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3. Violating conscience

Our conscience speaks and it is very tender upon subjects and then it may change. And, no longer will we hear it speak to us because we have violated it so many times. This is because we have prevented the spirit. We might have been aroused concerning a certain sin but now we can go on unshocked. The spirit of God seems to say, I will go on and leave you and no longer warn you concerning this sin. Men refuse to do the duty as it is revealed unto them. And, therefore, they violate the conscience to the place where they will indulge in all kinds of dishonesty. In the business world, there are those who do not know how to be honest in their dealings. There are others who think of their own appetites and their own desires as they are dishonest concerning life. It seems that the violation of conscience in the matter of being dishonest is a serious charge against anyone. Because thousands of dollars worth of goods is stolen from the counters of our stores. There are also incidents in which people do not know how to speak honest words. And, then live up to those words. It is bad because they are quenching the spirit and they are grieving the spirit because they are disobedient just as a son would be disobedient to his parents.

1.17
4. Refraining from prayer

We prevent the spirit and quench it when we refuse to pray. It is wonderful to realize how naturally the spirit leads us in prayer. If we are lead by the spirit, we will be drawn many times during the day into prayer. You have once had the spirit of prayer but now you no longer enjoy praying. This is simply due to the fact that you have quenched the spirit.

1.23
5. Resisting sanctification

The spirit comes and would lead you to high experiences and would inspire you to desire the noblest and the best. There is nothing that could be closer to the heart of Christ than that of living so close to him. Have you ever asked to be filled with the spirit?

Introd.

I. Partakers of the spirit.

We have been born into the family of God. Therefore, we are partakers of his nature and of the Holy Spirit. Of course, our response determines whether or not we will be worthy partakers as was illustrated in a wholesale grocery house in Chicago. 5 men were sitting in a showroom apparently doing nothing. Another came into the room with a large tray filled with small cups of French coffee. Each took a cup each took some of the coffee in his mouth and held it for a brief time. Some of them swallowed the coffee while others spit it out. Each cup had to be tasted. These men were known as coffee blenders. Well, the coffee cups were of the finest value - \$10 each. One of the blenders said, he did not swallow the coffee because he knew the effect it would have on him. He merely tasted while the others partook. So it is, we may become partakers of the spirit of God. I read another illus. of a missionary in So. America who has stopped to eat lunch. He had some beans and rice and. An Indian asked him for something to eat. After he tasted the beans, he refused to eat any more. The missionary said they were delicious to him but the Indian has never tasted any kind of food exactly like they had prepared. So we enjoyed it while he merely tasted. Of course, the same is true. We may merely taste and then resist the spirit. But, really a Christian should become a partaker. God has promised his spirit to all of us. Exe. 36:27, Joel 2:29, John 14:16-17. We as believers should understand the truth that we are the very temple of the Holy Spirit. Your body is the temple. I Cor 6:19. He comes to live within.

II. Powerless without the Spirit.

All Christians should be partakers of the Spirit or else they will be powerless. That very familiar verse of scripture which says, Not by might, or by might, but by my Spirit saith the Lord." Zach. 4:6. The plight of many churches might be summed up in the fact that they are without the spirit. Wehn Jesus descended the mountain from that wonderful experience of transfiguration, he came face to face with

Some of these people even claim to attend these meetings for the glory of God. When a man has quenched the spirit of God, all of his religion is on the outside. His vital heart-affecting interest in spiritual things is gone. Thus, there follows a great hardness of heart.

3: Disillusioned as to purpose.

It is remarkable how some claim to be Christians when they have rejected all the claims of Christianity. They reject many parts of the Bible, the plan of salvation, and yet they feel that they are real Christians. This is part of the penalty of quenching the spirit. God calls men to perform definite lines of work. Shall I go to China? Well, we cannot settle that question for yourself and you cannot settle it for anyone else. Not every Christian should go to China. God alone knows where he wishes you to go. The spirit calls. It many not be with a voice but he will make his call clear. He is willing to make it known unto us today. The great need in Christian work today is men and women who have been called forth by the spirit. We have lots of people in Christian work today whom men have called. Some have called themselves. Many a person justifies himself for staying out of the ministry or from the foreign field by saying, I have never had a call. How do you know you have never had a call? Have you listened for it? God often speaks in a still, small voice and only those who listen, can hear it. Have you offered yourself to God to send you where he will? The spirit has power to guide. Think of Philip as the spirit guided him in detail as he journeyed. Perhaps he passed lots of men on the road. But the spirit said, Join thyself to this man in his chariot. Think of the apostle Paul who listened to the will of God time and time again for his own life.

How shall we gain this wisdom? First, we must be conscious and fully admit we need to be led.

Second, we must really desire to know God's way and be willing to do his will. This is implied in asking, if we ask in sincerity. Many do not know God's will because they are not really willing to do it if they should discover it. Third, we must ask definitely for guidance. Fourth, we must expect guidance. Fifth, we must follow step by step as the guidance comes. Just how it will come, no one can tell. But, it will come. Maybe just a step at the time. There are those who are not willing to do God's work because they cannot see what he wants them to do next, month, next year.

Do you know the next step? That seems to me to be enough to know one day at a time, if nothing more. Many people are afraid to follow God because they believe that they cannot be absolutely sure. You have a right to be sure as a child of God, why not say, "Her I am, Heavenly Father. I am willing to do Thy will".

This will give you boldness in your testimony and your speech because the Holy Spirit will turn your life into service and will add in providing you with all the provisions of life.

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The promise of the spirit is a promise of power. The scripture also states, By their fruit, ye shall know them." We fail to co-operate with the spirit when we allow our lives to become unclean. It is very much like a mother dressing up a child in the morning and tells the child to keep clean during the day ahead. But, at last, when night comes, the child's clothers are soiled. The same thing takes place next day. Of course the mother cleans the clothes all over again. That's what God wants us to do. Somebody would say, that is perfection. But, I wonder what would happen if people were as much afraid of imperfection as they are of perfection. Should we forsake our sings or should we be blind to them? If we will allow the spirit to come in and cleanse our hearts, we will be filled. Because your body is the temple and God's temple must be clean. There must be clean vessels. A man can never be filled with electricity as long as he stands on the ground. Because he touches the earth and that breaks the current. So it is with any other non-conductor of electricity. One will lose his power. So it is, we should come from out among them and be separate. As a fire can be put out with pouring on water or by withdrawing fuel or by putting on large quantities of dirt. So, you may quench the spirit by an immoral life. This is a bold figure in our text, that means to stop or to put out the fire. It means to refuse the guidance of the holy spirit. It means to repress the impulsive with the spirit. It means to neglect the gifts of the spirit.

IV. Penalty of quenching the spirit.

1. Darkness of mind

When we have been abandoned of God's spirit, the mind is no longer impressed with useful and profitable interests. It is very much like a dead letter - laid aside useless.

2. Coldness of heart.

Religion is no longer element in life. We now become interested in worldly matters and such a person you might something spiritual to, and it holds no interest to them at all. You speak to them about a prayer meeting, they have no concern. But, some of these same people, will go to a political meeting or to some great exhibition and their souls are one fire. But, to a spiritual meeting, they are not there because they feel no interest in the subject.

S. N. July 24, 74 Prayer meeting
So. Mex. Jan 15, 1958 (Prayer Meeting)
So. Mex. Nov. 15, 1955 A.M.