



Do not put out the Spirit's fire, 1 Thessalonians 5:19

Paul is cautioning his readers, *Do not quench, put out, the Spirit's fire, 1 Thessalonians 5:19 (NIV).*

One of the images of spirit and fire in the New Testament is Pentecost. In the Book of Acts of the Apostles, chapter one verse eight the disciples are given a task: BE WITNESSES, but they are told to WAIT for spiritual power. Have you ever known what you need to do, but were told to wait? It can be very frustrating.

In the past, when you had to wait on accomplishing a task, how did you wait? What did you do while you were waiting? Did you call a friend, take a nap, or try to do things on your own when you want to?

In chapter two verse one the disciples are at the Jewish Festival which marks fifty days after Passover (Pentecost). They are all together in Jerusalem, *“then the sound of a mighty wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting”*. The disciples were sitting! You mean you can be a disciple while you sit on your bottom? You better be sitting and waiting if God told you to sit and wait.

After the wind the people saw what appeared to be tongues of fire resting on each of them. What kind of power did they receive? They were able to speak in different languages without the benefit of any training. About three thousand people were added to the church that day. Afterwards all the people went back to their homes in different lands.

What was the purpose of such a miracle? God gave the good news in the language each person could understand and then those people carried the message back to their homeland.

The danger, though, is the option God has given us. We can put out the Spirit's fire. We can choose to ignore God. Our faith can become a flicker, but if it is not given the right fuel your faith is in danger of going out. Listen to God. Make His voice the main voice above all other voices in your life. Thank God for His gift of other people who have given you the Spirit's fire when you needed it.

Who has inspired you? They may be dead but God used them to impart a gift to you. Some of those special people in our life have invested in us. It may not have been as exciting as wind, fire and a foreign language, but we were changed.

Who are you inspiring? You can be a witness by serving someone. God has given you special gifts- invest them in someone by using them. You might just find that you have more fire (spiritual power) than you know what to do with.

Thank God for the fuel of his word,
Pastor John Raddatz