

# The Right Responce

1Thessalonians 5:19; Ephesians 4:30 NIV

**Duct tape** is a polyethylene, reinforced, multi-purpose pressure sensitive tape with a soft and flexible shell and pressure sensitive adhesive. It is generally silver or black in color but many other colors have recently become available. With a standard width of 1<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches, duct tape was originally developed during World War II in 1942 as a water resistant sealing tape for ammunition cases. Its versatility quickly expanded. If it couldn't be fixed with duct tape, it wasn't broken in the first place.

It is also called "Duck Tape", "Riggers Tape", "Hurricane Tape", or "100-mph tape."

According to the Jumbo Duct Tape Book, rule number one, the rule that can get you through life is: **If it ain't stuck and it is suppose to be, duct tape it.**

Myth Busters have had full hour episodes on duct tape. They have had a duct tape boat, duct tape cannon, car lift, duct tape boat plans, even a duct tape bridge that they walked across.

They duct taped a car to a concrete light pole base to see if the tape was strong enough to hold the car in place when it excellerated. And, it was.

Archimedes said, "Give me a level and a place to stand, I can move the world." If

this is true, that you can move the world with a lever, then it can be held in place with duct tape. And if your feet slip while you are tugging on that lever, Archimedes, a couple wraps of duct tape should fix that.

So, what does duct tape have to do with the right response?

How many wraps of duct tape do you think it would take to hold you? If I wrapped your wrists and taped them to your legs and then wrapped several times around your body, how much tape do you think it would take to hold you, to keep you from freeing your arms? From what I saw on the Myth Busters, it wouldn't take many wraps to hold you.

So, now you have been informed about duct tape. You know that it is strong, sticky, and you shouldn't allow someone to wrap you up with duct tape, unless you just enjoy being stuck and immobile.

Just around the corner from me on Schiller and Lake, there is what I would call a mini farm. They have a fenced in area with a variety of animals.

And there is this little white goat: I can't tell you how many times I have passed there and that goat has his head through the fence and is stuck. I have even stopped and freed him. I have explained to

him that even though the grass is greener, unless he enjoys being stuck, it isn't worth it.

Duct tape is a great product. But letting someone wrap you up in it is not a good idea. That fence protects those animals. But that fence has become that little goat's nightmare.

Paul wrote to the Ephesians and the Thessalonians warning them **not to put out the Spirit's fire**. Some translations say **don't quench the Spirit**. (Eph 4:30; 1 Thess 5:19)

Satan and his powers of darkness have products similar to man's best; and even God's best. But they are cheap counterfeits designed to stick us like the misuse of duct tape or trap us like the goat with our head through the fence, chomping for the greener grass. If we could get our head through just a little bit farther, we could get one more bite.

Take love for example. Where would we be without love? God's unconditional love for us; the brotherly love we have for one another; parents love for their children.

But the cheap counterfeit that many settle for is, 'I'll love you as long as you love me.' But the right response to love is a beautiful thing.

Intimacy: God made intimacy for many reasons and the right response is also a beautiful thing. But the counterfeit, the wrong response destroys marriages, ruins lives, and can even destroy your body.

The Spirit's fire; quenching the Spirit; just how important, how critical is the right or wrong response to the Holy Spirit. Now remember whom we are talking about. The Holy Spirit is not a thing or an 'it.' The Holy Spirit is a person.

God the Holy Spirit was sent by the Father and the Son as the comforter of Christ's followers. He undeniably has personality since He can be **obeyed, grieved, revered, blasphemed, and lied to**. He is undeniably God since He is **omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent, holy, and all-wise. He relates to the Christian by regenerating him, baptizing him, indwelling him, sealing him, filling him, endowing him with spiritual gifts, and aiding him in victory over sin**. Are we clear on whom we are talking about?

And, let be clear about whom I am speaking to. I'm speaking to the church, the called out ones. I'm not talking about or to the world here. I am speaking to those called out of the world so that they can be filled with the Holy Spirit of God.

Here is a story that will help you understand the importance of **A Right Response to the Spirit's fire**. This story is from the daily devotional, Jewels For The Journey. It's called, Danger of Delay, by Calvin Ray Evans. He writes:

One night in a service, I could not help but notice a man sitting in the back of the church. During the invitation the expression on his face never changed. He was not being touched by anything going on around him. Several people close to him had come forward, but he sat still and quiet with no emotions whatsoever. After several minutes of the invitation being extended, he slowly exited the back doors of the church.

The service ended and while I was rejoicing there was still a stir in my heart for that gentleman. Would I ever see or hear from him again? Would he be saved before it was too late? I could just sense that he was in serious trouble and really needed the Lord.

As I started to leave the church, much to my surprise, the man was waiting outside for me to come out. He introduced himself and we spoke in general conversation for a little while. I proceeded to ask him about his spiritual condition.

The man looked me straight in the eye and said, "Preacher, in about 1960 I came to this same church and heard your father preach a revival. The Lord dealt so strongly with me that I went out of the church to escape the conviction of the Spirit. I looked up to heaven and told the Lord that if he never bothered me again then I would never trouble Him. I meant what I said and to this day not one time has there been a stir in my heart. The problem is now I am dying of a brain tumor and still I have no desire to call on Him. I came

back to this church tonight, but still have no interest in being saved."

Of course, I pleaded with the man but that night we parted ways never to meet again. As I walked away, I could not help but think of the danger of telling the Holy Spirit 'no.' People may have no fear of death and that is terrible. What is worse is no fear that they may have received their last invitation from God. (End of story)

Danger of delay; saying no to the Holy Spirit. As a child, did you ever go to an adult, parent, grandparent, or whoever, with what you considered a great idea, full of enthusiasm and plans to accomplish great things?

Or, have you ever had a youngster come to you, full of enthusiasm over an idea or project? And watched his or her face fall when you said no?

Well, the Holy Spirit is enthusiastically committed to ideas and projects by which you can serve God and experience great blessing. And every time you say no to His prompting, it's like throwing a bucket of cold water on him. Have you ever felt like that when one of your great ideas or projects was rejected? Then you have some idea of how the Holy Spirit feels when rejected.

The Spirit won't force you or me to follow His promptings. We can quench His ministry to us by a simple no. But when we do, when we put out the Spirit's fire with the wrong response, it is to our great loss.

Well, let me tell you another story that I ran across while reading through some sermons on Sermon Central. I'm going to change the name in the story to my name. But when you hear my name mentioned, I want you to put the name of the person seated closest to you in my place.

This story is a picture of how the Holy Spirit gets us through some difficult times; times when we may be stuck with the duct tape of darkness, or caught with our head through the fence, stretching into the world for one more bite, not acting like the called out ones.

Use your sanctified imagination and find yourself no longer here but in a baseball park. Your favorite team is at bat, but behind in the bottom of the ninth, three to zero. An extremely good pitcher has just taken the mound. The bases are loaded and there are two outs. Up to bat is . . . Dave Russell. (Remember- replace my name.)

Now, you know that baseball has never been Dave's greatest strength. He was third string right-fielder in little league and he usually sat on the bench reading a Spider Man comic book, not paying much attention to the game. No one is sure that he has even figured out all the rules or how he ever made this team, but that doesn't matter now because everything rides on him. All eyes focus on Dave as he stumbles to home plate. "This can be good," you hear yourself say. Hardly anyone notices an obscure figure waiting in the shadows of the dugout.

Dave stands alert but trembling--his knees shake so bad they don't knock. Instead, they miss! You hold your breath as the pitcher prepares for his first release. There's the wind up, there's the pitch . . . "S T E E R I I I K K E" yells the umpire. You turn to the person seated next to you and say, "Dave didn't even see the ball." A soft but hearty "Booo" comes from the fans. Dave swallows hard. Sweat is covering him from head to toe. The pitcher smells blood, winds up again and . . . "S T E E R I I I K K E!" yells the umpire.

Dave looks at the catcher as if to ask, "Was the ball even thrown?" More boos from the fans. At this point, a time-out is called. (You can do that when you use a sanctified imagination.) Dave steps from the plate and unzips an opening that runs down his back. From the dugout comes that obscure figure. He is large and burly. His physique communicates ultimate finesse in baseball. Nothing but confidence emanates from this man. His name . . . Hank Aaron. Mr. Aaron climbs into the opening and Dave is zipped back up, ready to face the final pitch.

The situation has now changed. But the pitcher thinks, "Victory is certain." He smiles as Dave steps back into the batter's box. He winds up and you again hold your breath. Dave shuts his eyes. There is the release.

One hundred miles an hour toward home plate. Dave swings -- CRACK! The bat connects. It's a long fly ball toward center field. The chase is on by the center

fielder. It's a Home Run over the center field wall! It's a grand-slam home run! How did he do it?

Make the right response to the Spirit's fire. Being a hero is a good feeling. Winning the game by making the right play is great. Imagine what God says about you when you make the right response to His Spirit.

It's a great feeling to be a hero. But who hit that home run? Dave or Hank Aaron? It works this way:

**It was my body, but it was his brawn.**  
**It was my experience, but it was his expertise.**  
**It was my person, but it was his power.**  
**It was my availability, but it was his ability.**

God has great plans for you. I know this to be true because you are still breathing. As long as you are on this earth you have purpose. The Spirit's fire is part of your inheritance. **Don't quench the Spirit.**

Stay away from the duct tape of darkness, keep your head out of the fence, and keep swinging. There is a reason that you are still here.