

# Bible Studies

## Quenching the Spirit

The term 'quenching the Spirit' comes from the KJV, to quench simply means to stifle, suppress or extinguish, the NIV translates this;

*Do not put out the Spirit's fire; 1 Thessalonians 5:19*

Clearly this is a serious warning.



### Quenching the Spirit's fire

**What does it mean to quench the Spirit?**

**Why do you think this is a bad thing?**

**What actions of ours are likely to quench the Spirit?**

**What is the difference between quenching the Spirit and grieving the Spirit?**

Fire is often associated with the Holy Spirit, here it means the Holy Spirit's activity and work among the believers. To *quench the Spirit*, means to suppress or stop the Spirit's work. This could be His work in us as individuals, or as it seems to have been in Thessalonica, in the church as a whole. There are several ways that we may quench the Spirit.



**Read 1 Thessalonians 4v16-24**



### Prophecy with contempt

*Do not treat prophecies with contempt. 1 Thessalonians 5:20*

Perhaps because there had already been false prophecies, 2 Thes 2v2, this caused people to discount all prophecy. Paul rated prophecy very highly, 1 Cor 14v1. It is necessary for building up the church, it strengthens, encourages and comforts. It allows God to speak directly into our services. To treat it with contempt is to lose the cutting edge of our faith.



**Read Nehemiah 9v30**

**What was the result of ignoring the Spirit's voice?**

**How can you treat prophecy with contempt?**

<i>Not pay attention</i>	<i>Ignore it</i>
<i>Reject it out of hand</i>	<i>Dismiss it as of human origin.</i>
<i>Treating it lightly</i>	<i>Not asking if it is relevant to you</i>
<i>Not obeying it.</i>	<i>Forgetting it.</i>

**What are the dangers of treating prophecy with contempt?**

**Why is prophecy so important to us?**

Does this mean that the moment someone claims a word to have been from God, we all accept it without question for fear of quenching the Spirit? No, Paul continues, *Test everything. Hold on to the good.* 1 Thessalonians 5:21. Prophecy must be tested, 1 Corinthians 14v29. Not all fire is the Holy Spirit, Leviticus 10v1. Not to test prophecy is to quench the Spirit, in its self.

**Do you think this applies to other gifts of the Spirit?**

Unbelief is a great way to quench the Spirit.

**Is it possible to quench the Spirit without even realising it?**

**What tell tail signs might there be?**

We need to encourage one another to use the Spiritual gifts we have received.

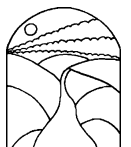


### Feeding the Fire

A good way to put a fire out, is not to feed it. Maybe this is why Jesus told the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, Matthew 25. Psalm 18:28. We are told to be continually filled with the Spirit.

**Is, not feeding the fire, the same as quenching the fire?**

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### **Do you think Timothy may have been guilty of this?**

1 Timothy 4v14, 2 Timothy 1v6

If God has given us a spiritual gift, whether it is tongues, prophecy, faith or encouragement, and we fail to continue to use that gift, then we are guilty of quenching the Spirit. The most common area where we see this, is with the gift tongues.

#### **How do we feed the fire?**



#### **Read Galatians 5v16-18**

#### **What response should we have to the Spirit?**

*Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. Romans 8v5*



#### **Resisting the Spirit**

If the Holy Spirit gives you a word and you fail to give it, or an instruction and you fail to obey it, then you are quenching the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is patient with us, while we are learning to hear and obey His voice, He give us latitude. But we must be careful to obey, what the Holy Spirit has said maybe of great importance to some one else present.

If an appeal is given and you know you should go forward but refuse, you are in danger of quenching the Spirit. If God is working on an area of your life and you won't cooperate, you are in danger of quenching the Spirit.

The Bible warns of those who resist the Spirit Acts 7v51, Hebrews 3, it is important that we remain sensitive to the moving of the Spirit in our lives

#### **Does the Holy Spirit have the right to tell us what to do?**

#### **Why might we be slow or reluctant to obey the Spirit?**

#### **What should we do if there is an area in our lives where we have resisted the Spirit?**



#### **Forbidding Tongues**

*Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. 1 Cor 14:39*

Paul warned against forbidding people to speak in tongues, in the same chapter he also warns about over emphasising the use of tongues. It appears that the Corinthian Church over used tongues in their services to their own detriment, we must find the right balance.



#### **Read 1 Corinthians 14v2-4,9&16.**

#### **Why does Paul warn against over use of tongues?**

#### **Why do some people want to forbid tongues?**



#### **Impurity**

Another good way to put out a fire is to pour water on it or cover it with dirt. Our sin and worldliness does just this. Hosea 7v1. I wonder how often we prevent ourselves from being used by the Spirit because of our impurity.



#### **Read 2 Timothy 2v20-21**

#### **How does this apply to the Holy Spirit in our lives?**

The danger in all this is that if we continue to quench the Spirit we will put His fire out in our lives. Paul makes a very interesting comment in 1 Corinthians 14:12, he says. *try to excel in gifts that build up the church.* While it is God who distributes His gifts as He sees fit, the word *try*, suggest that we have a part to play in receiving them.

#### **We quench the Spirit**

When our rules about how church is done stop Him for moving.

When we rely only on ourselves.

When we don't stop to listen to His direction.

#### **How can we stir up or fan the Spirits flames?**

