

**Open Sails Series**  
**Fueling or Quenching the Fire**  
**Matthew 3:11**

Today we are in our final study in our summer series – Called Open sails – looking at the Person of the Holy Spirit

A) Being OPEN TO THE ROLE He desires TO PLAY IN OUR LIVES – CHURCH

B) I have asked you to turn to Matthew 3:11 – Statement of John the Baptist made about the Coming of Jesus! –

1) Launching point of our sermon today!

C) Read our text – John declares:

**“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”**

Pray

**BACKPACKING story - never used one of those lanterns before; Almost – burned up the forest**

A) The interesting thing about fire – is that Fire can be fueled or it can be quenched!

B) Same is true in the Christian life- A person living under the filling and empowering of the Holy Spirit can be described as being ON FIRE!

**C) Good Description of what IS suppose to happen when we OPEN OURSELVES UP TO THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES!**

D) The evangelist DL Moody who was known for his passionate preaching and large crowds came to his crusades.

1) Reporter asked him about – the reason for the crowds **“I ask God to light me on fire and they come to watch me burn!”**

D) Perhaps through the course of this series you have prayed – Lord fill me with your spirit – LIGHT ME ON FIRE

1) You have told God – I want to be an open sail – I want to be used by you. - GIFTS .....

**But you sit here today – You’re feeling like nothing has happened.**

A) You continue to struggle in the same areas.

B) Your life – seems to be **lacking of power to serve** OR WALK IN VICTORY

C) What is the problem?

**Note: Part of it could be the reality that we live in a fallen world –BROKEN People**

A) As long as we are living in these Broken bodies - we are always going to battle –

**The World, the Flesh and the Devil.**

**B) Those three forces together have a way of just bringing us down.**

C) But I also think that it is important to point out that there are things that we can do to:

❖ **HINDER THE WORK OF GOD’S SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES**

D) But there are also THINGS THAT WE CAN DO TO HELP .....

D) Put it another way: there are things that we can do to **Quench the Fire** and there are things that we can do to **Fuel the Fire!**

➤ **Focus of our Final study today**

**Start with three things that can Hinder the work of God’s Spirit in our lives**

**#1 – We can resist the Holy Spirit :**

**“You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.” – Acts 7:51**

A) **Examples of the Holy Spirit leading**

- Acts 11 – Peter is led to the house of Cornelius
- Acts 13 – Sending out Paul and Barnabas
- Acts 16 – Forbidding ministry in Asia

**B) The Holy Spirit would love to lead us, but it is possible for us to resist the Holy Spirit**

1) MOMS COBBLER – Yrs – resisted – looked gross – **Denise new dessert - piled ice cream**

C) For years I was missing out on the blessing of – that awesome dessert

1)Because I resisted even trying it.

**So too as believers: God has blessings for us – Blessings of being used**

A)He whispers - Go talk to that person – He knows they are RIPE – you resist –

B)So He sends someone else. – they get the blessing – you missed it

1)Go pray – they are healed – but we RESIST

C)Turn off the TV – pick up your Bible – { He wants to bless you – something specific

D)Unbeliever here today: - Blessing of Salvation – Relationship

**The Dangerous thing about resisting the Holy Spirit is as we do our hearts can become calloused – hardened.**

A)God’s spirit will not always strive with man

B)Unbeliever – He is calling you - Respond

1)Backslidden – **Calling you back – DON’T RESIST!**

**So #1 We can Resist the Holy Spirit  
#2 We can grieve the Holy Spirit! – Ephesians 4:30**

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.” – Eph. 4:30-32

A)This is an interesting verse: In this series we have learned that the Holy Spirit is **NOT A FORCE – NOT AN IT –**

1)Third person of the Triune Godhead – God the Father... Son ....Holy Spirit

B)He is a person and as a person – He has feelings and emotions

C)**And like us – He can be GRIEVED!**

**Difference is this: He doesn’t grieve at us! – Grieves for us! - Missing out on His best!**

A)Our grief is often flawed – We take things personally

B)He hurt my feelings

❖ **She let me down –**

❖ **My Child disappointed me!**

**C)Because God’s love is so pure – His grief is also pure**

1)He grieves for us when He sees us moving in a direction that is – NOT HIS BEST

D)As parents we sometimes feel this grief: You watch your child make a decision – not going to end well - - **YOUR Heart grieves for them.**

1)The pain that YOU KNOW IS COMING!

E)That is the idea here:

**Paul gives us a list of things that grieve the Lord: bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking-**

A)Interesting list: Things we struggle with all the time

B)There is a passage in Proverbs that has always intrigued me – Proverbs 6

“These six things the Lord hates, yes seven are an abomination to Him. A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies and one who sows discord among the brethren.” – Proverbs 6:16-19

C)God says these are six things I hate – 7 that are an abomination – heavy

**D)Aside from hands that shed innocent blood, the rest of the list is full of things that are common in the church!**

1)Pride, lying, hatred, thinking on evil, running toward evil, sowing discord among our brethren.

E)God says – I hate those things – they grieve me – they make me sad

1)Why? They are so contrary to – HIS NATURE - who He is

**He is desiring – to Make us more like Jesus – Romans 8:29**

A) He has redeemed us to change us! – He sees us – acting in ways contrary

❖ **Not WHO HE SAVED US TO BE!**

B) He says I have something – Bigger for you than that! – We settle for so much less

**C) GRIEVES BECAUSE – HE HAS SO MUCH MORE THAT IS BETTER FOR US!**

1) We get sucked into these petty attitudes – or we allow our flesh to be ruled by these emotions

D) His Heart is grieved for us!!!!!! - So He says **PUT AWAY: bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking with Malice**

E) Not who I redeemed you to be – Not who the Holy Spirit is in you

**Instead - be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."**

C) Forgive this morning – Let the Holy Spirit move!!!

**Things that hinder the work of the Holy spirit in our lives:**

- #1 – We can resist the Holy Spirit
- #2 – We can grieve the Holy Spirit
- #3 – **We can quench the Holy Spirit**

**"Do not quench the Spirit."** – I Thessalonians 5:19

**Fire can be quenched for basically two reasons**

#1 - The introduction of **non-compatible materials**, such as water or baking soda or fire extinguisher.

A) I have one of those portable fire pits from Costco in my back yard

B) Let's say: I am building a fire and **ONE OF MY GRANDKIDS** comes over wanting to help and pours water on the fire!

1) Wait did you just say – Grandkids ? – Something we don't know about?

C) No Pretending – No grandkids – No pressure – You either – no pressure

**Last Sunday night - The McKay's: - 4 kids – 3 boys – Precious daughter Eden**

A) Pool – laughing – fun - awesome – imagining - **THEN THEY LEFT**

B) **WOW!!!!!!** – So that is what it is going to be like

C) Pretend – Eden – comes to help – Pours water

1) Problem – Water is not compatible with Fire – **OUT IT GOES!**

C) **SO TOO – THERE** are things that are **NOT COMPATIBLE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT – NAMELY SIN**

1) God's spirit is burning – We Add something that doesn't mix – Like pouring water on a fire

**Great way to quench the spirit – Rebel – give into your flesh.**

A) Drugs – Drunkenness – Porn - Bitterness – Unforgiveness – Jealousy

**B) POURING WATER ON THE FIRE!**

C) Hebrew 12: Run laying aside the **weight & the sins**

1) Sins are obvious – black and white

D) **Weights are NOT SIN – NOT BLACK AND WHITE** - but it can be something in your life – not bad or wrong in and of itself

1) **But it can quench the fire!**

E) **Water is fine in and of itself – but it doesn't mix with Fire –**

1) A weight might be fine in and of itself – but it doesn't mix with what God is doing in your life!

**So Fire can be quenched for basically two reasons**

#1 - The introduction of non-compatible materials

#2 Lack of Fuel – run out of wood – or fuel

**4 Ways to fuel the Fire!**

A) About 2 years ago – speaking series – Wed nights – Thousand Oaks - 3 weeks – drive up

B) Third week – conflict - Staff retreat – Mon – Wed – Lake Havasu

1) No way I could get From Havasu to Thousand Oaks in time for the evening service –

C) “No problem – I will send a pilot”

1) First time in little plane – 2-seater - Pilot instruments – listening to the flight tower – really cool

Learned there are four things that they teach Pilots when they get into trouble – lose their way: **Bad Weather -**

A) **Climb** – get above the bad weather – hear better –

- **Confess** – I am in trouble – I need help
- ❖ **Communication** – listen to the instructions
- ✚ **Conform** – Do whatever the guy in the tower is telling you.

B) Great way to help us remember – how to add fuel to the fire!

#1 **Climb** – Purposeful about drawing near to the Lord

- The Word

Noted -Ephesians 5:18-19

<sup>18</sup> And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but *be filled with the Spirit*, <sup>19</sup> speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord....

Colossians 3:16 -

“Let the *word of Christ dwell in you richly* in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.....”

There is this connection between – The Filling of the Holy Spirit and the word

A) Let the word Dwell – Richly - Be at home in a big way - The Spirit works through the word - **FUELS THE FIRE!**

B) Sometimes the best way to deal with sin –

1) **Is to Climb instead of combat**

1) Pilot – MOFFET FIELD – the Rat –

C) Another way to Climb – Add fuel to the Fire is to fellowship!

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the

assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” – Hebrews 10:24-25

D) COALS IN A FIRE

4 Ways to fuel the Fire!

#1 Climb

#2 Confess

➤ **Worship**

DECLARING HIS GREATNESS **OUR LITTLENESS**

JOHN THE BAPTIST – I MUST DECREASE

➤ **Fasting** –

DENY MY FLESH – HEIGHTENS MY SPIRITUAL ANTENNA – TUNE OUT TUNE IN

ADDS SPIRITUAL STRENGTH

Remember Jesus said to His disciples “**This kind only comes out through prayer and fasting**”

➤ **Communion:**

Some are weak among you – neglecting the Lord’s table – not giving worth

4 Ways to fuel the Fire!

#1 Climb

#2 Confess

#3 Communication

➤ **Prayer** { Mark of Dependency

Pray without ceasing – 1 Thessalonians 5:16

4 Ways to fuel the Fire!

#1 Climb

#2 Confess

#3 Communication

#4 **Conform**

**RESPOND:** Acts 8 The example of Phillip