

# PathLights

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path"  
Psalm 119:104*

October 15, 2017

## "Do Not Quench the Spirit"

by Frank Himmel

Paul cautioned, "Do not quench the Spirit" (1 Thessalonians 5:19). How might one do that?

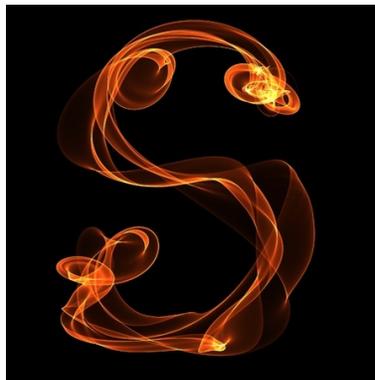
To quench is to extinguish or put out, as one would a fire (cf. Matthew 25:8; Hebrews 11:34). The Spirit in this verse is the Holy Spirit. Probably the reference here is to the miraculous gifts some first-century Christians had. They must use the gifts to their full potential, not neglect them (1 Timothy 4:14), thereby quenching the Spirit's activity through that means. The next verse cautions against despising prophetic utterances: perhaps the Thessalonians were tempted to think as some at Corinth did, preferring one gift over another and only utilizing the favored ones.

The Spirit no longer works through miraculous gifts, but He is still active. Today he works through the written word which He inspired. The word of God is the sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 5:17). It is like a fire (Jeremiah 23:29), and we dare not quench it. How might we do that?

Obviously, those who reject God's word quench the Spirit. Some regard the Bible as a collection of myths

and folklore. Such people give the Spirit no opportunity to work in their lives.

Some people who believe the Bible is God's word nevertheless keep the flame turned way down by seldom reading the Scriptures. Faith comes by hearing God's word (Romans 10:17). Those who do not regularly read the Bible and reflect on it can never have strong faith.



Bible believers may also quench the Spirit by selectively rejecting what He says on some points. Occasionally there is a subject about which one simply does not like what the Spirit says. Perhaps it is the necessity of baptism for salvation (1 Peter 3:21), or maybe it is the prohibition of divorce and re-marriage (Matthew 19:6, 9). When that dislike occurs, some act as if the Spirit

never said what He did. Others find all sorts of creative ways to circumvent the obvious meaning of the Spirit's words. Either way, the Spirit is quenched.

That brings us to the basic way in which we quench the Spirit: by not allowing His word to dwell in our hearts and direct our lives. It is when we "receive the word implanted" that it is able to save our souls (James 1:21). The Bible warns against trying to live by the Spirit while not walking as He directs (Galatians 5:25). If the Spirit is burning in our hearts, we will crucify the works of the flesh and bear the fruit of the Spirit (vv. 16-24). ■

# Jesus' Blood and Our Baptism

by Frank Himmel

The theme of the Bible is salvation in Jesus. His death is the key to our eternal life. We are brought near to God through the blood of Christ (Ephesians 2:13). That blood redeems us (Ephesians 1:7), justifies us (Romans 1:9), reconciles us (Colossians 1:20), and sanctifies us (Hebrews 13:12).

How do we come in contact with the saving blood of Jesus? Many assume that occurs immediately at the point when we believe in Jesus or when we pray for Him to be our Savior, etc. The Bible says otherwise.

“Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?” (Romans 6:3). We are baptized into Jesus’ death, that is, into its benefits. Consider...

✚ Jesus’ blood is for forgiveness of sins. “For this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins” (Matthew 26:28). So is baptism. “Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins...’” (Acts 2:38).

✚ Jesus’ blood washes us. “...These are the ones who have come out of the great tribulation, and they have

washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” (Revelation 7:14). So does baptism. “Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name” (Acts 22:16).

✚ Jesus’ blood cleanses us. “But if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7). So does baptism. “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word” (Ephesians 5:25-26).

✚ Jesus’ blood saves us. “Much more then, having been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him” (Romans 5:9). So does baptism. “Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 3:21).

Could the Bible make it any plainer that the point at which we receive the benefits of Jesus’ blood is when we express our faith in Him and His atonement by being baptized into Him? Have you done that? ■



## Service Leaders for the Week

	Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening	Wednesday Evening
GREETER	David Gray	Mark Clifton	Adam Gibson
SONG LEADER	Gary Hagler	Bruce Williams	John Baucom
OPENING PRAYER	Mark Clifton	Brian Wilson	
LORD’S SUPPER			
BREAD	Mike Zachry	Mike Zachry	
CUP	Kerry Gray	Kerry Gray	
CONTRIBUTION PRAYER	Daven Daniel	Frank Himmel	Chris Brooks
SERMON/INVITATION	Frank Himmel	Adam Gibson	Adam Wilson
CLOSING PRAYER	Justin Candella		