

## **Who is like the LORD? He is Grieving (Isaiah 63)**

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**Dominant Thought: Remembering His kindness replaces grieving His Spirit.**

**Objectives:**

**I want my listeners to learn how the Holy Spirit is grieved.**

**I want my listeners to feel sorry when we rebel against God.**

**I want my listeners to remember God's kindness.**

**Focus question: What does it look like to grieve the Holy Spirit?**

I ran across these stories this week (Source: "What's The Most Ungrateful Thing You've Seen Someone Do?" (40 Answers) by Justin Sandberg, Mantas Kačerauskas and Rugilė Žemaitytė, November 14, 2025, [www.boredpanda.com](http://www.boredpanda.com)).

I was visiting friends at their farm years ago. My friend from high school and his wife and their daughter who was about 16. The daughter was out saddling her horse when the horse kicked her in the chest. Her throat collapsed and she couldn't breathe. I performed an emergency tracheotomy saving her life. About two months later I get a letter from a law firm. They changed their mind about how grateful they were and decided to sue me for leaving a scar from the tracheotomy.

A girl in my high school received a used car on her 16th birthday. She was unhappy with the fact that it was used (3 yrs old) So she intentionally totaled it. Her thinking was that if she totaled this one her parents would have to buy her a new one. She didn't get a new car and had to ride the bus.

Today is my niece's birthday and she just went to college, so I thought I'd get her a laptop for her birthday. Now, I am a

student myself, but I still want to give her something special. So, I searched for a great used laptop, and I found a decent Toshiba Satellite. I sold my PSP and some other things so I can afford it.

So there we were at the dinner table opening presents. She opened mine and has this grim look at her face. "This is it? I thought you'd buy me a brand new one"

"You know I can't afford it. It's the best I can do."

"I want a brand new one, not this. This [blows]! Worst present ever!"

She then shoved the laptop and box across the table and it fell down on the floor.

How do you respond when someone doesn't appreciate your kindness? The Bible has a word for it...sad. We may have some other words to go with it: mad, infuriated, angry, upset...maybe even grieved. But when it comes down to it, these stories may make us sad for the individual.

I wish we could say those stories are unique and only on an online blog, but we will find something quite common in [Isaiah 63](#) today. We continue to explore the question, "Who is Like the LORD?" Today, we'll lean into the feelings of God. He has emotions. He gets sad or he grieves. *In our time today, we'll discover what it looks like to grieve God's Spirit.*

***Grieving God's Spirit looks...***

***1-Ungrateful ([Isaiah 63.8](#)).***

Throughout [Isaiah 63.7-9](#), we continue to hear praises of the LORD for his steadfast love, mercy, kindness, goodness, compassion, salvation, love, pity, and redemption. When they were afflicted, God was afflicted. He carried them and cared for His people.

Yet...But... In spite of all those good gifts, they did not appreciate His kindness. God's people grieved His Holy Spirit. The first time we encounter God grieving is in [Genesis 6.6](#). God is upset with mankind.

**Genesis 6:6 ESV**

And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.

Later in the wilderness, the children of Israel complain about the manna that God graciously gave them six days a week. They didn't appreciate the gifts and goodness of God.

[Psalm 95.6-11](#) provides an invitation and a warning for those who do not appreciate God's gifts. The Psalmist invites people to come and worship and bow down before the LORD our Maker! For He is our God and we are His people of His pasture. Then, he warns, "Today, if you hear his voice do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day of Massah in the wilderness...For forty years I loathed that generation...They are a people who go astray in their heart...Therefore I swore in my wrath, 'They shall never enter my rest.'"

These two places: Massah and Meribah, were places in the wilderness wandering where the people quarreled against Moses wanting water to drink. They wanted to return back to Egypt and complained about perishing in the desert.

Another story from the blog:

When we were very young, we were very poor. My sister's birthday was coming up, I think she was about 7. There was no money to buy gifts, but my mother had a small piece of white satin cloth and a box of tiny little pearl beads. She hand sewed this beautiful little wedding gown for my sister's doll and sat up night after night hand sewing these tiny little beads on the dress. When my sister was given it for her birthday she threw it across the room in disgust, saying I don't want that it's my old dolly. I'll never forget the heartbreak on my mother's face.

When we are ungrateful, we grieve the Holy Spirit.

***2-Rebellious ([Isaiah 63.10](#)).***

Many times in Numbers, the people rebel against the LORD and His leaders. They made God sad.

**Ephesians 4:30 NIV**

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

One scholar simplified [Ephesians 4.30](#), “Don’t make God’s Holy Spirit sad.” (*Louw-Nida, “lupeo.”*)

The context of this verse talks about not letting any unwholesome talk come out of your mouth, but only what is helpful in building others up.

Paul commands the church not to grieve the Holy Spirit with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Earlier in the letter, Paul connects the Holy Spirit with sealing for the day of redemption, also. To be sealed, may be marked, or promised.

### **Ephesians 1:13–14 NIV**

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

It is a dangerous sin to make the Holy Spirit sad. He’s the one that marks us for our inheritance. I think there is still another step of blaspheming or speaking against the Holy Spirit that Jesus states is unforgiveable ([Matthew 12.32](#)).

[Isaiah 1.19-20](#) gives a similar warning describing the consequences of rebelling against the LORD.

### **Isaiah 1:19–20 NIV**

If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good things of the land; but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword.” For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Rebelling against God grieves His Spirit. When we rebel, we set ourselves against God which leads us to the third description of what it looks like to grieve God’s Spirit.

### **3-Hostile ([Isaiah 63.10](#))**

Since the people rebelled against God's goodness and grieved His Holy Spirit, God turned to become their enemy and fought against them. This theme carries images of battles and military struggles. When we fight against God, we grieve His Spirit.

Think of battles, conflicts, and wars throughout history. It's sad when we fight against our fellow humans. Now imagine what it looks like to fight against God, the Creator of the universe. It's not going to turn out too well.

The first Christian martyr, Stephen, challenged the people of his day. He called them stiff-necked with hard hearts and ears like their ancestors. They were resisting the Holy Spirit.

### **Acts 7:51 NIV**

"You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit!

***The cure: Remembering the LORD's kindness restores our relationship ([Isaiah 63.11-16](#)).***

We need frequent reminders. We need to remind ourselves of God's faithfulness. We need to tell stories of His provision and care. When we remember, we will not resist. When we remember, we will not rebel. When we remember, we will not fight against God.

I think the cure for grieving the Holy Spirit is to remember His kindness. Earlier in [Isaiah 63.7-9](#), we encounter praises of the LORD for his steadfast love, great goodness, compassion, abundance of steadfast love or kindness. He became our Savior. The angel of His presence or face saved them. In his love and pity, He redeemed them. He lifted them up and carried them.

On the front of our communion table, we have the words, "Do this in remembrance of me," so we will not forget what Jesus has done for us.

If you don't want to grieve the Holy Spirit, then remember His kindness. Remember the salvation we have in Jesus. Remember the faithfulness of our Father. It's the same for those who have relationships in which we have caused grief. We have forgotten the good gifts. We have become ungrateful, rebellious, and hostile.

Near the end of the movie, *The Passion of the Christ*, there's a scene where Jesus hangs on the cross. All the cruelty of humanity brought him to His final breath. There between two rebels. One cursing at Him and one asking Jesus to remember him. Carrying the sins of the world, He looks up and breathes His last. The scene moves from earth to heaven. And a single tear drop from heaven falls to the earth to set off an earthquake and the cataclysmic events that follow the death of Jesus. I know Mel Gibson was taking some artistic liberty with that scene, but I think he may have captured what it looks like to grieve the Holy Spirit. What it looks like to make God's Spirit sad.

- Using unwholesome words to tear down another human created in God's image.
- Forgetting the steadfast love of the Father.
- Pursuing selfish ends instead of justice.
- Punishing the innocent.
- Resisting God's love.

[Romans 5.8](#) reminds us that even while we were sinners, grieving God's Spirit, Christ died for us.

### **Romans 5:8 NIV**

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

***Remembering His kindness replaces grieving His Spirit.***