



Preface

The Holy Spirit leaves no footprints in the sand.

Abraham Kuyper



These words are from Abraham Kuyper's classic work on the Holy Spirit. Jesus did leave footprints in the sand. He was God incarnate, God with a human nature. When His disciples walked with Him, they could hear His voice, touch His hands, and watch the sand spilling over His feet as He trod the shores of the Sea of Galilee.

But the Holy Spirit is like the wind. Jesus said, "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes" (John 3:8). We cannot capture the wind in a bottle. It is elusive and mysterious but nonetheless real. We see the effects of the wind—trees bending and swaying in the breeze, flags rustling. We see the devastation of the fierce hurricane. We see the ocean become violent in a gale. We are refreshed by gentle zephyrs on a summer day. We know the wind is there.



So it is with the Holy Spirit. He is intangible and invisible. But His work is more powerful than the most ferocious wind. The Spirit brings order out of chaos and beauty out of ugliness. He can transform a sin-blistered man into a paragon of virtue. The Spirit changes people. The Author of life is also the Transformer of life.

Because the Spirit is mysterious, we are vulnerable to superstitions and distortions of His person and work. Here we must listen carefully to Scripture as it reveals to us the character of God the Holy Spirit.

This book is about Him, the Third Person of the Holy Trinity. The book is written for the serious layperson and seeks to avoid undue theological technicalities. Some sections will require deep thought. Some probe the abstract because it is unavoidable if we are to grow in our understanding of the Spirit.

The book is written for those who desire a deeper spiritual life, a result that cannot happen apart from the Spirit, the One who sanctifies.

Orlando
Easter 1989