

Grieving and Quenching the Holy Spirit

Grieving the Holy Spirit.

Paul wrote, *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption* (Ephesians 4:30). Isaiah also wrote, *But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; Therefore, He turned Himself to become their enemy, He fought against them* (Isaiah 63:10). Our sin is not just a disappointment to God, it causes Him grief. These verses prove the personality of the Holy Spirit, since He can be grieved, but it also shows how our sin pains God emotionally. So our sin not only hurts us, it hurts God in the sense that it brings Him emotional pain.

Quenching the Holy Spirit

In 1 Thessalonians 5:19, Paul said, *Do not quench the Spirit*. If we read to the end of his sentence, we get a bit more of what that means. The whole sentence is, *Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances. But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil* (verses 19-22). Paul gave us three qualifying or defining statements explaining what quenching the Spirit means. Before we list them, notice once again that the work of the Holy Spirit is quenchable.

When we read of the work of God the Father, it's like a done deal. He says things like, *From ancient times I planned it. Now I have brought it to pass* (2 Kings 19:25). You and I can't hurt the works of God the Father. We can only hurt ourselves. But with the Holy Spirit, it's different. It's like He makes God's path known and available, but it's up to us to choose that path and stay on it.

Now back to 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22, where Paul listed 3 ways the work of the Spirit is quenched. The first way is to despise prophetic utterances. Paul said the gift of prophecy would cease (1 Corinthians 13:8), and all mention of it ceased about halfway through the first century. Prophetic utterances seem to be replaced by the New Testament. So, by way of application, the work of the Spirit would be quenched by ignoring or disobeying the New Testament. If you believe God still gives prophetic utterances today, then be sure you follow the second point and *examine everything carefully*. But for all of us it means we should examine every teaching to see if it conforms to Scripture. Third, having examined what is being taught, Paul said we should *hold fast to that which is good*—good being determined by its conformity to the Bible.

Loss of the assurance of salvation

All the elect saints chosen of God from eternity past will be with Him forever (Ephesians 1:3-11; Romans 8:28-39). The death of Christ *reconciled* you to God *in order to present you before Him, holy and blameless and beyond reproach* (Colossians 1:22). But how do you know if, indeed, you are one of those elect?

What is the assurance that we have, indeed, received Christ through faith (John 1:12; 3:16-17; 5:24)? Paul says you can be assured of it *if indeed you continue in the faith, firmly established and steadfast* (Colossians 1:23). On the other hand, John said, *The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him* (1 John 2:4). So the **security** of salvation is determined by God from eternity past and cannot be lost (John 10:28-29). But when we sin, we lose the **assurance** that we are among the saints. Whether we are saved or not, we have no assurance that we are saved when we insist on continuing to sin.

For more information see study book **Holy Spirit** on Relational Concepts web page:

<https://relationalconcepts.org/>

P.O. Box 141456 • Grand Rapids, MI 49514 • relationalconcepts.org