

*Edgemont Bible Church*  
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*1 Thessalonians 5:19-22*

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Intro: We want to understand the ministry of the Spirit so that we are not relying on the pragmatic humanistic techniques and methodologies in dealing with people's needs or with the ministry of the church. Probably in reaction to the Charismatic movement as well as the natural tendency to depend on human capacity, Christians have de-emphasized the Holy Spirit working through the word of God. This has led to a lack of spiritual discernment as shown in six basic areas. A) a general weakening in doctrinal clarity and conviction, remember the last prophecy conference. B) Many in the church are not able to distinguish between true and false or right and wrong based on scriptural principles. Many choices are based on subjective feelings. C) What people think is in many ways more important than what God thinks, this shows itself in how little we evangelize. D) Messages from the pulpit have veered from expository to topical or subjective, psychological, or anecdotal stories. E) The lack of Church discipline that the Church might actually be different from the culture around it. F) The previous are characteristics of a spiritually immature Church that is more concerned with comfort or success than pleasing God. These are reasons why we are emphasizing the need of the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

XVI. The Sheep's Responsibility to the Great Shepherd – Part 2: Do not Quench the Spirit, Respond to God's Word, Be Discerning

A. Responsibility to Not Quench the Spirit

1. The Ministry of the Spirit in the believer's life

- a. Regenerates sinners – Jo 3:6,8; Eph 2:1,5; Tit 3:5;
- b. Gives them a new heart to effect a complete transformation of their spiritual affections - Tit 3:5
- c. Frees from slavery to habitual sin – Ro 8:3-9
- d. Baptizes them in the body of Christ – Ro 8:15-17
- e. Takes up permanent residence in them – Jo 14:17; Ro 8:9,11,14; 1 Co 3:16; 1 Jo 2:27; 4:13
- f. Spreads the love of God in their hearts – Ro 5:5; 2 Th 3:5;
- g. Gives the spiritual gifts for service – 1 Co 12:4-10,28
- h. Seals them for eternity – 2 Co 1:22; Eph 1:13-14; 4:30
- i. Sanctifies them – Ro 15:16; 1 Co 6:11; 2 Th 2:13; Heb 10:14-15; 1 Pet 1:2

2. The Quenching of the Spirit

- a. Quench – **sbennumi** - to extinguish (literally or figuratively):--go out, quench.
- b. in the context – to retard the power or energy of the Spirit in his ministry in their lives
  - i. He illuminates the Word – 1 Co 2:10-13; 2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pet 1:20-21,

He can be quenched by

- not studying the scripture misinterpreting it – 2 Tim 2:15
- not receiving it with humility and being a doer of it – Jas 1:21-25
- not hiding it in their hearts – Ps 119:11
- not searching it diligently – Jo 5:39; 8:31-32
- not letting it dwell in them richly – Col 3:16

ii. He brings believers into intimacy with God – Ro 8:15-16

He wants believers to

- have a joyful confidence that God loves them as His children
- know that they are secure in His salvation

He prompts them to pray for divine resources – Ps 116: 2; Mt 6:33; 1 Co 14:15; Phil 4:6; Heb 4:16

He can be quenched by

- not accepting God's purpose in life's difficulties – Ro 5:3; Jas 1:2-3,12
- not casting their cares upon Him – 1 Pet 5:7
- operating in the flesh rather than trusting God's strength – Pro 3:5-6
- not trusting God's supply – 2 Co 9:8; Phil 4:19
- not trusting God's love – Eph 2:4-5; 1 Jo 3:1; 4:19

iii. He glorifies Christ in the heart of believers and makes them like Him – 2 Co 3:18

Under the New Covenant,

- the Spirit removes the veil – 2 Co 3:4
- believers can look into the mirror of the Word and see the Glory of Christ

He can be quenched by

- neglecting the reading and studying the Scripture – Ps 119:130; Acts 17:11; 2 Tim 2:15

iv. He helps them know the will of God – Eph 5:17; Jas 1:5; 1 Jo 5:14-15

The Spirit ensures,

- they know and obey the scripturally revealed will of God – Ezek 36:27
- that believers understand God's will in areas not specifically revealed in the word of God – Ro 14

He can be quenched by

- self-willed stubbornness, pride indifference, and insensitivity regarding God's will – Pro 26:12; Dan 5:20; Lk 18:11-12; Ro 12:3; Rev 2:4;; 3:16-17

v. He grants believers inner strength to stay on the path of progressive sanctification – Eph 3:16

In no way can believers walk obediently to Christ without the power of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God – Gal 5:16,

### Through the Spirit's

- sealing, they can know the security of their salvation – Eph 1:13-14
- strength, they can overcome sin and the flesh – Ro 8:5,13; Gal 3:3; 6:8
- power, they can witness effectively – Acts 1:8
- enabling and filling, they can worship from the heart and treat others in a way that honors God

### He can be quenched by

- pride
- overconfidence in human ability

## B. Responsibility to Respond to God's Word – vs 20

### 1. Do not despise

- a. **exoutheneo** - contemptible, despise, least esteemed, set at naught.
- b. the opposite being to give the proper respect because of its character
  - i. It is authoritative – Isa 1:2
  - ii. It is completely infallible – Ps 19:7
  - iii. It is inerrant – Pro 30:5-6
  - iv. It is sufficient for all spiritual needs – Ps 19:7-11
  - v. It doesn't return void – Isa 55:11
  - vi. It is determinative to one's eternal destiny – Jo 5:24
- c. It is to be respected because of its benefits
  - i. it is the source of truth – Jo 17:17
  - ii. it is the source of all happiness – Pro 8:34
  - iii. it is the source of victory over sin – Ps 119:9,11
  - iv. it is the source of spiritual growth – 2 Tim 3:16-17
  - v. it is the source of reliable guidance – Ps 19:8
  - vi. it is the source of hope – Ps 119:116

### 2. prophecies

- a. **propheteia** - prediction (scriptural or other):--prophecy, prophesying
- b. Can refer to the spoken or written word
- c. Thus it is the Spirit endowed gift to proclaim God's word – Ro 12:6
  - i. sometimes refers to new revelation – Lk 2:29-32; which was limited to the apostolic time period - 1 Co 12:10
  - ii. other times refers to reiterated revelation already recorded – Lk 3:5-6 – which is permanent as preachers are called to preach the word – 2 Tim 4:2
  - iii. Prophetic utterances must perfectly agree with "the faith"
  - iv. no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,

## C. Responsibility to be Discerning – vs 21-22

- 1. Spiritual discernment is the ability to distinguish divine truth from error and half truth

- a. Test - **dokimazo** - to test, to approve, allow, discern, examine, try.
- b. all things – no exceptions

## 2, The two choices

- a. hold fast what is good.
  - i. **katecho** -to hold down (fast), have, hold (fast), keep (in memory), let, possess, retain, seize on, stay, take, withhold.
  - ii. good – that which is inherently genuine, true, noble, and right
- b. Abstain from every form of evil.
  - i. **apechomai** - to hold oneself off, refrain:--abstain.
  - ii. evil – something that is actively harmful or malignant