

INTRODUCTION

In recent years there has been considerable interest among evangelicals in the Biblical doctrine of the work of the Holy Spirit. This interest has, in part, been stimulated by factors both within and outside of evangelical circles.

Perhaps one of the most significant factors in this contemporary emphasis has been the concern displayed by certain segments of present-day Dispensationalism for the further development of this area of Christian truth. John F. Walvoord, Charles C. Ryrie, Dwight Pentecost, and Roy L. Aldrich have all directed attention to various questions in connection with certain phases of the work of the Holy Spirit which have heretofore not been widely discussed among modern dispensationalists.

In addition, the "New Pentecostalism" has called attention to an alleged modern availability of certain spiritual gifts, particularly those of speaking in tongues and of healing. Its "charismatic gospel" and "charismatic renewal" has, during the past decade, transcended the borders of the "Holiness Groups," and found its way into Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Methodist, Lutheran, and Baptist churches; and has thus directed the attention of many to the work of the Holy Spirit in our time.

Barthianism has repeatedly called attention to the special work of the Holy Spirit in authenticating to individuals the experience of Revelation, and thus has also contributed to the contemporary emphasis upon this area of doctrine.