

The Holy Spirit (I)

The world, as well as the church, is in desperate need of understanding and believing what the Bible teaches regarding the Holy Spirit. So many people are unaware of what the Scripture teaches relative to the Spirit's nature and work. Many folks think that the Spirit is only some kind of inanimate force. They deny his having a personality and nature that is equal to the Father and the Son. Some, even members of the church, misunderstand the method by which he works in the conviction and conversion of those who have never rendered obedience to the gospel. They believe in a direct/miraculous working on the heart of an individual. And, while some members of the church would deny this to be true as it applies to the non-saint, they do affirm that the Spirit works directly/miraculously on the heart of the child of God. Either position is false. With all of the many and varied teachings about the Spirit that exist in the world today, is one being rational and sensible in trying to determine what the truth is? Are we to simply abandon proper reason and interpretation in order to embrace the idea that we can all differ on this issue and still be right with God? Is this subject going to be relegated to a matter of "feelings" and "wishes" instead of treating this subject as an object of divine truth that can be ascertained? What does the Bible teach about the subject at hand? This must be the "Supreme Court of Appeal" about this and every other subject of eternal significance (Isaiah 8:20). Jesus states that one can know the truth and the knowledge/obedience to the truth is what makes a person free from sin (John 8:32). Jesus also points out that the truth is in fact the very word of God (John 17:17). We have the command of God to "rightly divide" or handle properly the word of God in this matter as well as any revealed matter (II Timothy 2:15; Dt. 29:29). Just because a subject is controversial does not mean that the truth cannot be known regarding it. If this is the case (and it is not), then one cannot understand anything found in the Bible. Because, EVERY subject found within the Scripture has been the topic of controversy at one time or another. We can understand what God has revealed (Ephesians 3:3-5; 5:17).

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