

CHRISTIAN'S INFLUENCE OF GOD'S WORD

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The question was asked, “Is it possible for a Christian to hurt the influence of God’s Word”?

Paul admonished the Thessalonians to “*quench not the Spirit*”, (1 Thessalonians 5:19). He told the Ephesians, “*grieve not the Holy Spirit of God*”, (Ephesians 4:30). The word “quenches” (abennumi, Gk., “to extinguish.” Thayer, p. 572) is commonly used in the sense of extinguishing a fire, (Mark 9:48).

Just as water, sand, dirt or other things can extinguish a flame, so the influence of God’s Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) can be smothered in our lives by things such as laziness (2 Thessalonians 3:10), indifference (Revelation 3:15), worldliness (James 4:4), materialism (1 Timothy 6:10), evil companions (1 Corinthians 15:33) and false teachings (2 Timothy 4:3-4). Christians possess the will to allow the Spirit to be quenched or to not allow such to happen. We are taught to:

- Resist the devil (James 4:7).
- Be faithful unto death (Revelation 2:10).
- Be not weary in well doing (Galatians 6:9).
- Keep yourselves unspotted from the world (James 1:27).
- Be not conformed to this world (Romans 12:2).

All that become Christians (John 3:3-5) receive the gift of the Holy Spirit when immersed into Christ (Acts 2:38). Paul described the gift of the Spirit as the guarantee of our redemption in Heaven (Ephesians 1:13-14).

The Spirit dwelling within Christians through God’s Word is like a perpetual flame of light (Matthew 5:16; Phil. 2:15). As we increase in knowledge of God’s Word, the flame grows stronger (2 Peter 3:18). However, if we drift away from that which the Spirit has revealed (Ephesians 3:1-5), we subtly extinguish that flame (Hebrews 2:1). Paul compared the Bible to a “sword” in Ephesians 6:7. The Bible is “alive and powerful,” like a two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12). However, we must never quench (smother, hurt) the influence of God’s Word by our words, thoughts of deeds, (Colossians 3:17).