

This Edition 17

Introduction by Sinclair B. Ferguson 19

Puritans—The Story of a Movement 19
A Reformation Needing Reformation? 20
A Movement in Decline 22
A Golden Age 22
The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit 23
Emphases in Owen's Teaching 25
The Value of Reading Owen 27

Author's Preface 29

Natural Understanding Is Insufficient 30 Contempt for the Work of the Spirit 31 Two Kinds of Opposition 35

BOOK I

I GENERAL PRINCIPLES
 CONCERNING THE HOLY SPIRIT AND HIS WORK 39
 Jesus—Anathema or Lord 40



The Holy Spirit—Author of all Gifts 41
The Distribution and Purpose of Gifts 41
The Abuse of Gifts 41
Why this Subject Matters 42
God Gave the Spirit to Save Sinners 43
Many False Claims of the Spirit's Work 47
Satan's Work Is Disguised as the Spirit's 50
The Spirit's Deity and Personality Is Denied 51
Hostility to the Spirit of God 51

THE NAMES AND TITLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT 55
 What the Name 'Spirit' Signifies 55
 The Holy Spirit 57
 The Good Spirit 58

The Good Spirit 58
The Spirit of God 59
The Spirit of the Son 59

3 THE DIVINE NATURE AND PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT PROVED AND VINDICATED 61

Revelation—The Rule of Religious Worship 62
God has Revealed Himself as Three in One 62
The Holy Spirit a Divine Person 64
Doctrinal Opposition To the Spirit 64
His Divine Person Proved by the Form of Baptism 67
His Appearance by Visible Signs 68
Personal Properties of the Spirit 69
Divine Works and Attributes Ascribed to the Spirit 71

4 PECULIAR WORKS OF

Operations of the Godhead in General 77
Operations of Distinct Persons in the Godhead 78
Unique Works of the Spirit in the Old Creation 78
The Creation of Man 79
Operations in the Affairs of the World 81



5	THE	M	ANNER	OF

THE DISPENSATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT 83

The Father's Administration of the Spirit 83

The Spirit Is Given by God 84

God Sends the Holy Spirit 85

God Ministers the Holy Spirit 86

God Puts His Spirit Upon Men 86

God Pours out his Spirit 86

The Spirit's Application of Himself to his Work 87

The Spirit Proceeds from the Father and the Son 87

He Comes by His Own Will 88

The Holy Spirit Falls on Men 88

He Rests upon Us 89

The Spirit Departs from Some 89

The Spirit Actively Distributes his Gifts 90

BOOK II

i Operations of

THE HOLY SPIRIT UNDER THE OLD TESTAMENT 93

Extraordinary Operations of the Spirit 94

Prophecy 94

Writing of the Scriptures 102

Miracles 103

The Spirit's Improvement of Natural Faculties 104

For Rule and Civil Government 104

In War 106

Physical Strength 106

Intellect and Craftsmanship 107

Preaching 107

2 DISPENSATION OF THE

HOLY SPIRIT WITH RESPECT TO THE NEW CREATION 109

The Promise of the Spirit 110

Gospel Ministry Founded on the Promise 110

How this Promise Is Made to All Believers II



Injunction to Pray for the Spirit III
Why Christ Promised to Send the Spirit II2
God Glorifies Himself in the New Creation II3
Designed by the Father II3
Purchased by the Son II4
Applied by the Spirit II4

WORK OF THE SPIRIT

WITH RESPECT TO THE HUMAN NATURE OF CHRIST, THE HEAD OF THE NEW CREATION 115

Conceived by the Holy Ghost 115

Made of the Virgin's Substance 117

Reasons for Mary's Espousal to Joseph 119

The Purity of the Soul and Body of Christ 120

The Spirit Continued to Sanctify Christ 121

He Grew in Grace 121

His Wisdom Increased as He Encountered New Things 121

Anointed with Gifts at His Baptism 122

His Ministry Attested by the Spirit 123

Supported by the Spirit 123

Offered Himself Up by the Spirit 124

Consecrating Himself to be a Sacrifice 124

Going Forward Voluntarily 125

The Graces of the Spirit Constraining Him 125

Christ's Corpse Preserved by the Spirit 128

The Spirit Bears Witness to Christ 130
The Way to Know and Love Christ 130
Love Him with a Pure Unmixed Love 131
Study the Work of the Spirit on His Human Nature 132
4 THE GENERAL WORK OF THE SPIRIT

The Spirit Raised Christ from the Dead 128 Christ's Human Nature Glorified by the Spirit 129

with Respect to the Members of that Body whereof Christ is the Head 133 What the Work of the Spirit Presupposes 134

No Dispensation of the Spirit—No Church 134
The Vicar of Christ 136
The Spirit Does the Works of Christ 137
The Spirit Is the Author of All Grace 139
He Works According to his Own Will 140
No Mere Servant 140
In What Sense Can He be Resisted? 140
The Means and Extent of His Work Varies 141
Why Scripture Commands and Exhorts 141

BOOK III

- I Work of the Holy Spirit
 In the New Creation by Regeneration 145
 Regeneration Always the Spirit's Work 146
 Found in Old and New Testaments 148
 Only One Kind of Regeneration 150
 All Unregenerate Men the Same 151
 All Regenerate Men the Same 151
 One Cause of Regeneration 151
 Baptism Is not Regeneration 152
 Moral Reformation Is Not Regeneration 153
 Regeneration Produces a New Spiritual Principle 154
 Regeneration Comes Before Reformation 156
 A Denial of Original Sin 156
 Ecstatic Experience Is not Regeneration 157
 A Doctrine of Vital Importance 158
- 2 Work of the Holy Spirit
 Preparatory to Regeneration 161
 Duties Preceding Regeneration 161
 Attendance at the Means of Grace 161
 The Exercise of Reason 162
 Internal Effects of God's Word 163
 Illumination 163
 Conviction 164



Reformation 165
No Guarantee of Regeneration 165
Is the Spirit's Work Imperfect? 166
What Common Illumination Cannot Achieve 167
A Changed Will 167
True Spiritual Insight 167
A Purged Conscience 168
Affections Fixed on Heavenly Things 168
True Godliness 169

3 Corruption or Depravity of the Mind by Sin 171

All Are Regenerate or Unregenerate 171
The Nature of Spiritual Darkness 174
Objective 174
Subjective 175
Vanity of the Mind—Source of All Vanity 177
Removed by Degrees from Believers 178
The Effects of Spiritual Darkness 179
Alienation from the Life of God 179
The Mind Is Unable to Embrace Spiritual Things 180
The Persistent Power of Spiritual Darkness 186
Fills the Mind with Enmity Against God 187
Perverse Lusts 189
Prejudice Against Spiritual Things 190

4 LIFE AND DEATH,

NATURAL AND SPIRITUAL, COMPARED 195
Unregenerate Men—All Spiritually Dead 195
Natural Life 196
Natural Death 197
The Supernatural Life of Adam in Innocency 197
The Nature of Spiritual Death 198
No Principle of Spiritual Life 198
No Acts of Spiritual Obedience 199
No Will to Live 201

The Mind Is the Eye of the Soul 193

IO

5 THE NATURE, CAUSES, AND MEANS OF REGENERATION 203

Moral Suasion Alone Does not Regenerate 205
What Gives the Ministry of the Word Efficacy 205
The Ministry of the Word Alone Cannot Convert 207
The Spirit's Positive Work in Regeneration 210
He Works Directly Upon the Mind 210
He Gives Us Faith—Not Only the Power to Believe 212

He Gives Us Faith—Not Only the Power to Believe 212 His Work in Us Is Infallibly Efficacious 213 The Grace by which We Are Delivered 215

His Work Upon Distinct Faculties of the Soul 217

The Mind 217

The Will 219

The Affections 220

6 The Manner of Conversion

EXPLAINED IN THE INSTANCE OF AUGUSTINE 223

The Effects of Our Original Depravity 224
Corruption Takes Hold in Very Early Life 224
This Perverse Principle Grows Up With Us 225
Actual Sins Flow from Our Corruption 225
Sin Gains Ground as Men Grow Older 226
As Sin Increases, Shame Decreases 227

The Method of God's Grace Towards Us 228

Sparks of Celestial Fire are Inflamed 228

He Causes Men to Think of Himself by Various Means 229

Augustine's Experience of Those Things 231

Conviction of Sin 231

An Exclusive Work of the Holy Spirit 232

A Purpose of Providence 232

May Be Followed by Hardening 233

Continuing Conviction Leads to War Within 234

God Subdues the Strife 236

Eternal Welfare Becomes a Pressing Concern 237 Conversion Completed by Faith 240 God Commands and Invites 241 Christ Came to Save 241

God May Use Particular Scriptures 242
Faith Is Always Accompanied by Obedience 242
Converts Are Admitted to the Church 243

BOOK IV

I THE NATURE OF SANCTIFICATION AND GOSPEL HOLINESS EXPLAINED 245

'God of Peace'—Author of Sanctification 246
To Be Holy Is Our Primary Duty 247
Impossible Apart from Christ 247
Unfathomable to Natural Reason 249
Imperfectly Understood by Believers 250
Holiness Will not Be Left Behind 250
A Ray of Eternal Light in this World 251
God Requires Nothing More 252
God Has Promised to Perform this Work in Us 253

2 SANCTIFICATION A PROGRESSIVE WORK 257

How Holiness Is Increased 258

Key Graces are Strengthened 258

Occasional Graces Accrue 261

Biblical Illustrations from Nature 263

The Spirit Preserves the Living Fire 265

Sanctification at a Standstill? 266

Sinful Negligence Stunts Growth 266

Flourishing Holiness may not Be Felt 267

Spiritual Sickness 270

Be Diligent 271

Perfection Has yet to Be Attained 271

Grace Does not Dispense with Godliness 272

Scripture Encourages the Despondent 272

3 Believers the Only Object of Sanctification and Subject of Holiness 273 Holiness Requires Faith 273

12



Mistakes About Holiness 275
The Extent of Sanctification 277
Our Entire Nature Was Affected by the Fall 277
Our Whole Nature Is Sanctified 277
No Excuses for Sin 280

4 The Defilement of Sin wherein it Consists with its Purification 281

Sanctification Presupposes Purification 281
The Nature of Sin's Defilement 282
Original and Actual Sin Is Transgression of the Law 283
Real Spiritual Filth 284
Why Sin Defiles and Makes Us Ashamed 285
Practical Implications 286
Holiness Requires Uncleanness to Be Purged 286
Cleansing Is Necessary to the Enjoyment of God 287
Self-Cleansing Is Impossible 287

5 THE FILTH OF SIN PURGED BY THE SPIRIT AND BLOOD OF CHRIST 289

Get Familiar with God's Remedy 300

The Spirit Purifies Believers 289 The Blood of Christ Obtains Purification 290 Christ's Blood Is Always Warm 291 How Christ's Blood Cleanses 292 How The Spirit Interests Us in Christ's Blood 292 The Spirit Communicates Purification and Boldness 294 Faith Is the Instrument of Purification 295 Afflictions Refine the Believer 296 By Revealing God's Hatred of Sin 296 By Breaking Attachment to Created Things 296 By Taking the Edge off Lusts 297 By Stirring Up the Graces of the Spirit 297 Facing Our Defilement 297 Strive to Understand how Filthy Sin Is 298 Be Ashamed 300 Sinners Cannot Cleanse Themselves 300

13



The Only Way to Partake of the Promise Is by Faith 301
Faith Exerts Itself in Earnest Prayer 302

'Such Were Some of You' 302
God Calls His People to Self-abasement 302
Give Thanks to God Forever 303
Be On Your Guard 303
Walk Humbly Before God 303
Destroy Sin at the Root 304
Go Daily to Jesus for Cleansing 304

6 The Positive Work of the Spirit in the Sanctification of Believers 305

Believers Have A Habit of Holiness 306

God Rejects the Obedience of Unsanctified Men 307

Men Hunt for Alternatives to True Holiness 308

Real Holiness Is No Mean Thing 309

An Inclination Towards God 309

Universally 310

Constantly 311

Permanently 311

Spiritual Power Accompanies Spiritual Life 312
The Mind Is Enlightened 313
The Will Is Freed from Bondage to Sin 314
The Affections Are Engaged to God 314
Believers Are Ready to Obey 314
Obedience Made Easy 315
When Obedience Is Unwilling 316
Do Not Be Deceived by Appearances 317
Saving Grace and Its Effects Are Distinctive 318
Springs from the Electing Love of God 318
Purchased by Christ 319

7 The Acts and Duties of Holiness 327

Holiness Is not External Only 327

Duties that Are only Internal 328

Duties that Are also External 328

All Proceed from the Holy Spirit in Us 328

14



Contents

"Without Me You Can Do Nothing" 329
All Good Actions Ascribed to the Spirit 330
He Leads and Guides 331
The Author of all Gracious Actions 331
The Cause of Particular Graces 332
All Our Holy Acts Are Acts of the Spirit 332

8 Mortification of Sin: Its Nature and Causes 333

A Biblical Prescription 333

The Nature of Mortification 335

No Exemptions 335

Evil Is Present With Us 335

Root and Fruit 335

Direct Opposition 336

Be Strengthened by Grace 337

Fight to the Death 338

The Means of Mortification 339

The Spirit in Us 340

How the Spirit Enables Us to Mortify Sin 340

APPENDIX

- The Work of the Holy Spirit in Prayer 351

 The Promise of the Spirit as a Spirit of Prayer 351

 The Spirit and The Content of Prayer 353

 He Teaches us What We Need 354

 He Makes God's Promises Precious to Us 355

 He Enables Us to Pray with Right Motives 355

 The Spirit and The Manner of Prayer 356

 Crying Abba, Father' 357

 Improvement in Prayer 359

 Give Glory to God for the Privilege of Prayer 359

 Talk Less and Pray More 360
- 2 THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT AS A COMFORTER 365 Infinite Condescension 365





Unspeakable Love 366 Almighty Power 366 The Indwelling of the Spirit 366 The Unction of the Spirit 368 Not Merely External Teaching 369 Teaches 'All Things' 370 Produces Love for the Truth 370 The Spirit a Seal 371 An Unsatisfactory Exposition of Sealing The Sealing of Christ As a Paradigm 373 Whoever Is Effectually Called Is Sealed 374 The Spirit as a Pledge of Our Inheritance 376 Christ Is the Heir of All Things 376 The Spirit Makes Us Joint Heirs with Christ 377 The Beginning of Future Glory 377 'Do not Grieve the Holy Spirit' How the Holy Spirit Is Grieved 379 When God Becomes an Enemy 381



