

## THE HOLY SPIRIT: PREFACE

The subject of the Holy Spirit has been given to extremes from the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to the present. The teachings in the church have ranged from neglect to fanaticism. On one hand are those like the disciples Paul met in Ephesus who had “not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit” (Acts 19:2). On the other hand are those who have gone to excesses by unrestrained emotionalism, creating confusion and causing many to be cautious about the subject. The teaching on the Holy Spirit is abundant and clear. However neglect, ignorance, and error could describe the attitudes in the church today. Many errors have to do with the misunderstanding and misuse of terms the Bible uses in regard to the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Other errors have to do with not acknowledging that the Holy Spirit is as much God as the Father and the Son. Thus, the doctrine of the Holy Spirit is not thought by many to be as important as the doctrines of God the Father and God the Son. Yet, a careful study of the Scriptures reveal that the Holy Spirit is the executive of the Godhead (Divine nature), and He is equally as important as the Father and the Son. The purpose of this study will be to present an overview of the teachings of the Bible on the Holy Spirit in order to know how to respond to the work He wants to do in us and through us as the people of God. The work of the Holy Spirit is to manifest the active presence of God in the world and in the church. It is up to us as believers to recognize these manifestations in order to be aware of what is going on in the world and to be open to the work He has done and wants to do in our lives.