



C O N T R A S T

A STUDY IN 1 THESSALONIANS

In Step Living

November 24, 2024 | 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

Questions for Study and Group Discussion

*** Before you begin, please read 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22*

1. **Icebreaker:** A central topic of the passage is the Holy Spirit. What is going through your mind as you think about the Spirit – some of your “knee-jerk reactions” to this topic? (You can also share questions that come to mind related to this topic.)
2. Why is studying and understanding the Person and work of the Holy Spirit so important for Christians?
3. Imagine you were asked to explain the Person and work of the Holy Spirit to someone else with little understanding of the Spirit. What are the first 3-4 things you would include?
4. What does it mean to “quench” the Spirit? (Hint: See also Galatians 5:16-26; Ephesians 4:30-32.) Practically speaking, what might quenching the Spirit look like?
5. Read 2 Timothy 1:6-7. Instead of quenching the Spirit, here Paul tells Timothy (and us) to fan the flame of the Spirit’s activity in our lives. Practically speaking, what might “fanning the flame” of the Spirit’s activity (that is, inviting His activity) in your life look like?
6. This passage (1 Thess 5:19-22) mentions the spiritual gift of prophecy. Is this idea of prophecy new to you? What are your reactions to it? Why is it important to think biblically about prophecy? (Note: Christians disagree over how the gift of prophecy should be understood and practiced.)
7. The ESV Study Bible says this about 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21:

“Believers are to be open to the disclosure of God’s will through fellow Christians exercising the gift of prophecy....

The Thessalonians apparently despised manifestations of prophecy and hence were cutting off a valuable source of encouragement and extinguishing the Spirit’s fire.”

How does this explanation help you start to understand the function and purpose of prophecy?

8. Why is it important to test prophecy, like Paul mentions in verse 21?
9. Make a list of healthy ways to test prophecy. Explain why each of these “tests” is important, and how they could be implemented in testing prophecy.
10. What other questions or comments do you have about what you’ve looked at in the Bible today?
11. What was your biggest take-away from the message? Why?
12. What is one step of practical application you can make it your life this week, based on what you’ve learned from the Bible?
13. **Challenge:** Identify one way this passage is challenging or encouraging you. Who can you tell about what you’re learning this coming week?