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The Holy Spirit as the Revealer of Truth

Before I speak specifically on the means whereby the Holy Spirit reveals truth I'd like to look briefly at who the Holy Spirit is and what we mean by truth. In the second verse of the Bible we are told the Spirit of God was active at creation. In a forthcoming message by Mr. Dunzweiler he will show how the Holy Spirit was active in OT times.. John 1:12 tells us that at the beginning of the earthly ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ the Holy Spirit came upon him like a dove. John 3:34 declares God gave him the Spirit without limit.

So we find the Holy Spirit was active throughout creation and throughout OT times. The Holy Spirit was very active in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus promised his disciples that after his departure the Spirit would come upon them, and lead them into all truth. He would remind them of all that he had said, and show them things to come. Thus the Spirit is a vital factor in every part of the Bible.

Yet when we think of the Holy Spirit we face a mystery beyond all human comprehension. He is indeed a person, a vital active being and yet there is but one God. God controls all things and is everywhere. The last verse of Mat. 28 contains Jesus promise that He himself would be with us to the end of the age. The Holy Spirit is with us and in us. Thus we have God the Father with us everywhere. We have Jesus Christ with us to the end of the age. Jesus Christ in us the hope of glory. And we have the Holy Spirit who is our counsellor who is with us.

So most of the propositions we can make about any member of the Godhead can also be made about the others. I have sometimes heard it said that the OT was the time of God the Father, that Jesus' earthly life was the time of God the Son, and this is the age of the Holy Spirit. I believe that is an utterly false statement. I believe all three persons of the Godhead were very active all through the OT. That the relation of Jesus to his Father was very close all through His earthly ministry, and Jesus acted in the power of the Spirit, in all He did. God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit are with us, so you cannot divide history that way.

Beyond the few facts about the Holy Spirit as distinct from the Father and the Son, we can learn from God's Word, we can only stand in awe and bow our heads before the vital mystery of the one great God and yet three persons in the Godhead. While we recognize the differentiation, any attempt to fully understand the distinctions enters into an area we cannot penetrate.

The second element on which I wish to touch briefly is, What is meant by truth? We find here a very interesting statement, in John 18:37-38. When Jesus was with Pilate, Jesus said, For this reason I was born and for this I came into the world to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of the truth listens to me. What is truth, Pilate asked . . ." Bacon begins one of his great essays with those words: What is truth? asked jesting Pilate. To the ordinary person the word "truth" seems very simple. Actually it is more complicated. As philosophers ponder over the concept and deal with the depth they often find ways of so handling it that it almost disappears altogether.