

Dec 22nd 2012: Why are we so afraid of experiencing the Holy Spirit? We are told to be on our guard against emotions, failing to realize that love is primarily an emotion. Paul prayed that we might “know” Him (Eph 1:17), all theologians acknowledging that this ‘knowing’ is far more than just head knowledge, but a ‘knowing’ of intimacy. Tozer wrote concerning our attitude toward the third member of the Trinity:

“A doctrine has practical value only as far as it is prominent in our thoughts and makes a difference in our lives. By this test the doctrine of the Holy Spirit as held by evangelical Christians today has almost no practical value at all. In most Christian churches the Spirit is quite entirely overlooked. Whether He is present or absent makes no real difference to anyone. Brief reference is made to Him in the Doxology and the Benediction. Further than that He might well as not exist. So completely do we ignore Him that it is only by courtesy that we can be called Trinitarian....

...The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of life and light and love. In His uncreated nature He is a boundless sea of fire, flowing, moving ever, performing as He moves the eternal purposes of God. Toward nature He performs one sort of work, toward the world another and toward the Church still another. And every act of His accords with the will of the Triune God. Never does He act on impulse nor move after a quick or arbitrary decision. Since He is the Spirit of the Father He feels toward His people exactly as the Father feels, so there need be on our part no sense of strangeness in His presence. He will always act like Jesus, toward sinners in compassion, toward saints in warm affection, toward human suffering in tenderest pity and love.

It is time for us to repent, for our transgressions against the blessed Third Person have been many and much aggravated. We have bitterly mistreated Him in the house of His friends. We have crucified Him in His own temple as they crucified the Eternal Son on the hill above Jerusalem. And the nails we used were not of iron, but of the finer and more precious stuff of which human life is made. Out of our hearts we took the refined metals of will and feeling and thought, and from them we fashioned the nails of suspicion and rebellion and neglect. By unworthy thoughts about Him and unfriendly attitudes toward Him days without end. “The Forgotten One,” from [The Divine Conquest \(or, God’s Pursuit of Man\)](#), pp. 64-75

Fire of God Thy work begin, burn up the dross of self and sin, Burn off my fetters, set me free and through the furnace, walk with me. – A B Simpson.