



# The King's Highway

## An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

"And an highway shall be there and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness."

VOL. XXXVIII.

MONCTON, N. B., JANUARY 31ST, 1949

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### THE SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD

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The Living God has an Eternal Spirit as He has an Eternal Son. Other religions teach that God is Spirit, but in no religion but that of the Bible is it taught that in God the Spirit there is the Spirit of God.

The doctrine of the Third Person in the One God is one of exceptional difficulty to the modern method of interpretation. The Bible is the only medium of revelation concerning Him, and the Scriptures themselves are not free from difficulty. The term Spirit is as elusive as it is suggestive, and like other Bible terms it hides as well as reveals. The primary conception of the Spirit is of "breath" and wind," and these figures of speech are found in both the Old and New Testaments. Breath and wind are invisible, intangible, and immaterial. They can be heard and they can be felt, but they are incalculable and mighty; and in them is a quickening, cleansing power. Breath is different from wind. Both are air, but while wind comes from no one knows where, breath comes from the seat of life, and from the beginning it has been used to represent the principle of life, the psychic and spiritual nature of life. It was the quickening breath of God that created man a living soul. The term is applied to God. It is never said that God has a soul, but in Him who is Spirit there is a Spirit. The only analogy of which we are aware is the spirit of man. There is a spirit in man, as there is a Spirit in God. It is no more understandable in the one than in the other, but both are facts of consciousness and experience.

#### Name and Person of the Spirit

The Apostles' Creed has ten articles on the Person and work of the Christ, and only one on the Holy Spirit. The proportion of ten to one about represents the history and thought of the Christian Church. About the same proportion is found in the New Testament, and it is reasonable to conclude that the Spirit wills it to be so, for He is the Inspirer of the Word. He does not glorify Himself, but this does not justify the neglect of the Church.

The literature and hymnology of the Church are singularly barren on the subject. John Owens speaks of it as the touch-stone of faith, the one article by which the church stands or falls. Thomas Arnold says it is "the very main thing of all." We are living in the dispensation of the Spirit; in that character and by this ministry God now reveals Himself to His people. He who does not know God, the Holy Ghost, cannot know the Living God, the

Everlasting Father, nor Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son.

The Scriptures ascribe to the Spirit of the Living God all the qualities, attributes and functions of personality. The Spirit is as truly a Person as the Father or the Son. Personality may be beyond our powers of understanding, and three persons in one God must always remain beyond the powers of finite reason, but whatever it means in one it must mean in each. Even orthodox theologians in these days do not know how to define the doctrine of the Spirit, and tend to evaporate His personality in the abiding influence of the Spirit of Christ. He is definitely spoken of alternately as the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ. He is both. The Creeds speak of the Spirit as "proceeding from the Father and the Son." Jesus used the same term. Eternal procession is as incomprehensible as eternal generation, but both are in the Revelation of God by His Word and through His Spirit. The certainty of the knowledge is in the experience of Pentecost. The Spirit-quickened, Spirit-filled, Spirit-possessed have no doubts about the Personality and Deity of the Spirit of the Living God. Theology without experience is like faith without works: it is dead.

#### Lord and Giver of Life

The Spirit of the Living God is the Lord and Giver of life. St. Paul speaks of Him as the Spirit of life, who sets free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2). Our Lord said that He was the life, and the Spirit is said to be the Spirit of life, just as our Lord is the truth, and the Spirit is the Spirit of truth. The Eternal Word, the Living Spirit, and the Tongue of Fire are a Trinity in the unity of the revealed Word; and so it is with the creation, lordship, and perfecting of life. Our life is in Christ. It is in Him, from Him, by Him, and to Him. "In him was life." He came that through Him men might have life, and have it abundantly. The gift of God is life, eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; he that hath not the Son hath not life (I. John 5:12). This life is through the living Spirit of God. He is the Spirit of life. The life is mediated through Him.

The phrase is elusive and not easy to understand. Its subtlety is as evasive as its range is bewildering, but if the mind is kept steadily and in simplicity to the question the meaning of the phrase will appear. In what sense is the Spirit of the Living God a life-giving Spirit? Has life an inner spirit? What is life? Is it of an inner spirit? There is the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of truth, and the Spirit of life.

What is the Spirit in all these eternal verities of the revealed Word? It cannot mean less than that in the Spirit of the Living God is the source, medium, and agent of living energy, the expression of revealed truth, the secret of divine power and every other quality and function of life. It cannot mean less than that He is the life-giving Spirit. The range is as wide as life itself. At the creation He moved on the face of the waters, and at the resurrection it was He by whom Christ was raised. The face of the earth was continually renewed by Him. The source and seat of all life is in and through Him, for all life is of the Spirit. The Spirit is the giver of life, and where the Spirit is not, there is no life.

#### The Work of the Spirit

The sphere of the Spirit is in the realm of life. He gives the life that is in Christ, and in all things He works through the law of the Spirit of life. He works and fashions the outward from the inward, and the material through the spiritual. He functions through life. Everyone that enters the kingdom of heaven must be born of the Spirit of the Living God. Sometimes it is asked what Christ has to give to morally and socially respectable people of cultured habits and comfortable circumstances. The answer is "life and the Spirit of life." Apart from Him souls are dead. They may deny it mockingly, sneeringly, indignantly, or good-naturedly; but that is the word of Christ, and the testimony of the New Testament. Men are blind to themselves as they are to Christ, until the Spirit of God reveals both to them.

#### He Functions Through Life

Light comes through life. The life is the light. That is where men err. They do not know the Scriptures because truth is reserved to the obedience of faith. God is revealed in Christ, and Christ is revealed in the Spirit, and the Spirit reveals in life—always in life. The Epistles of Christ are written, "not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God." He is the writer and the writing. "The Spirit giveth life, and the Spirit working through the life strengthens, directs, and transforms. He reveals the face of Christ, and transforms into the same image, from glory to glory, even as from the Lord the Spirit. All understanding of the truth as truth is in Jesus, is by the Lord and the Giver of life, who spake by the prophets, and is given to guide believers into all the truth. All Christlikeness of life and character is by the transforming power of life through the Spirit of the Living God, the Lord and Giver of life. That is why the work of God

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