

1 Thessalonians

I. Introduction

A. **1 Thessalonians 5:14-22** . . . We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. [15] See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people. [16] Rejoice always; [17] pray without ceasing; [18] in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. [19] Do not quench the Spirit; [20] do not despise prophetic utterances. [21] But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; [22] abstain from every form of evil.

B. Pray

II. Practical Christian living for everyday life and the return of Christ.

A. [19] Do not quench the Spirit;

1. To quench the Spirit is to extinguish His power and influence – as if you are putting out a fire. It can also mean to overwhelm Him in order to subdue, and therefore limit or remove His power to influence or effect change.

a. In other words, to quench the Spirit is to hinder, limit, halt, or remove His power and influence over you, in you, on you, and through you.

b. However, keep in mind that this exhortation is not only directed at individual Christians, it is also directed at groups of believers such as churches, the gathering of Christian for various other spiritual reasons, and Christian organizations.

2. Now you may be wondering, if the Holy Spirit is God, and if God is all-powerful, how can we humans – whether individually or as a group – quench His power or hinder His work or limit His influence?

3. And how is it that some Christians claim to feel His presence, experience His leading, hear His speaking, and perform mighty deeds by His empowerment while some Christians feel like God and the Holy Spirit are silent and sometimes even distant?

a. In fact, within certain denominations and specific theologies there are those who openly and regularly claim they are operating under the power of the Holy Spirit, and are being led

by the Holy Spirit, and are performing what are known as the “sign-gifts” by the Holy Spirit.

- b. And at the same time there are sincere Christians who believe in the existence and work of the Holy Spirit yet lack a clear idea of what He does. They say He dwells within them because that is what their theology tells them, but they don’t recognize or sense His presence in themselves.
4. Given these various beliefs and experiences by Christians with the Holy Spirit, why does God exhort us not to quench the Spirit? Before answering that question, we will look at what the Holy Spirit does with the hope that this will help us see the importance of not quenching His presence and work.

B. The work of the Holy Spirit from the OT through the NT

1. The first mention of the Holy Spirit’s work is found in **Genesis 6:3** . . . Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive (*exert His power and influence for the purpose of bringing about a certain result*) with man forever, because he also is flesh (*as opposed to being divine and living forever*); nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."
 - a. In **John 16:8-11**, Jesus spoke of one of the ways the Holy Spirit strives with mankind: “And when [the Holy Spirit] comes, [He] will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; [9] concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; [10] and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; [11] and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.”
2. The next portion I want to point out comes from **Joel 2:28-29**, where God says the day will come when He will pour out His Spirit on all believers.
 - a. Peter confirmed this prophecy’s fulfillment in **Acts 2:17-21**.
 - b. And though there is some question about when believers receive the Holy Spirit, the predominant view is that the Holy Spirit is given when a person repents and comes to faith in Jesus Christ – as was the case in **Acts 2:38**.
3. A common theme in both the Old and New Testament is the Spirit’s work of equipping, empowering, and assisting individual believers to do a particular work God calls them to do.
 - a. OT examples include craftsmen – like those who worked on the wilderness Temple, warriors – such as Gideon, the judges who

- assisted Moses, leaders – such as Moses, Joshua, Israelite kings, prophets, and priests.
- b. The Holy Spirit continues this work in the NT, and we specifically see it in His equipping, empowering, and assisting believers in the use of what we commonly call spiritual gifts.
 - (1) Paul affirms this work of the Holy Spirit in **1 Corinthians 12:4-7**, “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. [5] And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. [6] There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. [7] But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”
 - c. The Holy Spirit is also active in Christian efforts such as missions, evangelism, teaching, preaching, Bible Studies, hospitality, and caring for the needy.
 - (1) For example, Jesus acknowledged this particular work of the Holy Spirit in His own life in **Luke 4:18-19**, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, [19] to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.”
 - (2) Jesus told His disciples they would experience this same working of the Holy Spirit in **Acts 1:8**, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”
 - (3) One of the early NT manifestations of this work of the Holy Spirit is found in **Acts 4:31**, “And when [the disciples] had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.”
4. As in the OT, so in the NT, prophecy is the result of the work of the Holy Spirit – beginning with John the Baptist’s father, Zacharias, and continuing on to our day.
- a. The clearest affirmation of this truth is found in **2 Peter 1:20-21**, “But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, [21] for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”

- b. An example from Paul's ministry is found in **Acts 19:6**, "And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying."
- 5. We see an example of the Spirit's speaking, revealing, and leading when He told Simeon that he would not die until he saw Jesus. Then, on the day Joseph and Mary brought baby Jesus to the temple, the Spirit led Simeon to the temple in order to see Him (**Luke 2:25-32**).
 - a. It was the Holy Spirit who led Jesus into the wilderness for forty days where He was tempted by the devil (**Luke 4:1-2**).
 - b. And it was the Holy Spirit who directed Philip to go south on the road between Jerusalem and Gaza where he saw the Ethiopian eunuch. The Spirit then directed Philip to speak to the eunuch, after which the eunuch believed and was baptized (**Acts 8:26-29**). According to church history this is how the gospel came to North Africa.
- 6. The Holy Spirit is actively involved in salvation and sanctification. We first read this in **John 3:5**, where Jesus says to Nicodemus, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."
 - a. Paul put it this way in **Titus 3:5**, "He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit."
 - b. Paul specifically ties the Holy Spirit to sanctification in **2 Thessalonians 2:13**, "But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth."
 - c. And we see a very specific work of the Holy Spirit in relation to sanctification in **Romans 8:11-13**, "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. [12] So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— [13] for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live."

7. The Holy Spirit is our unseen teacher – who not only teaches us the truth, He also leads us into the truth. The gospel of John is especially clear about this.
 - a. **John 14:26**, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”
 - b. **John 16:13**, “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.”
 8. We learn from **Romans 8:26-27**, that the Holy Spirit intercedes and prays on our behalf when we want to pray but don’t know what to pray.
 9. It is the Holy Spirit who will give us the words to say when we are challenged or asked by the authorities to explain why we trust in God and live a Christian life (**Mark 13:11; Luke 12:11-12**).
 10. The Holy Spirit works miracles – such as when Stephen, while being stoned to death, gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at God’s right hand.
 11. The fruit or outward manifestations of the Spirit’s work in believers is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (**Galatians 5:22-23**).
 12. If we walk by or according to the teaching and leading of the Holy Spirit, we will not carry out or live according to our sinful desires (**Galatians 5:16-17**).
 13. The sword of the Spirit is the Word of God (**Ephesians 6:17**).
 14. And though there is more the Spirit does, I will end with **Romans 8:16**, “The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.”
- C. It is my hope that in seeing some of what the Holy Spirit does, you will see why it is so important that we do not quench Him – either in our own life or in the life of our church. But the question still remains: “How do we quench the Spirit?”
1. God gives us a fairly clear idea in **Isaiah 63:7-10**, “I shall make mention of the lovingkindnesses of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which He has granted them according to His compassion and according to the abundance of His lovingkindnesses. [8] For [the Lord] said, ‘Surely, they are My

people, sons who will not deal falsely.' So He became their Savior. [9] In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the angel of His presence saved them; in His love and in His mercy He redeemed them, and He lifted them and carried them all the days of old. [10] But they rebelled (**1 Cor. 10:1-12**) and grieved His Holy Spirit; Therefore He turned Himself to become their enemy, He fought against them."

2. Though the following list is not exhaustive, it might give you an idea of the kind of things that, when we do them, quench the Spirit.
 - a. Anger, pride, selfishness, unbelief, self-rule, worldly ambition, bitterness, hatred, irrational fear, fear resulting from unbelief, anxiety, grumbling and complaining, sexual immorality, gratifying sinful passions, envy, jealousy, greed, idolatry, covetousness, deceit, thinking on wrong things, lack of self-control, abusive speech, unforgiveness, returning evil for evil, revenge, willfully continuing to practice a particular sin or sins, loving the world and things that are in the world, and being unsubmitive to or resisting the Spirit's leading.
 - b. In **John 14:15, 21, & 23**, Jesus ties together loving Him with keeping His commandments, and keeping His commandments with being indwelt by God and Jesus, or as could also say, being indwelt by the Holy Spirit. This is about as clear and precise as anyone can be in relation to giving the Holy Spirit unlimited freedom to work in each one of us and our church.

III. Conclusion

- A. Regardless of what we do or don't do the Holy Spirit is present, indwelling, and active. And yet, the reality is, we will only experience His presence and activity to the degree that we yield to Him, listen to the Him, follow His leading, learn the truths He wants to teach us, respond to His convicting work, and make proper use of His empowerment for living a godly life.
- B. Therefore, let us not quench the Spirit, but let us live and walk by the Spirit.