

## 1 Thessalonians 5 - The Waiting Room – part 9

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18—We are pursuing the answers to the question of “what do we do while we wait on the what God has for us.”

--Adding to that list of what to do will things to not do.

--The Holy Spirit -- Do you know who He is? He’s like the air we breathe here; He’s the only thing that enables us to accomplish any of this.

--It is as if Paul is saying, “do this and that and those things, but while you are, don’t forget to breathe.” “don’t quench the Holy Spirit.”

*with the gift of the Holy Spirit, who is the very breath of God.*

As Someone has said, many of us think that the Holy Spirit is like our pituitary gland. You know it’s there, you’re glad you’ve got it, and you don’t want to lose it, but you’re not exactly sure what it does.

--The Holy Spirit is far more than some kind of spiritual gland—He’s everything!

--To begin with: He’s a He not an It, not a force, but a full member of the Trinity.

--He speaks, He sees, He hears, He knows, He empowers, He indwells, He can be lied to, put to the test, He can be grieved and can be quenched.

--Quenching the Spirit needs to go on our not-to-do list.

We are going to take a closer look at that, but before we do, we are going to have reminder of who the Holy Spirit is and why I say, “He’s everything.”

1. The Holy Spirit defines us – “wait a minute, we are defined by Jesus”—yes, but not just Jesus; also the Father, the creator and source of all that we are; but not just the Father and the Son, also the Holy Spirit “baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit”—

--We are to be publicly identified in this world as belonging to all Three equally and completely -- We call it the Trinity.

--The Holy Spirit defines us – **Romans 8:9** “I read the bible and pray and go to church and believe in Jesus” These things accompany Christians but they don’t define us: our definition is, specifically, **Romans 8:9.**

--How do we know we have the Father and the Son? Because we have the Spirit! He defines us.

2. The Holy Spirit leads us – He defines us and part of that defining is that He leads us **Romans 8:14.**

--A true believer is led by the Spirit of God: **John 10:27**

--The Church, by definition, is led by the Spirit of God.

--Is this a Spirit led church? You better hope so!

3. The Holy Spirit is everything to us

--He’s the One who drew us to Jesus: **John 6:44; 16:7-11** He drew us, convicted us, convinced us.

--He’s the one who birthed us into Christ: **John 3:3, 5**

--He’s the one who baptized us into Christ: **1 Corinthians 12:13** full immersion!

--There are two mediums of Baptism:

1. Water—It does not save you but is a picture of what you are saved from—we put you under and then let you up reenacting the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

2. The Holy Spirit—He does indeed save you, and you never come up from that baptism. **Acts 1:5; Matthew 3:11**

- He is the One who indwells us: [Romans 8:9](#)
- He Teaches us: [John 14:26](#)
- He leads us: [Romans 8:14](#)
- He assures us: [Romans 8:16](#)
- He is the One who seals us: [Ephesians 4:30](#)

To Quench Him would be disastrous for us since He does everything!

If we quench Him—if we stop His work, we are done.

--We might as well be a civic organization because what marks us as God's in a world that does not know Him *is the Spirit*.

--[Galatians 5:22-23](#)—takes us back to Paul's instructions of what to do while we wait.

--Waiting cannot be done correctly without the control of Spirit.

### **Eph. 5:18-21**

"Be Filled with the Spirit" How do we obey a passive verb?

--When you're sailing, is "being filled with the wind" something that happens to you or is it something that you do?

Andrew Wilson writes in an article for *Christianity Today*:

"Catching the wind on a sailboat is clearly an experience. I vividly remember that first feeling of being seized and carried forward by a mighty power from elsewhere. But it is also something that you do. If you don't put the sails up, pull the mainsheet fast, or adjust the jib, you won't go anywhere, even if the wind is blowing powerfully.

**Sailing, in that sense, is the art of attentive responsiveness to an external power.** You rely entirely on the external power to get you anywhere. Sailors never imagine themselves to be powering the boat by their own strength. But you also have to respond attentively to whatever the wind is doing, which comes through cultivating awareness, skill, and good habits.

Being filled with the Spirit involves the same both-and. We pursue the experience of the Holy Spirit - Paul uses the language of filling and drenching, drinking and pouring. We rely entirely on the Spirit's immeasurable power, rather than our own strength, to get us anywhere. But we also develop habits. We respond attentively to what he is doing in and through us, a capacity that comes through awareness, skill, and practice."