

QUENCHING THE HOLY SPIRIT

Request: “I am not clear on exactly what a believer would do to quench the Holy Spirit. Would you do a study on it?”

Quenching the Holy Spirit was part of Paul’s final 15 charges of “*Dos and Don’ts*” to the church of Thessalonians (1Thess.1:1, 5:13b-22).

Paul’s list of “*Dos and Don’ts*” consisted of 15 present imperatives (commands).

If you count the 15 imperatives beginning with “*live in peace*” (13b) and ending with “*abstain*” (22), you will find that “quench Holy Spirit” is number 11 (1Thess.5:19).

When you examine the 15 imperatives (commands), you will notice that there are only four negative commands (1Thess.5:13b-22).

- Vs.15 Don’t repay evil for evil.
- Vs.19 Don’t quench the Holy Spirit
- Vs.20 Don’t despise prophetic utterances
- Vs.22 Abstain from every form of evil

We will study six aspects of what it means to Quench the Holy Spirit.
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1. In the Greek Bible, (1Thess.5:19-22) is one Greek sentence.

- (1Thess.5:19) ends with a comma,
- (1Thess.5:20) and (1Thess.5:21) end with semi-colons
- (1Thess.5:22) ends with a period.

This helps us divide this Greek sentence into (1Thess.**5:19-20**) and (1Thess.**5:21**) and 1Thess.**5:22**). This gives us three primary ideas within this sentence.

At the same time, there are **five imperatives** within these three primary ideas:

- (1Thess.5:19-20) Quench & Despise
- (1Thess.5:21) Examine & Hold fast
- (1Thess.5:22) Abstain

NOTE: **Three** of the 4 negative imperatives (quench, despise, and abstain) and **two** of the 11 positive imperatives (examine, hold fast) are in this one Greek sentence.

2. **In the context of this one Greek sentence (1Thess.5:19-22), quenching and despising are connected together by a comma and then connected to the others by a semi-colon.**

In this Greek sentence, quenching the Spirit was put together with despising prophetic utterances. Therefore, quenching was put in the category of the Spirit’s ministry of spiritual gifts.

Many early churches had problems with the Spirit's ministry of spiritual gifts and especially communication gifts (1 Cor.12-14; Eph.4:11).

The importance of the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit within the church was established by present imperative (command).

3. The Greek word for quench is sbennumi.

- It means to put out a fire or extinguish (Acts 2:3-4).
- It involves the ministry of the indwelling Spirit such as:
 - **Walk in every area of our life, being led, fruit, walk in step** (Gal.5:16, 18, 22-25)
 - **Prayer** (Rom.8:26-27,)
 - **Another Comforter** (John 14:16),
 - **Teaches and recalls the Word of God (CBD)** (John 14:26),
 - **Conviction** (John 16:8),
 - **Guide into all truth** (John 16:13; Heb.4:12),
 - **Spiritually gifted ministry** (1 Cor.12:7, 11).

**We will examine the translation of sbennumi (quench) in four Scriptures:
(Matt.25:8; Mark 9:48; Eph.6:16; and Heb.11:34).**

4. Quenching The Holy Spirit is 1 of 8 offenses listed against the Spirit:

- **Resisting** Acts 7:51
- **Lying** Acts 5:3
- **Tempting** Acts 5:9
- **Opposing** Gal.5:17
- **Grieving** Eph.4:30
- **Quenching** 1 Thess.5:19
- **Insulting** Heb.10:29
- **Blasphemy** Matt.12:31-32).

5. You might wonder why this one Greek sentence was broken up into three ideas.

(1Thess.5:19-20) and (1Thess.5:21) and (1Thess.5:22) and five imperatives (3 negatives and 2 positives).

- The 2 positive commands given in 1Thess.5:21 are directed to the specific context of 1Thess.5:19-22
 - (5 imperatives) as well as to the general context of 1Thess.5:13b-22 (15 present imperatives).
- The 2 positive imperatives (Dos) are in contrast to the 3 negatives (Don'ts).
 - "But (de) [contrast] **examine** (dokimazo) everything carefully; **hold fast** (katecho) to that which is good;"

What we learn from these 2 imperatives is the mechanics for obeying all the commands of the Word of God so as to not quench the Holy Spirit.

6. We can expand this principle into the general context of the 15 present imperatives (1Thess.5:13b-22)

- Live in peace with one another (1Thess.13b)

- Admonish the unruly
- Encourage the fainthearted
- Help the weak
- Be patience with all men (1Thess.14)
- See that **no one repays another with evil for evil**
- But always seek after that which is good for one another and for all men (1Thess.15)
- Rejoice always (1Thess.16)
- Pray without ceasing (1Thess.17)
- In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus (1Thess.18)
- **Do not quench the Spirit** (1Thess.19)
- **Do not despise prophetic utterances** (1Thess.20)
- But examine everything carefully
- Hold fast to that which is good (1Thess.21)
- **Abstain from every form of evil** (1Thess.22)

How would you explain the difference between grieving and quenching the Holy Spirit?

Simply put:

- Grieving the Spirit involves willful sin and acting out of your Old Sin Nature's lust trends.
- Quenching the Spirit is not allowing the Indwelling Holy Spirit to do what He was sent to do in your Christian Life (like in point 3).