

1 Thessalonians 5:19-23

"How are you experiencing the Holy Spirit?" Unlike the common understanding of 'Jesus' across various Protestant denominations, the understanding of the 'Holy Spirit' can differ even within the same church, leading to cautious discussions. There is indeed a tendency toward extreme views on understanding and applying the Holy Spirit. Just as it's dangerous for charismatics to overemphasize the power of the Holy Spirit, it's equally dangerous for believers to live their faith lives without much awareness of the gifts and works of the Holy Spirit. Driving people towards any extreme is a strategy of Satan. Today's message teaches us about the dangers of being cynical or indifferent towards the Holy Spirit.

What does "Do not quench the Spirit" mean? If we translate this literally without interpretation, it means "do not extinguish the Holy Spirit." Although the word 'fire' is not present in the text, the term 'quench' is used in the Bible to refer to extinguishing fire (Matthew 25:8). The Holy Spirit is indeed depicted as fire in the Bible (Acts 2:1-4). What we must note is that Apostle Paul is instructing the Thessalonian church to "stop extinguishing the fire of the Holy Spirit." Just as the fire of the Holy Spirit was extinguished in the early church, God diagnoses that even now, the fire of the Holy Spirit in each believer and in the church community is being extinguished. How can we ensure that the Holy Spirit within us does not die out but rather burns more brightly?

First, do not suppress the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the one who gives gifts. If we apply the text directly, it means that we should not prevent the gifts of the Holy Spirit from operating within the church community. The Holy Spirit works through the gifts given to the church. A church without the work of the Holy Spirit is not a church. God has given various gifts of the Holy Spirit to the members of the church (1 Corinthians 12:4-11). All the gifts used in service out of love for the church prevent the fire of the Holy Spirit from dying out and help it to burn more brightly. If we discourage or test other members, preventing them from using their gifts, that is equivalent to quenching the Holy Spirit.

This also applies to the gifts of individual believers. You might say that you are unsure whether you have a gift of the Holy Spirit or even whether the Holy Spirit is truly within you. But more important than feelings is the truth. The Holy Spirit, who enables you to confess Christ as Lord, is within you, and He has given you the gifts of the Holy Spirit—hold onto this truth. Let the gifts of the Holy Spirit rise again within you (2 Timothy 1:6) and be used to build God's kingdom.

Second, do not mute the voice of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the Word. The primary reference in today's text is to the gift of prophecy among the gifts of the Holy Spirit. According to the biblical definition of prophecy (1 Corinthians 14:3), this can be applied to preaching in the modern church. Although the proclaimed word is the same, every believer may discern and apply it differently after hearing it. The parable of the sower and the four soils (Luke 8:11-15) is a metaphor for how the word can be extinguished after hearing it. If we do not hold onto the word and bear fruit with patience, the word evaporates and is extinguished. Although we hear the word, we often mute the voice of the Holy Spirit. To ensure that the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the Word, is not quenched, think with the Word and pray with the Word. This will lead to spiritual thoughts and spiritual prayers.

Third, do not disregard the holiness of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the Holy Spirit. Believers can apply the command to "not quench the Spirit" by living holy lives. Apostle Paul says that the bodies of believers are the "temple of the Holy Spirit" (1 Corinthians 6:19) and that living an unclean life is tantamount to disregarding the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 4:8). An immoral and undisciplined life extinguishes the fire of the Holy Spirit. We must realize that it is not Satan but ourselves who extinguish the fire of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:17).

We cannot create the fire of the Holy Spirit ourselves. However, whether the Holy Spirit given by God is quenched or reignited is influenced by our thoughts and actions. I pray that you, under the sovereignty of the Holy Spirit, who sanctifies us completely, may progress in sanctification.

**Bible
Memorization**

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt, but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil.” (1 Thessalonians 5:19-22)

**Bible
Reading**

8/12(Mon)	8/13(Tue)	8/14(Wed)	8/15(Thur)	8/16(Fri)	8/17(Sat)	8/18(Sun)
Isaiah 50-53	Isaiah 54-57	Isaiah 58-61	Isaiah 62-65	Isaiah 66, Jeremiah 1-2	Jeremiah 3-4	Jeremiah 5-7

QT

Quiet Time Passage

8/12(Mon)	8/13(Tue)	8/14(Wed)	8/15(Thur)	8/16(Fri)	8/17(Sat)	8/18(Sun)
2 Kings 22:12-20	2 Kings 23:1-9	2 Kings 23:10-20	2 Kings 23:21-30	2 Kings 23:31-24:7	2 Kings 24:8-20	2 Kings 25:1-17

**Sharing
Questions**

1. Share something new you realized or were blessed with through today's message.
2. How do you serve in the church? (Or have you served in the past?) Share any grace you have received through your spiritual gifts.
3. How do you usually digest the sermon after hearing it? How can you better remember and live according to the Holy Spirit's voice that you hear through worship and devotional life? Please share specific resolutions.
4. Reflect on and pray about any fleshly desires (Galatians 5:17-21) that you need to abandon in your life.