

Exhortations to Godliness
“LIVE SUBMISSIVELY”
1 Thessalonians 5:19

Theme: Believers must submit to the Holy Spirit’s leading in their lives.

Introduction .

I. THE DEPENDENCY ON THE SPIRIT - “... *the Spirit* ...”

A. The Importance of the Holy Spirit in Our Lives

1. The ministry of the Holy Spirit to the believer is the very heart of the believer’s ability to follow Christ.
2. It is by the Holy Spirit that we are identified as belonging to Christ - **Romans 8:9-11**.
3. The presence of the Holy Spirit is the personification of power in our lives - cp. **Acts 1:4-8**.
4. The Holy Spirit is the One who guides us into the truth about Christ - cp. **John 16:8-14**.
5. It is the Holy Spirit who provides us with the assurance that we belong to Christ - **Romans 8:14-16**.

B. The Influence of the Holy Spirit in Our Lives

1. The passion of the Holy Spirit is the promotion of the Lord Jesus Christ - **John 16:13-14**.
2. The intimate ministry of the Holy Spirit in promoting the interests of Christ in our lives is a distinctive privilege belonging to the church as He will uniquely indwell us - cp. **John 14:17**.
3. Believers have been baptized with the Holy Spirit by the Lord Jesus Christ - the means by which we are placed into the Body of Christ - **Matthew 3:11; 1 Corinthians 12:13**.
4. Hence, we have been sealed by the Holy Spirit who is given to us as a pledge of our ultimate redemption - **Ephesians 1:13-14**.
5. He provides us the guidance into all truth by giving us the illumination needed to understand the Word of God - cp. **1 Corinthians 2:14-16**.
6. He then is our primary teacher, guide, illuminator, and exhorter in the truth - cp. **1 John 2:27**.

7. Additionally, it is through the Holy Spirit's work in our lives that we are able to apply God's Word and be transformed into the likeness of Christ Jesus - cp. **Ephesians 3:16-19**.

II. THE DEFIANCE OF THE SPIRIT - *"Do not quench ..."*

A. The Resistance to the Holy Spirit - *"Do not grieve the Holy Spirit"*

1. The great sanctifying work of God's Spirit is something that is performed with levels of effectiveness given our willingness to submit.
2. As we resist the Holy Spirit, He essentially "backs off" and allows us to operate in our flesh with the limitation of His power exerted in our lives.
3. This is what is meant by the idea of "grieving the Holy Spirit" - cp. **Ephesians 4:30**.
4. Essentially, this is done through the rebellion against the impulses and directives afforded us by the Holy Spirit using His Word - cp. **Isaiah 63:10**.
5. Although the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives is constant - that is, we do not have more of the Holy Spirit at one point over another - we are able to reduce the influences of the Holy Spirit - cp. **Ephesians 5:18**.

B. The Rejection of the Holy Spirit - *"Do not quench the Holy Spirit"*

1. When we sustain our grieving of the Holy Spirit, we ultimately will quench the Holy Spirit.
2. ***"quench"*** [σβέννυμι] - means to "extinguish, put out" and describes the suppression of the Holy Spirit's influences in our lives.
3. Like a fire that burns, the Holy Spirit's ministries to the believer can be smothered & extinguished or bellowed & empowered - cp. **2 Timothy 1:6**.
4. An example of this is what we saw concerning God's standards of morality in relationship to sexual purity in **1 Thessalonians 4:7-8**.

III. THE DEFERENCE TO THE SPIRIT

A. The Filling of the Spirit

1. The issue of the Holy Spirit's control in our lives referred to as being "filled with the Spirit" - cp. **Ephesians 5:18**.
2. The distinction between being indwelt by the Spirit which is a constant residency of the Spirit in the believer and the filling of the Spirit which is a

variable manifestation of His presence is essential to understand.

3. It has been stated that the indwelling of the Spirit refers to our possession of Him while the filling of the Spirit refers to His possession of us.
4. Essentially, we are admonished to submit ourselves to the Holy Spirit as He works to promote the interests of Christ Jesus in our lives and our conformity to Him.

B. The Fruit of the Spirit

1. As we are filled with the Spirit, the consequence is twofold - the freedom of interference by the flesh and the production of the "fruit of the Spirit." - cp. ***Galatians 5:16, 22ff.***
2. The fruit of the Spirit is a singular reference as they are so interconnected that a believer will not have merely one of these and not another - but they all come together.
3. The fruit of the Spirit is the most definitive manifestation of the Holy Spirit known by others -
 - a) Love [**ἀγάπη**] - the willingness to place the welfare and interests of God and others before your own;
 - b) Joy [**χαρά**] - the delight in God's sovereign love and competence to bring Himself glory in all your circumstances;
 - c) Peace [**εἰρήνη**] - the state of being at harmony with God and others;
 - d) Patience [**μακροθυμία**] - the ability to bear up under provocation - remaining tranquil in the face of opposition;
 - e) Kindness [**χρηστότης**] - the quality of being helpful or beneficial to others;
 - f) Goodness [**ἀγαθωσύνη**] - possessing a moral quality characterized by interest in the welfare of others;
 - g) Faithfulness [**πίστις**] - the state of being reliable or committed;
 - h) Gentleness [**πραΰτης**] - the quality of being unimpressed with your own importance; and,
 - i) Self-control [**ἐγκράτεια**] - the restraint of one's impulses or desires.

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