

Quenching the Spirit by Despising His Word

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

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Big Idea: Hold Fast to the Word of God

I. Do Not Despise God's Word (V. 19-20)

A.) Because it Quenches the Spirit

i.) The Holy Spirit is the Agent of Divine Revelation

*"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. **13** These things we also speak" –1 Corinthians 2:12-13*

*"Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, **11** searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow." –1 Peter 1:10-11*

"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me." –John 15:26

1.) The Primary Content = Jesus Christ

"which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:" –Ephesians 3:5

2.) The Human Agents = The Apostles and Prophets

ii.) To Despise Prophecies is to Despise the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

iii.) Two Ditches:

1.) The Holy Spirit is Unable to do Anything that He Wills to do

2.) The Holy Spirit Can't, in Some Sense, Be Quenched

"Properly, the Spirit cannot be grieved, cannot be quenched, cannot be resisted; because he is not a creature, though a person. To believe the contrary, would be to invest the Holy Spirit of God with such attributes as would be incompatible with his divine glory and infinite perfections...such as belong only to a weak, sinful, finite creature. But, metaphorically, to 'grieve the Spirit' is to disregard his voice, oppose his influence, and slight his kind, loving, and tender nature; and thus cause a withdrawment from the soul—in some cases temporary, in others eternal—of his presence, influence, and blessing."—Octavius Winslow

B.) Because it Causes a Declension in Grace

i.) We Are Saved Through Means

"As God hath appointed the elect unto glory, so he hath, by the eternal and most free purpose of his will, foreordained all the means thereunto..."—1689 London Baptist Confession

ii.) God Has Ordained the Means

C.) Because it Causes Dimness or Darkness

"In the case of the regenerate, the withdrawment of the Spirit on being grieved, is for a season only; in that of the finally impenitent and unbelieving, the hushing of his voice, speaking to them in conscience, in providence, and in his word, is the giving of them up for ever."—Octavius Winslow

II. Discern Between God's Revelation and a Counterfeit (v. 21-22)

"The two verbs used here, both having the same root and differing only in a prefix, are strong and express wholehearted acceptance of prophecy that is judged good and absolute rejection of prophecy deemed evil."—Jeffrey Weima

A.) Because the Good is Really Good

B.) Because the Evil is Really Evil

C.) There is Nothing In-between

III.) Application

A.) Three Tests

i.) Does it Align With the Goal of Revelation?

"But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men" –1 Corinthians 14:3

*"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, **13** till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; **14** that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting" –Ephesians 4:11-14*

Questions You Can Ask as You Listen to the Proclamation of the Message:

- Does it increase the knowledge of the Son of God?
- Does it promote maturity?
- Does it promote Christ-likeness in the Christian and Christ-dependence in the body?
- Does it equip the saints for every member ministry?
- Does it equip the saints to identify and refute false doctrine?

ii.) Does it Align With the Apostolic Teaching?

"If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord." –1 Corinthians 14:37

iii.) The Character of the Messenger

*"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. **16** You will know them by their fruits..." –Matthew 7:15-16*

"Not everyone that speaks in the spirit is a Prophet, but only if they have the behavior of the Lord....And every Prophet who teaches the truth and does not practice it, is a false prophet." – Didache

B.) Two Ways to Hone Your Skills:

i.) Obedience

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." –Romans 12:2

ii.) Constantly Expose Yourself to Truth

"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. 9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you." –Philippians 4:8-9