

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020
"THE SPIRIT'S SURPRISES"

By Kim Sheard

Do not quench the Spirit. ~1 Thessalonians 5:19 (NSRV)

If you listened to or read yesterday's devotional, you may remember that I actually quoted two very different scriptures from the week's lectionary in the same devotional. Slick, huh?

I cannot take any of the credit for that. The Holy Spirit linked them for me, and I just wrote it down. Seriously. This is how it came about.

I knew I wanted to write about Psalm 126's "sowing in tears and reaping with shouts of joy." It was just too awesome of an illustration to ignore. But I struggled with exactly what to say. This third week of Advent is our week of joy, so this scripture fit right in, but what else could I say? The scripture seemed powerful enough on its own. So I came up with my list of practical ideas for how to sow joy. As a reminder, they were to rejoice, sing, pray, give, and express gratitude.

But still the meditation didn't seem quite right. It didn't come full circle and have "punch." I decided to move on and work on another devotion then come back to this one.

I read through the lectionary scriptures for the umpteenth time for other ideas, and when I got to 1 Thessalonians 5, my mouth fell open. What did verses 16 through 18 command? No other than to rejoice, pray, and give thanks. Sound familiar? These were exactly the ideas I had come up with for cultivating joy. A twofer, scripture-wise.

I am certain that the Holy Spirit whispered that inspiration in my ear. And I listened! I did not quench the Spirit. Could the Spirit also be whispering an important message to you?

Other translations of the Bible say to not "suppress," "smother," "turn away," or "stifle" the Spirit. What beautiful revelations might the Spirit surprise us with if we do not?

Thought for Today: Listen to the Holy Spirit's whispers!

Prayer: Holy Spirit, speak to me. Help me to listen to your whispers on matters large and small. I am ready. Amen.