

HONORING THE HOLY SPIRIT OR HINDERING REVIVAL

By Evangelist Billy Ingram

When asked by a young preacher what they thought to be the greatest need of the church today, the great revivalist, Dr. Jonathan Goforth and the scholarly Dr. G. Campbell Morgan answered emphatically, "The Holy Spirit – the Church hardly knows the Holy Spirit." Morgan then added, "I don't mean 'second blessing,' but the Holy Spirit."

Too many are guilty of treating the Holy Spirit as a mere influence rather than Deity. We refer to Him as the third Person of the Trinity and regrettably treat Him as if that is His order or rank. Indeed three Persons exist among the Godhead, yet only ONE God.

The Holy Spirit is not an "it" and should not be treated as such. John 16:13 says that when "He (not It) is come, He (not It) will guide . . . He (not It) shall not speak of Himself . . . He (not It) shall hear . . . that shall He (not It) speak . . . He (not It) will show you . . ." Friend, the Holy Spirit is a Person. He is God, and should be honored as God.

It seems that many Fundamentalists have replaced the Trinity with a duality that is **not** the God of the Bible. If one slights the Holy Spirit, he cannot know the Lord Jesus and with Jesus being slighted, one cannot know the Father. For Jesus Christ came to reveal the Father while Christ sent His Spirit to reveal Himself.

While many reveal their discomfort to emphasize the Holy Spirit for fear of becoming too excessive and unbalanced they convey no disapproval in their sin of insulting and ignoring Him. Some have rejected the concept of honoring the Holy Spirit using John 16:13 as a basis for their action, stating, "*The Holy Spirit will not speak of Himself . . .*" It should be noted that Jesus made the identical statement regarding Himself in John 14:10. What Jesus taught in both passages was that neither member of the Trinity would speak contrary to what the previous member had spoken, since they are indeed three Persons but only ONE GOD!

Some have foolishly insisted that the Spirit filled life truths are the precursor to the Charismatic movement. If this reasoning is legitimate, then Fundamentalism too should be avoided as the precursor to the New Evangelical movement. Christ's teaching and emphasis on the Holy Spirit was no more the catalyst to Charismaticism than were The *Fundamentals* of the 1900's the progenitor to New Evangelicalism. The wrong committed by the Charismatics is the deemphasizing of the other members of the Trinity while embracing error.

There are in all two hundred and sixty-one passages in which the Holy Spirit is directly mentioned. The Gospels contain fifty-six passages; the Acts of the Apostles, fifty-seven; St. Paul's Epistles, one hundred and twelve; and the other Books, thirty-six. The fact is as clear as it is critical; that what Christ Himself taught concerning the Holy Spirit's power, as being sufficient to counteract any sin thereby providing complete and total victory, is in reality the answer to the glaring need of Fundamentalism's orthodoxy. Until the Spirit of the living God is recognized as the Senior Executive over the church, *Another of the exact same kind* as Jesus, and honored as such, churches will continue existing ineffectively by their own might and power.