the SOURCE: PowerOutage

1 Thess 5:19, 'Do not quench the Spirit.' (i.e., extinguish, douse, snuff out)

With a loud snap, a brilliant flash of light and an earth-shattering crash, the storm reached a crescendo. On cue, one by one, lights and sounds went still, and mayhem ceased. It was as if the atmosphere were holding its breath. Then, chaos cut through darkness and ate the silence. We were stunned; a gasp getting lost somewhere in my throat, trapped and unable to make it out alive. Suddenly, we could not see beyond the fingers in front of our faces, and an eerie quiet chomped on a tidbit of panic I felt inside. At times, there is nothing more noisy than silence or more lonely than a crowd. The storm had come, as honest as its forecast, and it had gone, also true, but the aftermath and the devastation left in its wake would tarry for a long time.

Have you ever felt the impact or been wrecked by the consequences of a storm? Maybe an emotional storm took you out, caught you off-guard, pummeled your coiffed character into a spongy and soggy existence. Or a financial storm bankrupted your soul, not just your accounts. Or, perhaps, a tainted tempest whirred dust into motion while fingers of lightning licked the sky. Whatever the storm was, it is almost certain the power went out, and you were left all at once in darkness and silence and the aftermath of what just assailed you and those around you.

Do you know that the power of the Holy Spirit can go out also? We do not really have power apart from the Spirit, but we are powerful enough to extinguish His fire in our lives. Just like a storm roiling through an early summer night, eating everything in its path and leaving nothing but dread and darkness behind, so too can we agitate the work of the Spirit in our lives and cause His power to go out. Like a candle gets snuffed of oxygen and its flickering flame grows black, so too is the loss of the power from the Holy Spirit within us. We must be cautious not to actively ignore, disobey or suppress the work of God's Spirit within us. God nor His Spirit will exist where darkness reigns. He will not vie for our affection for Him versus our affection for the world. Therefore, His power will simply flicker, then go out, if we choose to dance with the devil and play with fire.

But o, what joy, on the day when the power returns, when it is turned back on! There was celebration in our home when it was restored. When we could access the damage from the storm wasn't insurmountable, we were filled with gratitude. And so it will be with the Spirit also. On the day we decide to yield to His brilliance and guidance, the power of the Spirit will be restored so our soul can be lit up again.