

"HOW AND WHAT I LEARNED ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT"

H. FRANKLIN DEARING

My wife, Marilyn, and I attended the "Retiree Ministries Retreat" at Glorieta, N. M. in September 1999. In our first assembly, we learned that Bo Baker, for health reasons, would be unable to be our Bible teacher. Dr. Jess Moody would be the teacher. Having known Jess Moody many years, I anticipated an interesting time under his teaching. In his opening statement of the study period, Dr. Moody said, "I'm going to address the Vacuum in Southern Baptist life." I didn't have to think twice. "He' going to teach on the Holy Spirit," I said to myself. And, he did. In a forty minute phone call and momentary visits, I shared my experiences with the Holy Spirit. Brother Jess asked me if I would share my experience in written form. This is the result of that request.

In 1937 I was a trained club maker (golf) with the Winter-Dobson Golf Company of Dallas, Texas. Spiritually, I was a believer and adrift. A girl asked me to visit the East Dallas Baptist Church Sunday School. I did. I liked what I saw and heard, especially from the pulpit. The pastor, C. S. Cadwallader was a very gifted man. He sang beautiful, moving solos accompanying himself on the piano. But, most important, he knew the word of God and preached expository messages. He taught the word of God thoroughly. When Brother Cad finished a subject, there was hardly any thing else significant you could add.

I soon rededicated my life to the Lord and moved my membership to East Dallas Baptist Church. I became involved, and soon had a number important positions in the church. It was here I was called to preach, and began to be disciplined by my pastor. He was preparing me and seven or eight other young preachers for college and our lifetime ministry.

After our introductory studies on the work of a pastor, Brother Cadwallader began to teach us about the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity. He introduced us to the teachings of Jesus on the Holy Spirit, calling our attention to John 14:16 to 16:14. This teaching was in the closing days of His ministry. Jesus told His disciples, "It is expedient for you that I go away, for if I go not away the Holy Spirit will not come unto you." Then Jesus taught them about the person and the ministry of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Later Brother Cad published a little booklet, "Toward An Understanding of the Holy Spirit". There were 9 chapters in this little booklet containing most of his teachings on the Holy Spirit.

A LIFETIME OF STUDY AND TEACHING

From John 14:16 to 16:14, I learned this about the Holy Spirit. V. 16 He came to the disciples in answer to the prayer of Jesus. He is called the "Comforter". He abides with the believer forever. V. 17 He is called the Spirit of truth. [The Holy Spirit and the Word always agree] He dwells with us and is in us. V. 18 His coming to us keeps us from being alone or orphans. V. 26 The Father sends the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus. He teaches the believer all things. And, He brings to our minds what He has taught us. John 15 In the midst of Jesus' teaching on the Holy Spirit, Jesus tells us that the Spirit enables us to bear fruit. V. 26 Jesus Himself sends the Holy Spirit from the Father. The Holy Spirit testifies

or gives witness of Jesus. V. 26, 27 reveal a dual witness. The Holy Spirit comes and witness to the believer. The believer, in turn, witnesses of Jesus to others. In John 16:7-15 Jesus ends His teaching to the disciples. V. 7 Jesus said that He had to go away so the Holy Spirit could come. "If or when I go away, I will send the Holy Spirit unto you." V. 8 Jesus taught that when He comes, the Holy Spirit will reprove (convict) the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. He amplifies this in vs. 9-11. V. 12 is one of the saddest statements in the passage. Jesus said, "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now." Wasn't Jesus saying, "You are not spiritually mature enough to grasp all I could share with you about the Holy Spirit."

V. 13 "Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth is come, He will guide you into all truth He will show you things to come." V. 14, 15 closes what Jesus taught the disciples about the Holy Spirit, and this is the most beautiful truth, and a very fitting way to end His teachings. Jesus said, "He shall glorify me, for He shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you."

Note: All scriptural references are from the KJV. Also, I have never been able to write "He", "His", "Him", and "Himself" with a little "h". If that marks me "UNSCHOLARLY", so be it.

Now, I have made a careful study of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament, and in all the books in the New Testament. It was a very rewarding study, and did so much for me, that it affected my whole teaching ministry. Early... in my 2nd post-seminary pastorate, I began teaching the whole biblical doctrine of the Holy Spirit. The study explored and developed the following subjects:

"THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT" [Various references]

"THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST" [Various references]

"BIBLE SYMBOLS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT" [Various references]

"THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT" [John 14:16-16:14]

(Two part study)

"THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT" [Lk24:44 Acts 1:8, 4:31-33]

"THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT" [Gal. 5:22,23]

"THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT" [Various References]

"HOW TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT" [John 7:37-39]

"SINS AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT" [Mark 3:22-30]

"WHY IS IT DIFFICULT TO BE SPIRITUAL?" [Gal. 6:1]

SUMMARY OF TEACHING: Over a period of 40 years, this series on the Holy Spirit has been taught in 4 Pastorates; 4 Interim Pastorates; 10 two-week Revivals in the A. M. Services; 1 Bible Conferences and 2 other occasions. Each of the approximately 120 teaching events has been a rewarding delight, as God has permitted me to help others know and experience more of the Holy Spirit.

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