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Quench Not the Spirit

I Thessalonians 5:19

In our study of the ministry of the Holy Spirit we understand that every believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation.

We also find that there are several direct commands from the Scripture concerning the Spirit of God and believers.

In this study we want to look at one of them.

Paul closes his first epistle to the Thessalonians with a series of exhortations, starting in v12. These were things these were things that the people needed to hear.

One of those closing exhortations is "Quench not the Spirit".

What was Paul talking about?

Some would use this verse to try to prove that one can lose their salvation and that the Spirit of God can be put out of their lives.

We know that this is a misinterpretation as we compare scripture with scripture.

Paul wrote to the Ephesian believers (4:30) admonishing them to be careful not to grieve the Holy Spirit who has sealed them until the day of redemption.

We will discuss that more at a later date.

The dictionary gives four basic definitions of the word "quench".

It means to put out or extinguish; to suppress or squelch; to slake or satisfy one's thirst; and to cool by thrusting in water or some other liquid.

Within the context of this verse we understand it to mean suppressing or squelching the influence of the Holy Spirit of God in the life of a believer.

When the word "quench" is used in Scripture, it is speaking of suppressing fire.

- When believers put on the shield of faith, as part of their armor of God (Ephesians 6:16), they are extinguishing the power of the fiery darts from Satan.
- Christ described hell as a place where the fire would not be "quenched" (Mark 9:44, 46, 48).
- Likewise, the Holy Spirit is a fire dwelling in each believer. He wants to express Himself in our actions and attitudes. When believers do not allow the Spirit to be seen in our actions, when we do what we know is wrong, we suppress or quench the Spirit, then we do not allow the Spirit to reveal Himself the way that He wants to.

I. Some Observations:

A. The Spirit of God can be "quenched".

This action is only attributed to the believer.

This isn't a sin that the lost man commits.

The Holy Spirit cannot be quenched from without, only from within.

B. What is it that the believer can do to quench the Spirit of God in his life?

It is **not** done by committing sin...for it is the Spirit of God who convicts us of our sin.

To understand how believers quench the Spirit in their life we have to remind ourselves of how the Spirit ministers to us individually.

John 16:13

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

He is here to teach us, guide us, direct us, rebuke us, and to show us the way, to help us to understand the Scripture, and to give us joy, peace and love.

His ministry is to transform our lives and our character.

C. We quench the Spirit's influence in our lives when we resist His ministry to us.
When we fail to yield ourselves to God.

Romans 6:13

“Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but **yield yourselves unto God**, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God.”

We quench the Spirit when we say "NO" to God.

Nothing could be more misdirected than a self-directed life.

When God created us He purposely left out the ability for us to direct ourselves.

a. "Man's goings are of the Lord; how can a man then understand his own way?" Pr. 20:24

b. "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." Jer. 10:23

c. God sent the Holy Spirit into our lives that He might lead and direct us.

Quenching the Spirit is the sin of listening to God, considering what He says, then obeying some and discarding the rest.

This is the screening of what the Holy Spirit says. (Partial obedience)

We taught our children from the time that they were young that partial obedience is disobedience.

The Holy Spirit wants to guide your life.

He tells you to trust Him and follow Him – walk by faith and not by sight.

But that goes against our nature.

We want to be in control.

Ex.

A person gets saved.

They are excited – new life.

Holy Spirit has plans for their life.

They start obeying and begin growing quickly.

Then they start thinking, “Maybe I should slow down a bit.”

“Maybe just think it over.”

At that point he is beginning to quench the Spirit.

- He reads the Book the Holy Spirit wrote and hears what He says.
- The he decides what sounds reasonable and follows that and leaves the rest.

- He obeys in some areas and disobeys in others (screening)
- He listens to the preacher preach and screens what he says.

II. Jesus Christ is our Example

Heb 10:5-7

A. He was willing to GO where His Father chose.

1. The Creator was willing to come to this earth.
2. He left His glorified position in heaven to come and be rejected on earth.
3. He came into this world with a mission and message of grace.
4. Are we willing to go wherever the Lord might choose to lead?
5. If not, we quench the Spirit in our lives.

B. He was willing to BE whatever His Father chose.

1. Not only was He willing to lay aside the garments of glory.
2. He was willing to be incarnate...become flesh...the Creator taking on the form of the creation.
3. He "made Himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:" Ph. 2:7
4. Are we willing to be what God wants us to be?
5. If not, we quench the Spirit of God in our lives.

C. He was willing to DO whatever His Father chose.

1. He became obedient unto death.
2. He was willing to give His life on Calvary that you and I might live eternally.
3. He suffered the most cruel of deaths, not because He deserved to die, but because He chose to take our place that we might go free!
4. Are we willing to be obedient to do what God wants us to do with our lives?
5. If not, we quench the Spirit of God.

III. What does it mean to be yielded to God?

A. It means being willing to:

1. Go anywhere the Father might choose to lead.
2. Be anything that the Father might choose for us to be.
3. Do whatever the Father might choose for us to do.

B. It means being in God's will.

1. This is not a question of being willing to obey in one particular thing.
2. It is a question of being willing to do anything – when, where, and how it may seem best to God.
3. The believer in the flesh says, "If God wants me to do something, let Him tell me and I will decide whether or not I will do it."
4. The yielded believer says, "I am willing to be made willing to do His will."
Whatever it takes!

Quench not the Spirit.

Don't say no to God.

Don't seek solutions apart from His leading or treat Him with indifference.

We must be willing to be led. Be willing to go, to be, and to do whatever God might choose