

In This World (Pt.6)

How in This World can I "Quench the Holy Spirit?"

(1 Thessalonians 5:19)

Introduction: In scripture the Holy Spirit is often referred to as fire. (Isa. 4:4; Mt.3:11; Acts 2:3-4) It is when the Holy Spirit is at work in the life of the believer that he senses a warmth of love in his heart, a light for his mind and the energy or power to put away sin and do the will of God in this world. It is this effective work of the Holy Spirit that Paul warns against hindering. Because "all spiritual quitters, are first, Spirit quenchers." So, how do we keep the Holy Spirit's fire burning in us?

I. **What keeps the Holy Spirit's fire burning is understanding His**

presence: We have to understand what the presence of the Holy Spirit means so that we...

(Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 6:19)

A. **Do not neglect His presence** – (Acts 19:1-2)

1. And when you as a believer finally do understand His presence, your life will never be the same! (John 14:16; 16:7,8,13)
2. It is this effective work of the Holy Spirit that Paul warns against hindering. In fact, the NIV translates this command, "Do not put out the Spirit's fire."
3. The "fire of the Holy Spirit" is suppressed when His convicting power, righteousness and judgments are ignored.

B. **Do not reject His prompting** –

1. We know the Holy Spirit will never leave us because the Lord Jesus Himself promised Him to us as a seal of redemption and a guiding force.
2. However, we can choose not to listen to the Spirit's voice, which is called "quenching the Spirit."
 - a. When we quench the Holy Spirit, it is like dousing the fire of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. When we as believers quench the Holy Spirit's fire, we put ourselves in the most dangerous position of delusion. (because our mind becomes darkened, and our hearts hardened) It will be a short route to destruction as a result.

II. **What keeps the Holy Spirit's fire burning is understanding**

His purpose: The Holy Spirit takes us from where we are, as we are, and He does a work in us to make us look like Christ! But for Him to do this...

A. **We must be diligent in our listening** –

1. **The Holy Spirit's purpose in the world** – In Jn 16:7-8
 - a. The Holy Spirit works through the believer to bear witness of the truth regarding Jesus Christ –
 - b. The truth is that the Holy Spirit's purpose is to work in this world through believers to whom He is sent.

- c. If we as believers would come to understand *the world completely depends on us to see the Spirit's gracious work*, wouldn't we be more careful to see to it that we don't obstruct their view?

And we cannot do that alone, *That is the purpose of the Holy Spirit in us.*

2. **The Holy Spirit's work in the believer** –

- a. He does a renewing work – (Titus 3:5; Rom 8:13)
- b. He does a freeing work - (John 16:7; 8:32)
- c. He does an empowering work - (Eph 3:16)
- d. He does a leading work – (Rom 8:14-16)

When we understand the Holy Spirit's purpose in us, then we understand that the Holy Spirit is the fire in us.

B. **We must be obedient in our living** – The Christian life cannot be lived out successfully in this world without the work of the Spirit being performed in us – the Holy Spirit is who and how the life of Christ is brought out in us...

1. Our goal is not to quench the Spirit...
2. We are to be ... renewed in the spirit ... (Eph 4:23) "Lit. Being made new in the Spirit..." Which is the purpose of the Holy Spirit in us...

III. **What keeps the Holy Spirit's fire burning is understanding his**

power: Many today seem to be giving up on their Christian faith. They are calling it quits – Deconstructing their faith. *These are perfect examples of believers who don't understand the power of the Holy Spirit!*

A. **We are not victims** – And we are not powerless...

1. Interestingly enough the word "Grieve" in the Greek means the same thing as it does in the English. "to cause sorrow or sadness."
 2. The Holy Spirit is a person with emotions, and He can be hurt.
 - a. What hurts the Holy Spirit is any and all sin in the believer's life. (Js. 4:7-10)
 - b. So, when the Christian gives in to sin it is because they did not choose to take the way out that was provided which is to yield control to the Spirit– the Holy Spirit is our source of power to resist the flesh and walk away from sin! (Gal. 5:16)
 - c. We can do this because (2 Tim. 1:7) *So that we are not victims, but rather...*

B. **We are victors** – (1 Jn 4:4; 1 Jn 5:4)

1. So, if the Holy Spirit's fire is being doused by sin in my life, I need to do something to stir the fire back up.
 - a. He is still there ready to re-ignite our hearts again. But He won't force Himself on us –
 - b. Dousing the Holy Spirit's fire can happen in any believer's heart when the Holy Spirit is stifled by allowing thoughts or actions to go on which are contrary to the character & practices of God.
2. The Holy Spirit is here to teach us, guide us, direct us, rebuke us, and to show us the way to unfold the Scripture to give us joy, peace and love. His ministry is to transform our lives, our character, and our experience.
3. It is no mistake that Jesus finished each of His letters to the seven churches in the Revelation, "he who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says..."