

**THE MISSION OF THE SPIRIT;
OR, THE OFFICE AND WORK
OF THE COMFORTER IN
HUMAN REDEMPTION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649650255

The Mission of the Spirit; Or, the Office and Work of the Comforter in Human Redemption by
Lewis R. Dunn

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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LEWIS R. DUNN

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IN HUMAN REDEMPTION.

BY THE
REV. LEWIS R. DUNN.

MINISTER OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, U.S.



EDITED BY THE
REV. JOSEPH BUSH.

London:
WESLEYAN CONFERENCE OFFICE,
2, CASTLE-STREET, CITY-ROAD;
SOLD AT 68, PATERNOSTER-ROW.
1872.

141. R. 596.

PREFACE.

THIS is the dispensation of the Spirit. We are living in the very midst of its culminating glories. The rushing fires of another Pentecost are coming upon the Church now as they have not during the centuries preceding the one in which we live. All eyes are lifted expectant to the everlasting hills, where intercedes a glorified and exalted Christ. Or ever His triumphal chariot had wheeled upward to the gates of pearl, He left His promise and His pledge to the Church of the wonderful gift of the Comforter. That promise and that pledge have only been fulfilled in part—in individual instances, and in certain localities. The Church, overrun with worldliness and beclouded by unbelief, has been comparatively powerless for the want of the full baptism of the Comforter. And the world, this poor, lost, fallen world, still remains unransomed from its sins and their consequences. The great work of preparation for its complete redemption seems, however, well-nigh finished. The mountains have been levelled, and the valleys upreared; the crooked places have been straightened, and the rough places smoothened, and the time for “all flesh to see the salvation of our God” is at hand.

What is now wanted is a universal Pentecost, not only that all the babbling millions of earth may hear

of "the wonderful works of God" in their "own tongue wherein they were born," but that they may be "pricked to the heart" by the arrows of the convincing Spirit, and be saved by His power.

It is a somewhat remarkable fact that, with all the teachings of the Divine Head in reference to the Comforter, with all the luminous promises of His gifts and grace, so little, comparatively, has been written concerning Him. The world is full of books about Christ, and the number of them is constantly increasing; but we can almost count on our finger ends the books written specifically about the Holy Ghost. And yet His sovereign agency in the completion and consummation of redemption's work is constantly acknowledged in the Word of God. Why this is so, that so little has been written, we can scarcely tell; and yet, because it is so, there is much of ignorance, doubt, and unbelief in the Church as to His work and His power. Many huge volumes of theology devote only a few pages to the consideration of His Godhead, His offices, and His work. There is now and then a sermon preached upon these all-important themes; but too seldom are they introduced into the sacred desk.

The author of this book has long felt that a treatise bearing directly upon these questions is a *desideratum* in the literature of the Christian Church. In conversation with several leading divines in his own and other denominations, he has found that they entertained the same views and feelings, and he has been encouraged by their advice to proceed with the preparation of this volume. How successful he

may have been in the performance of his work, the reader will judge. Due acknowledgment has been made of the authors from whose works quotations have been made, in foot-notes, and therefore no mention of their names is needed here.

The author fully believes that the coming and the crowning conflict of the Church will be about the truths dwelt upon in this volume. Indeed, there is, even now, "skirmishing all along the line." The great aim of modern infidelity is to ignore all spiritual agencies; to banish God from the world; to deny all miraculous agency and all moral regeneration; to proclaim a cold, dull, dead materialism; and to bind the universe in the chains of fixed, irreversible, and inviolable law. If the writer has made it to appear that there is not only a supernatural and superhuman, but a Divine Agency, working out great spiritual results, and effecting great moral regenerations—an agent who, because He is God, is capable of bringing about the complete transformation and revivification of a fallen and dead humanity, and who is able and willing and ready to do this work now—he will be glad that he has contributed something that will serve to call attention to the ever-blessed Comforter.

Bespeaking the indulgence of the critical reader, and beseeching the earnest, prayerful reading of this book by all classes of the ministry and laity of the evangelical Churches, the author sends forth this volume with many prayers that all may find a "blessing in it."

L. R. D.

ST. PAUL'S PARSONAGE, *Elizabeth, N.J.*

PREFACE TO THE ENGLISH EDITION.

AT the request of the London Wesleyan Book Committee, I undertook the task of editing for the English public the Rev. Lewis R. Dunn's volume on "The Mission of the Spirit." With the Author's sanction, most freely and courteously conveyed, the process of revision has been carried through.

I have prepared and prefixed a Table of Contents, which gives a fair view of the foundations and course of the Author's argument.

Two Chapters—vii. and viii.—are transposed, so as to bring under the reader's notice "Adoption" before "Regeneration."

Two Chapters—one on "The Holy Spirit as the Source of Inspiration," and the other on "The Sin against the Holy Ghost,"—have been left out, because they seemed scarcely to belong to the specific subject under consideration; and did, withal, interrupt the fine flow of thought and feeling common to the other Chapters. The Book is more "compact together" without these two Chapters than it would be with them.

The Appendix, which I have compiled—by permission—from the Rev. Charles Prest's able work

on. "The Witness of the Spirit," will neither lack interest, nor be wanting in profit.

For the rest, revision has consisted chiefly in verifying and correcting quotations from Scripture, and removing the references from the body of the text to the foot of the page; and, generally, rendering the work more simple in style, and therefore more serviceable to the busy and the unlearned. Hebrew, and Greek, and—as far as possible—Latin, have been struck out; and due homage has been paid to our mother-tongue.

I pray that HE for Whose honour this Book was written may watch for good over this Edition, and make every copy a rich blessing to the reader.

JOSEPH BUSH.

SYDENHAM,

March 8th, 1872.

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