

PREFACE "A"

WHO AM I ? AND WHY HERE ?

By H Franklin Dearing

LISTEN A MOMENT: If you are to understand and take seriously what I say, you must know who I am. First, I make no claim to fame; nor do I walk with the "Steps of a Know-It-All". But I do have something important to say.

HERE GOES- Want to know, honestly? I am a Country Bumpkin. I was born in the country, and spent fourteen years in the country. My parents and grandparents were farmers near Grapevine, Texas. After several years of here and there, I ended up in the East Dallas Baptist Church and working for a Golf Club Customizing company. I quit the company after several years when I was called to preach.

At 21, with two and a half High School credits and a little money, I started to college. Because of age and no High School diploma, Dean Smith said, "Dearing, you'll have to take a full load and make a "B" average to return next year" Had to throw in a 49 hour work-week if I wanted to eat and sleep.

Now, you know why I stayed a Country Bumpkin. I did complete college, spent 3 years in the Air Corps, married and finished Southwestern Seminary, but I am no scholar. I did have a good start under my pastor, C. S. Cadwallader. He taught a group of preacher boys in our church all it took to be a pastor, and grounded us in the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit, an interest I kept all my life.

As a Pastor-Evangelist, I kept up a serious study of the Holy Spirit all my ministry, along with many other Biblical things I needed to know. Having observed, and reading after Southern Baptist all my ministry, I suspected their low level of knowledge and thus their low level of experience and activity in the Holy Spirit. Quizzing many pastors and laymen along the way, my suspicions were confirmed. I usually heard two opinions as to the cause... Ignorance and Fear. There were other reasons too I will share later. My brethren knew exactly what they were talking about.

Just as many Preachers "Tip Toe Through The Tithers", we "Tip Toe Around The Holy Spirit" and we are paying a price for it. **WHAT ARE THE SIGNS?** They are there. You read them and you hear them. I won't take your time or the space to try and relate them. I know this, A Normal Church has a balanced view of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. A **LOW LEVEL** of knowledge leads to a **LOW LEVEL** of experience. The Lord once impressed me- "Dearing, you don't even have a way to test the **KNOWLEDGE LEVEL** of your people. The **EXPERIENCE LEVEL** is usually obvious.

The truth is, three years ago the Lord impressed me to attempt to raise the **KNOWLEDGE LEVEL** of Baptist on the Holy Spirit. Twelve documents are the result, including **PREFACE "A"** and **PREFACE "B"**. All these documents are available. They are being distributed at an accelerated rate. My prayer is that **THEY WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE**. As I told a very good friend. "These are not me. I have just tried to do a good job of taking dictation." All I can ask is for **YOU** to read and decide their veracity and their value. I have done my best.

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