

Thriving with the Thessalonians, pt 12

1 Thessalonians 5:19-28

Smores

Getting our worship right (19-21)

Quench not the Spirit (19)

= Stop putting out the Spirit's fire

Problem: places us in self-power

Prophecies (20-21)

Stop despising

Test = examine, carefully inspect

Hold fast the good

2 inherent challenges

1. Failing to receive what God's actually saying

Question: did the nature of prophecy change once the Bible written?

Foretelling vs forthtelling

Certain: what conforms to Scripture

Problem: declaring things way beyond Scripture as God's word (revelation/prophecy)

Warning

2. Failing to reject what God is not saying

Test

How do you test a prophecy?

Step 1: compare it to Scripture

Step 2: Is it clearly conforming to the character & actions of God?

Step 3: Is it taking authority over things God has given the individual?

Step 4: Is it benefiting or profiting the individual making the prophecy?

Danger: claiming as from God what isn't

Caution: how do you respond to those who say "God told me something"? or "God revealed this to me?"

Zero defect

Getting our obedience right (22-28)

Abstain from all forms of evil (22)

Let God sanctify you (23-24)

Basis: faithfulness of God

Pray for and Greet (25-26)

Share God's truth with others (27-28)