

a father whose son has been sick. The father said to Jesus, "I ask your disciples and they could not." They were powerless to help this man. The same is true in many of our churches. It is (not because) we don't have knowledge or equipment, or programs, activity, or even money. No matter how perfect our system may be, if we don't have the spirit, then we are without power.

Gehazi, the servant of the prophet, was sent to the home where the child had died. But, the child was not brought back to life until the prophet arrived.

It is sad when we don't realize that we are without spiritual power as is the case of so many Christians today. I think of Samsun who shook himself and did not realize that the spirit had departed from him. There was a time when the spirit was with him. On one occasion the scripture says, the spirit came mightily upon him. Judges 11:5. And he had nothing in his hand, the only weapon was the spirit of God. We think also how Gideon was able with the sword of the Lord to go and win a victory for Him.

We think of the churches in Rev. Ephesians - had left her first love. Sardis - was without life. Another church was merely lukewarm and without the spirit.

We cannot go out to battle with Saul's armor. The Bible is full of men and women who went forth with nothing except the spirit of God and won victory after victory. Abraham left his home, the priests at Jericho walked around the wall David faced the giant, But, our difficulty today is that we are afraid to prove God. We borrow from the world and feel that this will do the task. We think that if we can copy after the success of the world, then our church program will go over big. Therefore, instead of getting on our knees in prayer, we depend upon the external, and we soon discover that it is not by might, or by power, but that it is by the spirit of God that we conquer.

III. Preventing the Spirit.

As we think of the Spirit of God, representing truth to us, and also we recognize that one may resist or prevent the spirit. Being a moral agent, this is voluntary action. Now, if God should force his spirit upon us, it would be impossible for us to prevent or ~~XXXX~~ quench the spirit. The spirit enlightens the mind, it takes the truth of Christ and reveals it to us.

1120

1. resisting truth.

Now there is such a thing as shutting our eyes and refusing to receive the light as given by the spirit. You can shut your eyes against it, in fact, you can turn them in another direction. Everyone knows by personal experience, that the spirit has the power of shedding light on truth. But, you may quench this spirit as the truth is presented to your mind, some set themselves deliberately to prevent it. They are determined not to yield to its power. Any evidence of truth is pushed aside. They set themselves against it. They (hate truth) After a short truth in resisting truth, the conflict is over. The individual becomes hardened to its power. Then, it is easy to resist the spirit. He would perhaps at first, be greatly moved by truth, but resisting it over and over again, it no longer bothers him. At first perhaps, it made him angry, but now it make (no longer an impression) on him. Have you resisted some truth until it has ceased to effect your mind? This type is resisting will cause one to even support error. They will reject the doctrines of Christianity and will reject almost the entire Bible feeling that they have gotten the true light.

It is wonderful that the spirit interprets to us the great truths. And, perhaps this is one place where Christian workers often fail because they use their own eloquence or wisdom instead of using what the spirit would teach and let the spirit demonstrate in great power. Christians fail in their work because some other message is taught other than that which the spirit reveals. They may teach science or philosophy, or history. Christian workers also fail because they seek to study the Bible by the natural understanding without the spirit's help. And, thus instead of giving out wisdom according to the power of the spirit, they give it out according to their own interpretation. Thus, they grieve the spirit and quench the spirit by resisting truth.

1121

2. uncharitable judgments

How they first -

Without understanding the motives of others, we judge them in a wrong spirit. And I believe the spirit is quenched by a bad temper, that is stirred up in an individual and causes him to render such judgments. These will be made with prejudice, the mind is made up on a subject before it is thoroughly canvassed. The mind is shut against truth and it is impossible for the spirit to act. Let every man keep an open mind concerning conviction