

## THE HOLY SPIRIT AND SOUND DOCTRINE

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Then the poor, degraded, ignorant outcast in the slums of London or Chicago, who never heard of a creed, and the ebony African and dusky Indian, who never saw the inside of a Bible, may have Christ revealed to him, and know by the revelation of the Holy Spirit that Jesus is Lord.

"It pleased God . . . to reveal his Son in me," wrote Paul (Gal. 1:15, 16); and again, "Christ liveth in me" (Gal. 2:20); and again, "My little children of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you" (Gal. 4:19); as though Christ is to be spiritually formed in the heart of each believer by the operation of the Holy Spirit, as He was physically formed in the womb of Mary by the same Spirit (Luke 1:35); and again, "The mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints . . . which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:26-27); "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith" (Eph. 3:17); "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" (II Cor. 13:5).

"At that day," said Jesus, when making His great promise of the Comforter to His disciples, "At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you" (John 14:20); and again, in His great prayer, He said: "I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them."

It is this ever-recurring revelation to penitent, believing hearts, by the agency of the ever-present Holy Spirit, that makes faith in Jesus Christ living and invincible. "I know He is Lord, for He saves my soul from sin, and He saves me now," is an argument that rationalism and unbelief cannot answer nor overthrow, and so long as there are men in the world who can say this, faith in the Divinity of Jesus Christ is secure; and this experience and witness come by the Holy Ghost.

I worship Thee, O Holy Ghost,  
I love to worship Thee;  
My risen Lord for aye were lost  
But for Thy company.

And so it is by the guidance and teaching of the Holy Spirit that all saving truth becomes vital to us.

It is He who makes the Bible a living Book; it is He who convinces the world of judgment (John 16:8-11); it is He who makes men certain that there is a heaven of surpassing and enduring glory and joy, and a hell of endless sorrow and woe for those who sin away their day of grace and die in impenitence.

Who have been the mightiest and most faithful preachers of the gloom and terror and pain of a perpetual hell? Those who have been the mightiest and most effective preachers of God's compassionate love.

In all periods of great revival, when men seemed to live on the borderland, and in the vision of eternity, hell has been preached. The leaders of these revivals have been men of prayer and faith and consuming love, but they have been men who knew "the terrors of the Lord," and, therefore, they preached the judgments of God, and they proved that the law with its penalties is a school-master

to bring men to Christ (Gal. 3:24). Fox, the Quaker; Bunyan, the Baptist; Baxter, the Puritan; Wesley and Fletcher, and Whitefield and Caughey, the Methodists; Finney, the Presbyterians; Edwards and Moody, the Congregationalists; and General Booth, the Salvationist, have preached it, not savagely, but tenderly and faithfully, as a mother might warn her child against some great danger that would surely follow careless and selfish wrongdoing.

What men have loved and labored and sacrificed as these men? Their hearts have been a flaming furnace of love and devotion to God, and an overflowing fountain of love and compassion for men; but just in proportion as they have discovered God's love and pity for the sinner, so have they discovered His wrath against sin and all obstinate wrongdoing; and as they have caught glimpses of heaven and declared its joys and everlasting glories to men, so they have seen hell, with its endless punishment, and with trembling voice and overflowing eyes have they warned men to "flee from the wrath to come."

Were these men, throbbing with spiritual life and consumed with devotion to the Kingdom of God and the everlasting well-being of their fellow men, led to this belief by the Spirit of Truth, or were they misled? Is it the prophet, weeping and praying and preaching and fighting for God and men, to whom the Spirit has always first spoken and revealed the things of God? Or is it the philosopher, or dry-as-dust theologian, or the popular preacher of smooth things, sitting in his study and among his books, spinning out of his own mind his conceits concerning God's plan and purpose in the universe?

Does Seneca or the Psalmist, Plato or Paul, Rousseau or Wesley, the idolized, high-salaried, soft-raimented preacher of a wide gate and broad way to life and heaven; or the veteran soul-winner, General Booth, more clearly make known the mind of God in matters that are spiritual?

"The things of the Spirit . . . are spiritually discerned" (I Cor. 2:14), says Paul. It is not by searching and philosophizing that these things are found out, but by revelation. "Flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee," saith Jesus to Peter, "but my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 16:17). The great teacher of truth is the Spirit of truth, and the only safe expounders and guardians of sound doctrines are men filled with the Holy Ghost.

Study and research have their place, and an important place; but in spiritual things they will be of no avail unless prosecuted by spiritual men. As well might men blind from birth attempt to study the starry heavens, and men born deaf undertake to expound and criticize the harmonies of Bach and Beethoven. Men must see and hear and speak and write intelligently on such subjects. And so men must be spiritually enlightened to understand spiritual truth.

The greatest danger to any religious organization is that a body of men should arise in its ranks, and hold its positions of trust, who have learned its great fundamental doctrines by rote out of the catechism, but have no experimental knowledge of their truth inwrought by the mighty anointing of the Holy Ghost, and who are destitute of "an unction from the Holy One," by which, says John, "ye know all things" (I John 2:20, 27).

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## Another Word For Bethany

Let us look at the question: "Why send my boy or girl to Bethany to attend high school when there is a high school in our own community?"

May I reply?

Bethany has Christian teachers who begin their classes with prayer and who exalt Christ in their teaching.

Bethany conducts a Christian program. Your boy or girl will not be forced into activities contrary to his or her convictions. Your boy or girl will not be a social outcast.

Bethany provides for the social life of its students in a better way than public high schools and in a better way than most local churches. Bethany gives your boy or girl the opportunity to grow up with Christian friends of the same age.

Bethany instills in young people a respect for discipline — if there is any hope of instilling such.

Bethany establishes young people in their Christian experiences. (You may know of someone who backslid at Bethany, but I know from intimate knowledge of the School that it greatly helps the majority of students.) Before training for a secular vocation (nursing, teaching, and such) young people would do well to spend a year at Bethany.

Bethany relates education to Christian service. How important! Bethany makes serving God the aim of education — not "making a name" or laying up an egg nest."

Bethany boasts of a good academic standing. The number of Bethany's high school graduates who have passed provincial government examinations is far above the average for Nova Scotia.

By the way, Bethany offers a grade twelve course which is the equivalent of the first year in college. Information to date reveals that most of this year's grade twelve class have passed senior matriculation papers.

On second thought . . . sending your boy or girl to Bethany may not be a waste of money. One thing is certain you can not waste much when total expenses for a year are only three hundred and seventy-two dollars! Even a Scotchman can see that.

C. E. Stairs,

Publicity Manager

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**BETHANY BIBLE  
COLLEGE**

**Yarmouth, N. S.**

**Fall Registration, Sept. 21**

*Write Registrar*

"Nothing is more tragic than to spend a lifetime defending the faith without ever demonstrating the faith."