

Introduction:**What is meant by “the Spirit”?**

- The Spirit spoken of here is the Holy Spirit, 3<sup>rd</sup> person of the Trinity – [1:5-6](#), [4:8](#) [5:23](#) (ours)
- Christianity is supernatural, not just about accepting certain moral principles and external events
- To have the Holy Spirit is to have God dwelling in and influencing in redemptive ways – [Rom8:9-11](#)

**What does it mean to “quench”?**

- Gk. sbennumi – extinguish, put out, restrain; **related to fire** [Mt12:20](#) [25:8](#) [Mk9:48](#) [Eph6:16](#) [Heb11:34](#)
- The fundamental elements of fire are **light and heat** – this is what it gives off, but it also changes what is burning
- To quench is to do something so as to diminish (or put out) these elements of fire

**How is the Holy Spirit like fire?**

- **Light** (understanding/illumination) – [Dan5:11, 14](#) [Eph1:17](#)
- **Heat** (affections) – [Act13:9](#) (zeal, jealousy) [13:52](#) (joy)
- [Jn5:35](#) John the Baptist – bc/filled with the Spirit from birth ([Lk1:15](#))

**What does it mean to quench the Holy Spirit?**

- Paul is telling us that the influence of the Spirit, like fire, can be quenched – not to kill, but to diminish His influence

**Objection: how can we quench the influence of the Spirit which is God, and is all powerful? Is this blasphemy?**

- Doesn't this suggest that we can do things that are more “powerful” than the Spirit, and thus suppress His attempts?
- The imagery of the HS as fire, while accurate, is **only partial** – the Holy Spirit is a **person**
- Not an issue of suppressing by greater power, but personally **grieving and causing sorrow** to His holiness
- [Eph4:30](#) Gk. lupeo – pain, sorrow, injure, distress - [1Thes4:13](#) [2Cor7:11](#)
- When we sin, we **grieve the heart of God** – bringing **personal, not merely judicial**, sorrow
- What is it that grieves Him? He is preeminently **holy**, so that which is unholy, **examples** in [Eph4:30](#)
- There is not a perspective here of **automatic sanctification**, but **cooperative sanctification**
- Being filled with the Spirit is not a once and for all event, but on ongoing, repeatable, and powerful influence

**Why is this so important to us as Christians?**

- It is by His influence that we are able to **walk in righteousness** and **overcome sin** – [Gal5:16](#)
- It is by His influence we are able to have **joy, perseverance, boldness and effectiveness in witness** - [Ps51:11-13](#)

**Do you see the evidence of the power of the Spirit in your life?**

- Yes...
- No... (1.) He is grieved... (below)
  - o (2.) He is absent...

**What do you do when you realize that you have grieved the Spirit?**

- **Recognize your great folly** - you are **utterly incapable** to live and walk in God's way without Him
- **Rejoice in God's mercy** - you have been permanently sealed by the Spirit – [Eph1:13](#)
- **Return to God's Son** – there is a fresh supply of grace, cleansing, and pouring out of the Spirit