

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for April 5-6, 1997

"Do Not Quench the Spirit"

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I Thessalonians 5:19-20

Part II

The word "quench" means to "extinguish" or to "stifle".

The Spirit is often times pictured as a fire (Acts 2:3)

It may very well be that though the Spirit of God is indwelling us (Romans 8:9) and desires to manifest Himself, it may be that through our attitudes and actions that we put out his "flame".

The New Testament also speaks of "grieving the Spirit" (Ephesians 4:30). Quenching is what we do to the Spirit and grieving is the personal anguish that the Spirit experiences when He is quenched.

How does the Spirit of God want to manifest Himself in our lives? He wants to manifest Himself through the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:19-23).

A simpler way to answer the question, "How does the Spirit of Christ want to manifest Himself?" would be "He wants to manifest Himself in holiness."

There are a number of things that the Spirit is seeking to do in order to take us along that path.

He illuminates the word (2 Peter 1:20-21)

He leads us into willing obedience (Ezekiel 36:27)

He seeks to provide strength (Zechariah 4:6; Ephesians 4:14-16)

He causes us to feel a closeness with God (Romans 8:14-16)

He keeps us fixed on the goal (Philippians 3:10-14; John 15:26)

Any movement within the church that distracts us from honestly considering and responding to the truth of the Word of God quenches the spirit.

I believe that the charismatic movement is guilty.

How have they done this? By shifting the emphasis from the scriptures being the test of experience to experience being the test of scriptures.

Where have they gone wrong? They have gone wrong at the core of their teachings.

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The second blessing is an example of wrong teaching. Those who believe this doctrine believe that it is a special endowment of supernatural power which not all Christians experience but should. The most common manifestation of power is "speaking in tongues".

What is the truth? When we receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior we will at that moment be baptized into the body of Christ by the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13). But not only are we joined to Jesus but He is joined to us. For the verse goes on to say, "and we were all made to drink of one spirit".

The issue is not how much of Him do we have but how much of us does He have. Or in other words who has control of our lives (Ephesians 5:18).

And the more of us that He has will not necessarily lead to greater manifestations of supernatural power but rather greater expressions of holiness (Galatians 5:22-23).

The continuing presence of the gift of prophecy is another example of wrong teaching.

Are there prophets that are still speaking today? We do not believe that the Bible teaches this (1 Corinthians 13:8; Ephesians 2:20; Jude 3).