

**7.26.20 ~ 1Thessalonians 5:19-22,
Vitaly Important Don'ts and Dos...**

Two weeks ago (**1Thessalonians 5:16-18**), we studied Paul's command for us to continually, without ceasing, in every situation: be rejoicing, be praying, and be giving thanks, because this is God's will for us in Christ.

Today, we are going to study **1Thessalonians 5:19-22**, please follow along as I read through the text. In **verses 19-20**, we are commanded to not do two things: we are not to quench the Spirit, nor are we to despise prophetic utterances. Okay, but what do those mean?

The Spirit (**verse 19**), is of course the Holy Spirit, also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Spirit of Truth. The Holy Spirit is referred to masculine form (**John 14:16-17**), "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

Paul commands that we do not quench the Spirit of God. Think about that word quench for a minute, you've heard thirsty people say after drinking some water, "boy, that really quenched my thirst."

To *quench* something can mean to stifle, retard, or even extinguish its energy or working power; in reference to the Holy Spirit, this is paramount to us hindering or suppressing the work of the Spirit in our individual lives, and in the life of the church.

It is the Holy Spirit who regenerates us as spiritual children of God (cf. **John 3:5-8; Titus 3:5**), at the moment of salvation. The Holy Spirit fills us, seals us, places us into the body of Christ, and sanctifies us (cf. **Ephesians 1:13-14; 1Corinthians 12:12-13, 18, 27; Colossians 1:15-18; 2Thessalonians 2:13**).

It is God's Spirit who makes God's Word effectual in our lives, that we might serve the Lord boldly and victoriously (see **1Corinthians 2:12-16**). God loves us as His children, desiring that we grow spiritually to be healthy and strong (see **Psalms 119:11; Ephesians 4:15; 1Peter 2:2**).

As Christians, we can quench the Spirit's work in us by not prayerfully, reverently, and expectantly reading, heeding, hiding God's Word in our heart, and applying God's Word to our life, as witnesses of His Grace.

We can also quench the Spirit by the way we respond to the difficulties and troubles in this life, e.g., instead of trusting God and seeking His provision and purpose in and through the events, circumstances and happenings in our life, we attempt to live by our own abilities and resources, holding up our own rights,

freedoms, comforts and wants as priorities, instead of our witness for the Lord (see **Matthew 5:1-11; 6:26-34**).

God's Spirit illuminates God's Word, so that we can know the will of God and appropriate the provisions of God, in order to carry it out (see **Romans 12:2; Philippians 4:12-13, 19**).

In **1Thessalonians 5:20** we are warned not to despise prophetic utterances. The word translated *despise* here, means to look down upon, to consider as having no value, to show contempt toward.

The words prophetic utterances and prophecy are different forms of the same word, referring to both written and spoken words. The revelatory proclamation of God's divine, sovereign and eternal Word was limited to the apostolic era; although, in the New Testament apostles and prophets proclaimed new revelation, but also reiterated divine truth that had already been spoken or recorded.

Prophetic utterances have ceased, i.e., there has not been given, nor will there be, any new revelation from God, the Bible is complete. However, the gift of prophecy [proclaiming God's Word] by way of expositional and exegetical teaching, is the method and manner through which pastors-elders-overseers feed and care for God's flock today.

Prophecy, for the most part, is a term that refers to God's written Word. **2Peter 1:20-21**, "But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."

However, God's Word is not only to be read via the written text, it is to be heard as it is proclaimed, as John writes:

Revelation 1:1-3, "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near."

Revelation 22:18-19, "I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book."

Read **1Thessalonians 5:21-22**... Now we come to three exhortations by Paul, to the church, that are vital for believers to do; and these have to do with spiritual discernment, based on the authority of God's Word.

1Corinthians 2:1-11, "And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God. Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; but just as it is written, 'Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And which have not entered the heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him.' For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God."

Colossians 2:8-10, "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority."

Ephesians 5:13-17, "But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. For this reason it says, 'Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you.'

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

Ephesians 5:3-12, "But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Do not participate in the

unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret."

Ephesians 5:1-2, "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma."

We are called to examine, to test and approve, to judge between true and false, right and wrong, good and evil; as we embrace, live out, and proclaim, that which is pleasing to the Lord.

Romans 12:9, " Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good."

Philippians 4:8, "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things."

We are to abstain [*keep away from*] any evil [*all that is displeasing to the Lord*]: behavior, attitudes, teachings; anything that is harmful, including lies, falsehoods, deceptions, i.e., all that perverts spiritual truth, morality and goodness [by God's standard].

As Children of God and servants of the Lord Jesus Christ, we must not do anything that is dishonoring to God and to God's Word; but instead, we are commanded (**Ephesians 5:18**) "to be filled with the Spirit," (**Colossians 3:16**), to "let the word of Christ dwell in [us] richly," (**Philippians 2:5**), that our "attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus," and (**Galatians 5:25**) we are to "live by the Spirit, [and] keep in step with the Spirit."

These are all different ways of stating the same sovereign truth -- that Christians are to live under the control of the Spirit of God, in harmony with the Word of God, in a demonstration that models the Son of God, in order that the character of God and obedience to His Word might be exemplified in and through our daily lives.

Pastor Mike
>'(((><