

Templates of Truth with Rick Smith  
Audio Script - January 29, 2009

Have you ever been really excited about something, only to have someone react or respond in such a way that it throws a major damper on your spirit? They usually begin with the same phrase, “I hate to rain on your parade, but...” In today’s Templates of Truth, Paul cautions us about this tendency toward the Holy Spirit and His power in our life.

In I Thessalonians 5:19, Paul gives us one of several New Testament commands concerning the Holy Spirit: *Do not quench the Spirit*. The word *quench*, means to put out or extinguish, such as when we would throw water on a fire in order to extinguish its flames. It is important that we understand Paul’s meaning. He is referring to the influence of the Holy Spirit in our life and not His indwelling. The focus is on the power of the Spirit, not His presence. We can never possess any more or any less of the Holy Spirit than we presently do as believers, but we can certainly affect His influence and power as it might be demonstrated in our life in various ways.

Paul’s first command is that we *be filled with the Spirit* (Ephesians 5:18). Since the Holy Spirit already indwells our life as a believer, being filled must have to do with something else. The word *filled*, means to saturate completely, and the action of the verb is continuous, which means that we fill and we keep on filling. The fuel tank on our automobile serves as a good illustration. In order to keep the vehicle running, we must keep adding fuel as it is depleted. More specifically, we must keep the tank full at all times. Asking God to fill us with His Holy Spirit is a daily, often-repeated prayer.

Paul also commands us not to *grieve the Holy Spirit of God* (Ephesians 4:30). What is it that grieves God? In Noah’s day, *God saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart* (Genesis 6:5-6). Sin in the life of the believer is what grieves the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit is grieved because of our sin, His power and influence in our life is extinguished. Our sin grieves and quenches the Holy Spirit.

The power of the Holy Spirit working in and through our lives involves the spiritual gifts that God has equipped each believer with for ministry work and service. Paul gives three commands concerning how we handle our spiritual gift. We should first of all, *desire earnestly spiritual gifts* (I Corinthians 14:1). We should have a sincere desire to know what our spiritual gift is and how God wants us to employ it in service to Him through the church. We should not, therefore, *neglect the spiritual gift within you* (I Timothy 4:14). Failing to understand what our gift is or not using our gift in ministry involvement is neglecting the Spirit. Failing to feed our life in the daily nutrients of God’s Word and prayer is neglecting the Spirit. When the Spirit is neglected in our life, His fruits cannot grow in us. Paul identified the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23 – *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, (and) self-control*.

Are any of these qualities lacking in your life? Have you lost touch with the power of God’s Spirit working in and through you? Have you neglected to give God’s Spirit and His indwelling

presence in your life the credence He needs and deserves in order to use you for His will, plan and purpose? Has sin extinguished the flames of God's passion and power in your life? If so, Paul has great news for you: *Kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you* (II Timothy 1:6). Just as you have extinguished the fire of God in your life through disobedience, neglect, restriction, and repression; ignite it once again through confession, repentance and the pouring on of spiritual fuel. *Kindle afresh*, feed the fire, so that your life once again can manifest the power of the Holy Spirit in great and mighty ways.

That's today's Templates of Truth. This is your Bible teacher, Rick Smith, reminding you to attend church this Sunday for Bible study and worship, pray for one another, and always strive to abide. Until next time, have a blessed and glorious day in Christ Jesus.

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