

Small Group Discussion Guide — Read 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

- What do you remember that Jonathan Edwards said were some of the ‘marks’ of true revival? If you had to put it in your own words, what does it mean to have a “great esteem” for God’s Word? How would this be a mark of revival?
- How did it strike you today when Joshua said that there are things we can do, certain attitudes and actions, that can actually stifle or hinder the ministry and activity of the Holy Spirit in our lives? Was the surprising to you? Why or why not? How can God’s sovereignty not at all undermine our own responsibility?
- Vs. 19, what does it mean to “quench the Spirit”? How is this similar to “grieving” the Spirit? (Ephesians 4:30) What might be some ways that we could quench the Spirit’s sanctifying work in our lives?
- Vs. 20, what does it mean to “despise prophecies”? What are “prophecies”? What are some ways that you are neglecting, rejecting, or disregarding God’s Word in your life?
- How do vs. 19 (“do not quench the Spirit”) and vs. 20 (“do not despise prophecies”) tie together? How does disregarding the Word of God undermine the Spirit’s sanctifying work in your life? In what ways have you been guilty of this? What are the areas of your life in which He is wanting to sanctify you?
- No matter where you land in terms of the ‘continuationist’ or ‘cessationist’ discussion, why can we all be grateful that we now have the full and final revelation of God contained in the Scripture? What do we mean when we say that the Bible is sufficient and authoritative? Why could it be dangerous to say that God is still giving “new revelation” today?
- According to vs. 21, what does it mean to be discerning? Why is it important that we evaluate what we hear as to whether or not it is really from the Spirit? (see Matthew 7:15; 1 John 4:1)
- What were some of the tests Joshua mentioned that the Bible gives us in order to discern truth from error? Good from evil?
- Joshua asked at the end what it would look like to see true revival even in our own church. He said it must begin with a brokenness over our sin (personally and corporately), a desire for greater holiness, and a hunger for God and His Word. Where do you see areas in your own life that need to change? What do you need to repent from and confess to Him? How might we pray for revival in our own church and in our community?