 And when his disciples were come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread.

Mat 16:6 Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

Mat 16:7 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have taken no bread.

Mat 16:8 Which when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread?

Mat 16:9 Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?

Mat 16:10 Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?

Mat 16:11 How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees?

Mat 16:12 Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

And in Mat 12:31-32 we read:

Mat 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.

Mat 12:32 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.

What does it mean to blaspheme against the holy spirit, and in this case, against the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman made flesh who was among them? It was not speaking against the person of Christ saying He was a bastard or that He was simply a man like all other human beings having been born of Mary.

No, it was because of something else; let's keep going.

The Pharisees and the Sadducees knew who Jesus was and this is made known to us in John 3 where Nicodemus secretly by night went to talk to Jesus.

Joh 3:1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

Joh 3:2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, **we know that thou art a teacher come from God**: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

But, just the same, they fought against Him, they opposed Him and sought to discredit Him in the eyes of the people by saying among other things that He cast out devils by the power of the devil and that He was devil possessed.

Mat 9:34 But the Pharisees said, **He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils.**

Joh 7:20 The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil: who goeth about to kill thee?

Joh 8:48 Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, **Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?**

Joh 8:49 Jesus answered, **I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me.**

Joh 8:52 Then said the Jews unto him, **Now we know that thou hast a devil.** Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death.

Joh 10:20 And many of them said, **He hath a devil, and is mad**; why hear ye him?

The Pharisees and the Sadducees were being hypocritical. Even though they knew Christ came from God, they opposed Him and tried to make Him look bad before the people. But Christ kept demonstrating that He knew the Scriptures better than they did and this caused the people to begin losing confidence in them. The Pharisees and the Sadducees wanted to maintain their status as the great and highly respected teachers of God's truth.

Jesus told them that because of their hypocrisy, they had lost their salvation.

Mat 12:41 **The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with**

this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.

Mat 12:42 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

Luk 11:31 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation, and condemn them: for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

Luk 13:27 But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.

Luk 13:28 There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.

Mat 5:20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

The generation that saw Christ and fought against Him all the while knowing full well who He was is guilty of having committed the unpardonable sin of having spoken against or having blaspheme the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who was then among them as Jesus-Christ.

They fought against His teachings all the while knowing they were true.

Hypocrisy was their unpardonable sin but hypocrisy is not the only way one can be found guilty of having committed the unpardonable sin. Basically, speaking against the truth given us by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who teaches true converts all things (John 14:26) is refusing to accept what we know to be the truth and making up excuses to justify ourselves for not following it.

All truly converted Christians have been given by the action of the holy spirit God the Father when called, and of the holy spirit God the Word

and Spokesman when chosen, the ability to know God's spiritual truth which allows them to correctly know the difference between right and wrong. They understand that they are not to rely on themselves to do so as they did before their conversion but to have God do it for them.

The God they now follow is the true God and not the former god they had made for themselves while unconverted which was themselves deciding right and wrong based on their own personally-devised standards.

Whenever a truly converted Christian begins to reason his way around one or more of God's truths to return to certain sinful parts of his past life before his conversion, he is committing the unpardonable sin. He is opposing himself to the truth he has received from the holy spirits of the God family; he is elevating his understanding of right and wrong above that of God and is basically saying to God: "I know better than You the difference between right and wrong."

Whenever this happens, we find ourselves looking at a Christian who is puffed up, spiritually speaking, against God; he is raising himself up; puffing himself up in authority over God by deciding for himself good and evil as he once did in his ignorance of the truth before being called. But now, he knows the truth and God will not ignore his sins as He had done before while they were committed when he did not know the truth.

1Pe 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

God's Church is now being judged by God because it knows the truth; the world's time of judgment is yet future and will occur when they also will be given to know the truth about right and wrong. This will occur when the holy spirit God the Father will call them and if they follow their calling, the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman will dwell with them and teach them all things.

The unpardonable sin basically involves the knowing and willful rejection of one or more of God's truth to allow ourselves to go back to one or more sins we committed while unconverted. We are then guilty of the unpardonable sin which is basically rejecting God's revelation and elevating or puffing up our understanding of the truth above that of God. It is going back to ourselves being the god in our lives that we follow after having been given to know the true God.

The NT message of God's 2nd annual holy day is that true Christians must always remain humble before God and accept that His law defines right and wrong for them and that they have to try to follow that law to the best of their abilities no matter how personally inconvenient it may sometimes be for them to do so. They can never allow themselves to rise up in authority over God and again become the god in their lives that they follow by again making themselves the criterion for determining right and wrong as they had been doing before being called and chosen. Their attitude of obedience to God must be in all things and maintained until the end of their lives.

Leaven is not symbolic of a specific sin but of an attitude of mind which is to knowingly resist God's authority over us once we have come to the knowledge of the truth which results in sinfulness that is unpardonable.

Leaven is symbolic of the unpardonable sin which can be any sin which we no longer resist and of which we are justifying ourselves by all sorts of rationalizations. We are then in willful opposition to God and blaspheming against God.

This attitude of mind is the opposite of repentance where upon being called we committed to obeying God in all things, not just the ones that do not go counter to our previous beliefs or that do not prevent us from continuing with some of the things we did before being called but that we now surely know to be sin.

Concluding Comments

Falling away is the process of gradually going back into the world after having been called and chosen. At first we may have been full of zeal and excited about the incredible truths we were learning but as time goes by we began to lose interest and our focus shifted back to the things we did before our calling.

We don't want to lose our salvation so we continue to assemble with other Christians but our heart is no longer into learning and applying God's truth in our lives. We find ourselves spending more and more time doing other things so that we can no longer seem to be able to find time to study, meditate, pray, read our Bible. We've just become too busy and have higher priorities that take up all our time. Oh, but we keep on assembling with other Christians many of whom have become friends and we love to socialize with them but we're no longer that much interested in spiritual matters. We find ourselves talking about anything but the truth we have received; our minds are focused on other things.

We have not rejected nor are we fighting against God truth. We have simply become indifferent and uninterested.

We have fallen away.

The unpardonable sin is not the same thing as falling away.

It occurs in a truly converted Christian who knows and understands some of God's spiritual truths and who is fighting against one or more of them. These truths were revealed to him by the holy spirit God the Father while being called and by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman when chosen.

He knows that what he was taught by the holy spirit God the Word is true but it invalidates, one or more of his false religious beliefs, that he doesn't want to abandon. So, he begins making up excuses to try to make right what he thinks rather than what God says is right. In doing so, he is fighting against the truth, he is blaspheming against the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who teaches him.

If he persists in doing so, he will lose his salvation. Before knowing the truth, no sin were held against him, he wasn't under judgment as the unconverted world is not under judgment because it does not know the true difference between right and wrong.

1Pe 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

Peter was talking to converted Christians and telling them that God's Church is under judgment because it has been given to know the truth. Since Christians are under judgment then Peter asks what will be the end of true Christians who do not obey the Gospel of God. The answer is that they lose their salvation. And, it is not only the Gospel that Christians must believe but all the other truths they are taught by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman.

All sin can be forgiven when committed as the result of the weakness of our flesh but any sin, done in knowing and willful rebellion against God is not forgiven.

That is the unpardonable sin.

