

## Final Words - 1 Thessalonians 5:19-28

What is God capable of doing? We too often put God in a box!

We also live as if Jesus is not the ***“Alpha & Omega, the beginning & the end!”***

We too often limit what the Spirit of God can do in our lives & in this world!

Paul says here in 1 Thessalonians 5:19 - ***“Do not quench the Spirit!”***

Paul also says in 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 – ***“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him” - these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.”***

God has a plan, a purpose in all things, & all of history is unfolding according to it. Everything is under His sovereign rule & nothing functions outside of it.

And it is the Spirit of God that is doing this work in the world, bringing God’s eternal purposes to bear. Do we have eyes to see, ears to hear, hearts that are open to what the Spirit of God is doing in our lives & all around us?

The very “depths of God” are known by the Spirit of God, and the Spirit of God makes them known to us as He lives within us & directs our lives!

Hear these words record by Luke in Acts 2:17-18, ***“And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.”***

Luke is saying that the Spirit of God will not be silent, will not be inactive as He dwells & moves within us. He will lead us to know the truth, speak the truth & respond to the truth of God in our lives.

Paul goes on to say in vs. 20 – ***“Do not despise prophecies...”*** Don’t turn your nose up to what the Word of God reveals & what the Spirit of God is doing in you & in this world! God is on the move, so be ready to join Him!

The Scriptures have been given to us in order to know Him & His purposes, & they remain to be our sole authority in faith and life! The Bible is the very breathed out, inspired declaration of God! It is God’s prophecy to us!

But how do we know that we are reading it, receiving it and living out the Word of God correctly? And how do we know what to do when Scripture doesn’t specifically speak to every situation we encounter in life?

We must remember that God has given us more than just His Word, He has put His Spirit within us as our helper, to discern the Word of God, the purposes of God, & to lead us in the calling of God in our lives!

But we must be cautious! We must ***“test everything”*** Paul says, because not every feeling, every thought, every coincidence can be chalked up as prophecy, revelation or the Spirit of God’s work in our lives!

We must put everything that we think may be from God to the test of Scripture to see if it lines up with the character & purposes of God already revealed.

God will not contradict Himself! ***“He is the same yesterday, today & forever”*** so test everything with Scripture before jumping to any conclusions!

After testing, Paul says, then you can ***“Hold fast to what is good & abstain from every form of evil!”*** It’s no longer simply blind faith at that point, it’s a faith rooted & established in the character and revealed promises of God.

We have all we need to live into the purposes of God in our lives! We simply need to submit ourselves to Scripture & walk in step w/the Spirit!

Paul closes this letter with a benediction/blessing: ***“Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, & may your whole spirit & soul & body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”***

God’s not done with us yet! There’s still work to be done in us & through us before Jesus’ comes again! Will we submit to the work of God in our lives?

For this we know, ***“He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it!”*** - Vs. 24 ***“He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it...”*** Phil 1:6

Paul’s final words reveals how we are to live into God’s faithfulness to us:

- 1) ***“Brothers, pray for us!”*** If we are people of prayer God will move!
- 2) ***“Greet all the brothers w/ a holy kiss!”*** Stay in fellowship w/each other.
- 3) ***“Have this letter read to all the brothers.”*** Let Scripture be your guide!
- 4) ***“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”*** Proceed with grace!

We have an opportunity to know & do the will of God! Who’s with us?

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