

The Divinity of the Holy Spirit, and His Operation on the Human Heart, [1837?]

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5 The subject of This essay is, The Divinity of The Holy Spirit, and his operation on The human heart.

The first enquiry which ought To engage the attention of every candid searcher after Truth, in coming To the Bible, ought To be; Is This The word of God? Let him ascertain that it is so, and Then every statement contained Therein ought To be received with perfect confidence; although it may not coincide with what he should have expected to find in a revelation of The will of God; And every precept it enjoins ought to be received with ready obedience, although it may not accord with ^ his preconceived ideas of right and wrong; And Though he cannot understand its mysteries, or compass them within The limited grasp of his reasoning faculties, all ought to be received on the ground of The divine Testimony, and relied on with implicit confidence. The doctrine I am To prove is one of the mysteries of the Bible, and is susceptible of no other proof except what is deducible from that source. In consequence of The imperfection of our nature, and our limited capacities we cannot understand the manner of The existence of The Trinity, abstractedly considered, but all that is necessary To guide our prattice practice is level To the capacity of any ordinary mind, and we ground our faith in those things which are above our reason, on The divine faithfulness.- The Terms employ (ed in scripture concerning the Holy Spirit clearly convey To us The ideas of personality and divinity – He is described as being sent, as Teaching. “whom the Father will send in my name, he shall Teach you” &c. John XIV.. 26

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and Christ said “He shall Testify of me”. John XV.. 26 - As “descending like a dove”. Matth III .. 16 – As searching, striving, dwelling in; The bodies of beleivers are said To be The Temples of the Holy Spirit

The same attributes being ascribed and homage paid as To the Father and Son indicate his divinity – He is denominated God, “Peter said, why hath Satan filled thine heart To lie. To the Holy Spirit – Thou hast not lied unto men but God” == “Holy men of old spake as They were moved by The Holy Spirit,” – He spake by the mouth of David, ”and by Isaias The prophet.” Now, “all scripture is given by inspiration

Of God” And God spake in sundry Times and divers manner
In Times past unto. The fathers by the prophets” – He is the
instrument in the new creation, & none can create but deity
The same worship, Thus, “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, The
love of god The Father and the communion of the Holy spirit
be with you all,” “Baptizing them in the name of The Father and
of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” “And there are three that
bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy
spirit & these three are one,” These passages prove The Holy
spirit to be a divine person, otherwise we must admit
the Bible contains superfluous matter, some of these passages
having no meaning on any other supposition

The united Testimony of both scripture and experience
prove man To be a sinful, guilty and polluted creature – “His
heart is at enmity with God.” and all the principles arising
Therefrom are in direct opposition to the holy feast, and
good law of God, His affections are vitiated his underst-
-anding darkened, and his will perverted, The Bible
Treats him as a moral and accountable agent. Salvation

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is freely offered to him, Believe on The Lord Jesus Christ, and thou
shalt be saved,- faith in the work of Jesus Christ is all That is required
To shield him from everlasting punishment, Yet he will not
believe it, unless The Holy Spirit exerts his influence over his will
by convincing him of sin, shewing him the deceitfulness and
desperate wickedness of his own heart; The folly and danger of living
in sin; exhibits To his view the beauty of holiness; shews him
The perfect consistency of The plan of Mercy Through Christ, with the
claims of Justice – Its complete adaptation To all his wants
sheds abroad The Love of Christ in his heart, a new motive to
obedience To The Law of god. The principles which The Holy
Spirit imparts cause him to view the world and the Things of the
world in a Totally different Light than formerly. The change
is so great and wonderful that it is denominated the new
creation, the new birth &c. While it is the fact that the
operation of the Holy Spirit is absolutely required in this change,
yet man is Treated as a moral and accountable agent throug[-]
-hout – The Holy Spirit does not communicate any new
faculties to the soul, the sinner is as capable of believing,
Loving, rejoicing, hating &c. in a state of nature as in a
state of grace, and though he is described as naturally unable
To Love and serve God, yet the reason Lies in the fact that
he will not; His inability is moral not physical, Our Lord says
“ye will not come unto me That ye might have Life.” “and if
any man will do his will he shall know of this doctrine
whether it be of god.” And on this principle, I apprehend
are those condemned, who choose to reject this salvation
“this is the condemnation that light has come into the

World, and men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil, some object to this view of the subject because they find such declarations in the scriptures as

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as these “No man can come unto me except the father who hath sent me draw him”, “Without me ye can do nothing”. These expressions may be explained by a similar one relating To a different thing; It is said, the bretheren of Joseph could not speak peacably to him, Now every one knows there was no physical impossibility existing here they were quite capable of it had they been so inclined. The gospel is likewise addressed to the will, “Whosoever will let him come and take of the water of life freely.” There is no impediment in the way of any sinner obtaining salvation except his own moral depravity; the Holy Spirit is promised to all who ask it, “If ye then being evil know how To give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him Hence the error of those who think, because His influence is essential to the right reception of the Truth into the heart, they are justified in continuing in sin, waiting for an effect to be produced within them on the grounds of which they imagine ^ they shall be Justified before god, and thus they continue To reject Christ and resist his Spirit. The Spirit is the grand agent in the sinner’s sanctification, though by faith in Christ he is Justified in the sight of god, yet the seeds of depravity still remain, the power of sin is broken, but its pollution still exists, The beleiver is commanded ^ To strive against sin,, “To work out his own salvation from its pollution, He is commanded as if he could do it all himself, and at the same Time To Trust To the Holy Spirit as if he could do nothing, for it is God who worketh in you both To will and To do of his good pleasure

Through sanctification of the spirit and beleif of the Truth the sinner is saved from all sin and pollution and made meet for The inheritance of The Saints in Light.

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