



Clear Bible Truth on God the Holy Spirit - XI Establishing His Work - VIII

The Filling of the Holy Spirit

“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit” (Eph 5:18)

We consider this doctrine negatively and positively.

First: two negatives stand in the way of a believer being filled.

1. Grieving the Spirit: “And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption” (Eph 4:30).
2. Quenching the Spirit: “Quench not the Spirit” (1 Thess 5:19)

What is the meaning of “sealed”? It’s to have His signature of ownership and security. God’s awakened elect are not in danger of the Spirit departing them. Christ is ever with them by the Spirit.

- What is the meaning of “grieve”? To make sorrowful.
- What is the meaning of “quench”? To extinguish, as a light or fire.

Putting the truths together: Jesus said, “the Comforter” would come, speaking of the Spirit (John 15:26). The Greek word is *paraklete*, meaning one to walk along side of. He is the constant companion of God’s regenerated elect. He moves the believer to walk daily by His life and guidance. He moves them to know God, His will, ways and word.

How do we “grieve” and “quench”? The command regarding grieving the Spirit is preceded by exhortations to resist vanity, ignorance, deceitful lusts, greed, lying, etc. The command regarding quenching the Spirit is preceded by exhortations to “rejoice”, “pray” and “give thanks”. At the believer’s unruly lusts, sins of commission and omission, the Spirit’s companionship is hindered and fellowship strained. With great grief, the believer knows himself to be a sinner. How often we “grieve” and “quench” the blessed Holy Spirit!

I urge you to not be in constant self-examination, asking, am I filled with the Holy Spirit, don't look for signs or experiences. Let us be urged to do as Paul said: "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk ye in him" (Col 2:6). That "walk" is the two steps of repentance and faith, which is how we embraced Him. The Spirit fills, always leading to Christ.

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