

Fan The Flame

[1 Thes.5:19-20]

Fan the flame

Negative sense: cause anger or other bad feelings to increase

- “He fanned the flames of political hatred”

Positive sense: kindle, stir up. 1 Thes.5

I. Do not Quench the Spirit, 19

Holy Spirit: all power / wisdom / love

- Yet we can quench His influence
 - Ro.12:11, fervent in spirit, enthusiastic, excited, on fire. Maintain spiritual glow.
 - God's light made Moses' face shine (Ex.34:29). 2 Co.3:7-9
 - Ac.2:3, there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them [context: emphasis on their words]
 - Jn.17:17, sanctify them by Your truth; Your word is truth

Holy Spirit: all power / wisdom / love

Quench

- To cause an action, state, or faculty to cease to function or exist, quench, put out – BDAG
- Literal: put out fire
 - Mt.12:20, *a bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench*
 - Mt.25:8, the foolish said to the wise, Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out
 - Hb.11:34 ...quenched the violence of fire.
(Dan.3)

Holy Spirit: all power / wisdom / love

Quench

- Figurative: stifle, suppress
 - Ac.2:13, others mocking said, They are full of new wine
 - Ep.6:16, above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one

How would one quench Holy Spirit?

- Free-will can say no to God
 - Attack, ignore, refuse truth
 - Ezk.3:7, But the house of Israel will not listen to you, because they will not listen to Me; for all the house of Israel are impudent and hard-hearted.
 - They did not listen, 33:30...
 - They built on sand, Mt.7:26-27
 - Believe / admit truth but do not obey / insist on “my way”

Context: spiritual gifts (20)

- Present imperative: either . . .
 1. Stop prohibiting, or . . .
 2. Do not prohibit exercise of prophetic gifts (1 Co.14:3, he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men)
- Prophet who withholds truth, sins.
2 Tim.1:6, Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you thru the laying on of my hands

Church that neglects NT message, dies

- Our response to word = response to Holy Spirit. Jn.16:13; 17:17; Ac.2:3, 41
- NT canon was incomplete; only way to grow in truth and avoid error: hear prophets
- Ep.3:4, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ
5 . . . it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets

Satan's fire extinguishers

- **Distraction.** 2 Th.3:6-11. Neglect kills
- **Dishonesty.** 2 Th.3:6, 14
 - Ep.4:30, **grieve** Holy Spirit [Mt.26:24]
 - Gn.6:6, grieved
 - Ac.7:51, **resist...** (6:10 . . . 7:39)
 - Neh.9:30, would not listen
 - 1 Th.5:19, **quench...** Jer.20:9. Am.2:12
 - Hb.10:29, **insult...**
- **Dissipation.** 1 Th.4:1-8. Mt.24:12

Spiritual bellows fan the flames

- 2 Tim.1:6, stir up: cause to begin again, rekindle.
 - Word picture: remains of a fire, embers. How to make it burn again?
 - **Desperation.** Gn.25:27
 - **Dejection.** Lk.15
 - **Dedication.** 1 Th.1:9-10

I. Do not Quench the Spirit, 19

II. Do not Despise
Prophecies, 20

Prophecy: to proclaim inspired revelation

Utterance inspired by God edifies

- Not limited to foretelling. Ac.11:28
 - Includes forthtelling.
- Gift of Holy Spirit, a revelation. Ep.2:20
- Valuable for congregation. 1 Co.14:1,
Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy ... 3, But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men
...and unbelievers, 1 Co.14:24-25

Despise: have no use for something

As being beneath one's consideration, *reject disdainfully. Set at naught.*

- “Aught” is anything (Mt.5:23, KJV)
- “Naught” is nothing (zero):
 - Lk.18:9, Pharisee despised tax-collector

Did some in Thessalonica
despise prophecies?

- Ac.4:11, stone was rejected...
- 1 Th.5:20, Scripture

Despise: have no use for something

Scripture is set at nought: some do not...

1. Require it (“Who needs it?”)
2. Respect it
3. Respond to it (“I’m not into Bible study”)
4. Rely on it (irreligion at all time high)
5. Rejoice in it (no deep gratitude...)
6. Remain in it (want as little as possible of it)

History repeats: some ...

1. ... refuse to listen ...
2. ... hear but don't obey
3. ... hear but partially obey
4. ... distort / misrepresent the truth
5. ... argue against the truth
6. ... slander the speaker

Acts 7, Stephen and the Jews

1 Cor.14:1, that you may prophesy...

- Corinthians underrated prophecy to highlight tongues
- There may be a similar tendency in Thessalonians. 2 Co.4:3
- When NT canon was completed, prophecy passed away
 - Message of the prophet was direct revelation of mind of God
 - Message of the teacher is gleaned from completed revelation of Scripture
 - Ep.3:3-4; Rv.2:11