

Quenching the Spirit of the Lord – I Thessalonians 5:19

Today we are going to consider the command in vs 19 “do not quench the spirit.”

- For those of you who are familiar with Scripture, you know that the Bible talks a lot about the work of the Spirit – it is really important!
- Both in the Old and New Testaments.....one of the most central teaching in the Bible (not enough focus).

There is a lot of confusion about the work of the Spirit today – even amongst Christians.

- Power to do supernatural things, like heal the sick or cast out evil Spirits.
- They point to power that the disciples had in the NT and they say – that is what every believer should experience. Perhaps you’ve seen this kind of teaching (Benny Hinn, Todd White)
- EG/ Honduras – “la iglesia apagada” (we are NOT)

In his ministry, Jesus told the church that physically he would be with them for a short time – that he would die, that he would send a helper for them – the HS.

- You perhaps remember in the history of the church, when the Spirit came in a special way. In Acts 2 it explains that he came upon the church – that they miraculously could speak in different languages. That tongues of fire were on top of their heads. They were filled with great joy, great zeal, great love for the Lord. The age of the Spirit had begun! Personally I always wondered what it must have been like to be there.

Ever since that day – when God the Father poured out his Spirit on the church we have been living in the AGE of the SPIRIT. Every Christian has the Spirit. Leading you. Guiding you. Helping you to live your life for the Lord. Without the Spirit’s work in your life – IMPOSSIBLE!

HERE in our passage it says that we are not to QUENCH THE SPIRIT. Quenching is that of putting out the fire that the Spirit has begun in you. It’s like throwing a pail of water on a fire. Of rejecting HIS work in your life.

- Paul says don’t do it – don’t go there.
- Understand what a great blessing it is to have him in your life.

Today we are going to look at the work of the spirit, and we are going to see → **Four specific areas that the Spirit works in the Christian’s life & how not to quench that work in your life.**

What we find in the NT is that the HS is involved intimately in the life of the Christian in many ways:

1) The Holy Spirit convicts the Christian of sin.

- Before we become a Christian – spiritual things don’t make sense to us do they? Seem very strange. Maybe we reject them outright.
 - 1 Cor. 2:14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God
- When God begins to work in your life he begins to work in your heart he begins to make you think. Perhaps about life after death.
 - EG/ Maybe through a life changing event (having a child) or you go through a tough time.
- When he begins to work in you....one of the first things he does is to make you think of how you are living before him - convict you of sin

- John 16:7 "(HS) will convict the world of sin.
- That is his work - making you see your sinfulness and your need for a saviour.
- *What is it Jesus said to be Nikodemus? YOUR MUST BE BORN AGAIN.*
- *"He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior"*

This conviction of sin doesn't stop there. On-going....every Christian has the spirit working in Him on a daily basis

- Making our conscience sensitive to HIS leading. Helping to recognize his on sin and turning from it.
 - So how do we not quench the Spirit? By not rejecting us when he convicts us of sin.
 - When we fall into sin: 1) Not to make excuse for it 2) not to harden in it 3) But to listen to the voice of the HS & repent (daily)
- 2) **Made a part of the church I Cor. 12: 13** ¹³ *For we were all baptized by^{ed} one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.*
- The NT church was an interesting place. People from many walks of life were brought together into one community.
 - Young and old. Men and woman. Slaves and free. The poor and the rich. So different but all brought together! WOW!
(EG/ for those of you who have experienced other cultural contexts, you know)
--a place where what is humanely impossible becomes a reality.

The work of the Spirit is to make us a part of the church –How specifically?

- 1) Not on your own – you need others
- 2) Love for others
- 3) The importance of going to church on Sundays - Church is important, a priority.
 - a. To hear the word, but to enjoy the fellowship of the saints. Something that we are to focus on as a church.
 - b. Especially with COVID we have seen how essential it is.

3) **The Holy Spirit teaches the Christian.**

- John 14: 26 The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.
- It is interesting how many times we see → WORD & Spirit
 - EG/ Man I knew who told me – follow the Spirit, not the Word
 - Remember: the Spirit doesn't work in opposition to his word – EVER!!!
 - EG → "God told me to do it"

As we open God's Word in our families and individually → PRAY – God show me.....teach me....open my mind & heart

- take the time to read God's word – So essential...
- so easy to thoughtlessly go through the motion.
- meaningfully, passionately....

To Quench the work of the Spirit.....

- to willfully reject what he clearly teaches in His Word.
 - stubbornly go our own way (maybe even claiming it is God's will)
 - we hear of so many today who are walking away from the faith.
- EG/ Josh Harris

4) **Walking in the Spirit**

- o Galatians 5:17: *So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh.*
- o Every Christian is called to live this life. – not easy. We need to understand it is impossible on our own. It is only through the indwelling work of the Spirit that we are enabled.
- o Galatians identifies the fruits of the Spirit as love joy peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, self-control.
 - o This is where the Holy Spirit helps us

John 14: 16 *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever*

How do we quench the work of the Spirit? By going our own way.

- o By following our own hearts or the messages we hear so often.
- o Today we are bombarded. We live in a culture that does not believe what we do. We are seeing this especially in the last couple of years.
- o These are not differences of opinion → It is spiritual warfare (same as in New Testament times)
- o We need to pray for 1) strength 2) wisdom

Young people – I especially want to encourage you to stand. There is a lot of pressure on you. You are facing many things that my generation has not had to face.

- Stand strong! Fight the good fight of faith.
- Remember – God's ways are good ways. There is no better place to be.

For all of us. This life in the Spirit is what God calls us to. As we close let me ask you this:

Do you see the Spirit working in your life?

- 1) Convicting you of sin? How are you responding?
- 2) Giving you a love for the church? Are you active in the church, plugging in?
- 3) Do you see the Spirit teaching you as you read the word? Is it real, is it alive?
- 4) From day to day, are you walking in Spirit?

→I pray that this is what you have experienced. That truly is the SPIRIT's work!

→Maybe there is someone here today that doesn't see the Spirit working. Call out to the Lord. Ask the Lord to forgive you for your sins. Ask that he would work in your heart and life.