

**THE HOLY SPIRIT IN
THOUGHT AND
EXPERIENCE**

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The Holy Spirit in thought and experience by T. Rees

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T. REES

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THOUGHT AND
EXPERIENCE**

THE HOLY SPIRIT
IN THOUGHT AND EXPERIENCE

BY

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TO THE
MEMORY OF
MY REVERED TEACHER
ANDREW MARTIN FAIRBAIRN

PREFACE

IT is a frequent and well-founded complaint that the doctrine of the Holy Spirit has been strangely neglected by theologians. Our theological text-books, as a rule, pass over the subject with a few conventional pages. Recent works by Noesgen, Gunkel, and Weinel in Germany, and by Dr. Swete in England, have revived interest in the study of it. My aim in the following pages has been to bring together the materials available, and to present, in my own way, a coherent account of them. I had to confine my treatment within limits defined by the series in which the book appears. Many aspects of the subject had to be touched upon lightly or not at all. I regret particularly that it has not been possible to include a chapter on the development of the idea of spirit in general, from primitive Animism, through the Greek ideas of mind and soul and the mediæval philosophy of substance, to the modern view of self-conscious personality. Much light would thereby have been shed on the growth of the idea of God and His Spirit. The approach to our doctrine from the side of psychology has only just been begun, and it promises a fruitful development in the future. I can only hope that the present study, with all its limitations, may contribute something to the gaining of a point of view for a fuller and more concrete apprehension of those facts of the spiritual life, which the Christian Church has generally indicated in its confession of faith in the Holy Spirit.

My indebtedness to published writings will be largely apparent from the references in the footnotes, but it is not possible to acknowledge one's whole debt to writers and teachers. I have used English translations of both ancient and modern writers, whenever it has been possible, but not without consulting the originals on important points.

It remains for me to express my thanks to my old teacher Dr. G. Buchanan Gray, and to my colleague, Professor J. Morgan Jones, both of whom have read through most of the manuscript, and the latter through the whole of the proofs, for corrections and suggestions which have enabled me to remove many defects.

T. REES.

BANGOR, *December 1914.*

CONTENTS

	PAGE
PREFACE,	vii
CHAPTER I	
THE SPIRIT OF YAHWEH,	1
CHAPTER II	
THE HOLY SPIRIT,	19
CHAPTER III	
THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM,	39
CHAPTER IV	
THE DISPENSATION OF THE SPIRIT,	67
CHAPTER V	
THE SPIRIT OF JESUS CHRIST,	84
CHAPTER VI	
THE SPIRIT AND THE LOGOS,	109
CHAPTER VII	
✓ THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE TRINITY,	139
CHAPTER VIII	
GOD, THE HOLY SPIRIT,	160
CHAPTER IX	
THE GRACE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,	181
CHAPTER X	
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION,	202
BIBLIOGRAPHY,	213
INDEX,	217