

Identity of the Restrainer

(2 Thessalonians 2:6-7)

| Observation | Requirement met by the Holy Spirit |
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| 1. The restrainer is referred to using both the neuter and masculine genders. | The restrainer must be a single person who is referred to using both genders in Scripture (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13-14). |
| 2. The restrainer exists and restrains sin throughout the church age. | The restrainer must have continuity of existence throughout this time period, if not actual eternity (Heb 9:14). |
| 3. The restrainer has the authority to dictate, control, and direct events in human history. | The restrainer must have the ability to decree and to sovereignly bring events to pass (Acts 8:29; 11:12; 13:2; 16:6-7; 1 Cor 12:11). |
| 4. The restrainer is powerful enough to hold back mighty spiritual forces. | The restrainer must have supernatural strength and energy, if not actual omnipotence, in order to hold back powerful spirit beings (Job 33:4; Rom 15:13, 19). |
| 5. The restrainer holds back lawlessness everywhere at once on a global scale. | A single personal restrainer would need to possess the attributes of omnipresence and omniscience to carry out this ministry (Ps 139:7-8; 1 Cor 2:10-11). |
| 6. The restrainer must maintain the highest standards of godliness and holiness in restraining the spirit of lawlessness during this time period. | The restrainer must have the attribute of absolute holiness in order to accomplish this task (Ps 143:10; Isa 63:10; Rom 1:4). |