

Ephesians 4:30

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

I remember way, way back in the day, we are talking the 60's, early 70's, how my mom and grandma would make jelly and preserves and would put them in what is called a Mason jar. These Mason jars are still available today, and many who grow their own fruits and veggies still use them to preserve their fruits and veggies as well as making homemade jellies and jams, and pickles, and sauces and other such things.

The reason the Mason jars are different than other jars, is that they have a separate lid, which is put on top of the jar, which has this unique seal on it, and when you screw the top onto this lid, it makes an airtight seal. The reason for this airtight seal is to keep what is inside the jar, all that good, yummy flavor, inside the jar. And it also keeps anything else from entering the jar that would contaminate and make the food useless to eat. Also, by using these Mason jars, the food can actually be preserved for years because of the seal that it has.

We are like Mason jar, full of the good things of God that we put into our hearts and minds, when we spend time reading God's word and hiding it in our hearts,

✠ **Psalm 119:11 *Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!***

You can think of the Holy Spirit as that lid that seals the goodness of God's word inside of us as we read and hear it taught each day, which helps to keep us from sinning "***That I might not sin against You!***" Yet, how often do we break that seal and allow contaminants, things of this world, ungodly, worldly things to enter in, contaminating the goodness of God's word we may have put into our hearts, possibly that very morning.

We read God's word, then spend time on social media, looking at videos on our phones, listening to music that sings about sin, play video games that are full of violence and scantily dress women with huge breasts, even talk with our friends about things that are vulgar and degrading towards others, and full of gossip. When we do these things, we are breaking the seal of the Holy Spirit, that wants to preserve the goodness of God's word that we put into our hearts, yet we want God's word, AND the things of this world to be mixed together in the same jar, and that's why We, break that seal, to allow those bad things to enter our hearts and minds.

Those who make preserves and jellies would never add sauerkraut into a jar with jelly in it, that would taste disgusting to those who would attempt to eat it. Nor would they add rat poisoning to it either, it would make the eater sick and even cause death. So why do we add these worldly things to our lives contaminating the goodness of God's word in our hearts. Then we wonder why we lose our battles with temptation and sin, or why others don't listen when we share Jesus with them. We pray, "Lord, fill me with Your Holy Spirit", yet we go and fill our hearts and

minds with other things. It would be like saying to someone, *“Please fill my coffee cup with some coffee, and a little flavoring to it please”* but then we choose to fill it with antifreeze, which will actually kill us if we drink it. So whose fault is it that it got filled with antifreeze and not the coffee we asked for? Ours. We can ask for the Holy Spirit all day long, but unless we fill ourselves with the things of God, and not the things of this world, we won’t receive that sealing of the Holy Spirit, because He does not want to seal worldly things into our hearts. So let’s not fill it with worldly things, but rather the things of God and ask the Holy Spirit to seal those good things into our hearts and minds.

† **Galatians 5:16** *I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*

† **Ephesians 5:17-21** *Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.*

† **Colossians 1:9** *For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;*