

brings, and does not indicate any real inward work of the Spirit. One could have all these privileges yet not have "repentance towards God, and faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ," and so could fall away from that which was outward merely, back into a state from whence it would be impossible to renew them to real repentance. Those truly saved are like the good ground which bears profitable crops; but these are like ground which in spite of rains and tillage, bears only thorns and briars.

In Heb. x. 26-29 it is willful apostacy after the knowledge of the truth has been received. And the spirit here is simply the spirit of grace, not sealing or indwelling, but convicting. And if one has the truth laid before him and rejects it, rejects the Saviour and His salvation, there is no other way to be saved, and there is nothing before such an one but judgment and the lake of fire.

"Take not Thy Holy Spirit from me" is the cry of one in a former dispensation when the Spirit had not been given as He has in this, when there was no sealing or baptizing with the Spirit.

We should beware then of putting the word "away" where God has not put it, and it is far stronger as He has written it. It is not said grieve not away the Holy Spirit, but "grieve not the Holy Spirit." Do not grieve Him at all. In Isaiah lxiii. 10 it is better "grieved" as the R. V. puts it than "vexed." The Holy Spirit is never said to be angry, the wrath of the Spirit is never mentioned.—"Grieve" is a tender, touching word. It is not that He is vexed or angered,

but made to sorrow and feel grief over the folly and sin of God's people.

We can see how Israel grieved Him, how their unbelief and evil ways prevented Him from blessing them. He said to them, "Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you." Jer. v. 25. So it is to-day, the people of God turn away blessings from themselves by their carelessness, their disobedience, their conformity to the world. Anything and everything which is a work of the flesh grieves the Spirit.

The flesh is in every believer, and if allowed to act, the Spirit cannot bless, joy and peace are not realized, the believer becomes blind and weak. Sad indeed it is for the people of God to ever fall into sin, to lose the brightness, the spiritual sight, the power, joy and peace which the Spirit ungrieved gives. Every form of sin, every allowance of the flesh grieves the Spirit.

The sins mentioned in connection with the command to grieve not the Spirit, Eph. iv. 25-32, are those into which believers are apt to fall. "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you with all malice."—These are sins which grieve the Spirit as of course all sin does, but sins like these are often condoned. How few realize that evil speaking is a sin, that it grieves the Holy Spirit.

Is it possible to live without grieving the Spirit? No doubt it is.—God's people are to live holy lives, this is the will of God as everywhere expressed in His Word, but how very few there are who do not at some