

The fire of God's presence exists in every Christian through the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9; Psalm 51:11; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 2:22).

Jesus imparts this gift by baptizing us with "the Holy Spirit and fire" (Matthew 3:11).

In the context of 1 Thessalonians 5, Paul seems to be referring to not quenching the spiritual gift of prophecy: "Do not stifle the Holy Spirit. Do not scoff at prophecies, but test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good. Stay away from every kind of evil" (1 Thessalonians 5:19–22, NLT).

Prophecy is the "telling forth" of God's Word; the giving of the Word (from God) is revelation, and prophecy is the human channel for relaying it.

The Word of God is also portrayed as a burning, illuminating fire (Jeremiah 5:14; 20:9; 23:28–30; Psalm 119:105). The Word of God must not be suppressed (Colossians 3:16; 2 Peter 1:19). When the gift of prophecy is exercised correctly, it strengthens, teaches, encourages, and comforts the church (2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 19:7–8; Hebrews 4:12–13; Romans 15:4; Ephesians 6:10–17).

The Holy Spirit operates in the believer personally and in the life of the church. First, He convicts us of sin and our need for salvation (1 Thessalonians 1:5). We quench the Holy Spirit's fire when we ignore or reject His work of convincing "the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment" (John 16:8).

The Spirit gives us direction in life (Acts 13:2; 15:28), transforms our circumstances (Philippians 1:19), encourages us (Acts 9:31), empowers us to share the gospel (Acts 1:8; 6:10), and does the sanctifying work of changing us into the image of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18; see also Romans 15:16; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2).

But when we do not allow the Spirit to work in our hearts or be seen in our actions, we quench the Holy Spirit.

In rejecting the Spirit's guidance in our lives, we smother the flame instead of fanning it, and we halt the production of the fruits of the Spirit like "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22–23, NLT).

Quenching the Holy Spirit is like grieving the Spirit in that both negatively affect the believer, the church, and the world.

The Holy Spirit is grieved when we rebel against God (Ephesians 4:30; Isaiah 63:10). When we follow our own worldly desires, we quench the Holy Spirit within. We hinder the cultivation of personal godliness, which in turn undermines the church's holiness and causes sorrow and distress to the Spirit of God.

When we do not quench the Holy Spirit, His fiery presence brings unity, blessings, and fellowship (2 Corinthians 13:14; Philippians 2:1, 1 Peter 4:14), along with freedom, peace, and resurrection life (2 Corinthians 3:17; Romans 8:2, 5–11).

**(Leviticus 6:12)**,

As the fire on the altar in the temple was never to go out so we must never quench the Holy Spirit of God on the altar of our hearts.