



1 Thessalonians 5:19-28  
Shepherds & Sheep—Part 2  
Essential Tools for Godly Victory

Read *1 Thessalonians 5:19-28*

Review from Sunday's sermon: We finally arrive at the end of 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians. The Holy Spirit has Paul give some very practical instructions on protecting the church from destructive behaviors. This series of "do's and don'ts" are intricately connected to the last study on relationships in the church. This section has been widely misused and misinterpreted. It is vital that we understand the Spirit's truth here.

1. What is the context (topic & theme) of this passage? Again, we've been dealing with relationships and their potential problems in the church. There is no break in the theme, chapter, or book.

What does that alone tell us regarding "quench the Spirit" and "despise prophecies"? That's it's not dealing with the charismatic gifts [prophecy, tongues, healings, and miracles] or any other spiritual gifts. It's continuing the topic of holy conduct inside and outside of church. See also *Galatians 5:16-18*

Note: We agree that spiritual gifts (even the charismatic ones) are dealt with and addressed in other portions of Scripture. But, that just not the subject here in 1 Thessalonians 5]

2. What would be examples of quenching the spirit in our lives/walk? Like the funny dashboard illustration: ignoring the Spirit's prompting and conviction. Avoiding prayer and Bible reading because we are in a sin and don't want repentance. Elevating experience and emotion over Bible preaching.

3. With the closing of the canon of Scripture, what are the "prophecies" and "the gift of prophecy" today? Prophecies: The Word of God. Particularly the prophetic books, but all of Scripture points to Jesus. So, it's what God has already said. See also *2 Peter 1:19-21*

Gift of Prophecy: those gifted with the ability to preach, explain, and exhort the Word in Church.

4. Discuss "test all things" and the call for discernment. There is a danger in any unquestioned believing of signs, wonders, & miracles as evidence of the Holy Spirit and someone's authenticity. The Devil, the coming Antichrist, and False Prophet, and their works will be able to do real signs and wonders to convince the unsaved. See also *1 John 4:1*. Being thoroughly mature in the Word is the best protection against failing in discernment. See also *Hebrews 5:13-14*.

5. Re-read the final verses of the passage not covered on Sunday (*1 Thessalonians 5:23-28*). Find and discuss three components of God's role in the cooperative work of holiness in our lives.

- God's sanctifying work of preservation: We cannot keep ourselves saved. We continue to sin as we battle the flesh. Even as we grow, He maintains and protects our salvation. Therefore, it cannot be lost, and we don't have to be re-saved over and over.
- God's faithfulness: Where we will fail, God will not. He shows us new mercies and forgiveness. He's promised to see us all the way through and cannot break His Word.
- God's grace: His blessing and favor are shown and distributed in many ways. Paul is pointing out our communion with Jesus Christ as the anchoring source of love, joy, peace, and character.