

BOOK REVIEW

Keith Warrington, *Discovering the Holy Spirit in the New Testament* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2005). x + 230 pp. Pbk. US\$16.95.

Keith Warrington is Research Fellow in New Testament and Pentecostal Studies at Regents Theological College (Cheshire, England). In *Discovering the Holy Spirit in the New Testament*, Warrington offers readers an introductory survey of New Testament texts that refer to the Holy Spirit. One senses the conservative Protestant tendencies in the author's interpretations.

The survey is not very critical in its approach, often overlooking significant exegetical debates. At times Warrington does offer a number of perspectives (e.g. the significance of the reception of the Holy Spirit in Acts, p. 60), but at other times there is no recognition of present debates. Where there is a presentation of diverse options, it is not clear what authors represent the differing opinions, and there are no footnotes to guide readers toward their own research.

Other than a brief introduction and concluding summary, the book's chapters survey what each of the New Testament books (in their current canonical order) have to say about the Holy Spirit. The main place where Warrington's method of hearing each author's individual voice is set aside is in the first chapter, where Matthew and Mark are interpreted together and in light of one another.

Each chapter follows the same order. Chapters begin with a brief introduction to the setting of the New Testament book, followed by an outline of the themes in that book with respect to the Holy Spirit. Warrington then presents the texts that exhibit these themes, followed by clear expositions of the texts (by means of historical-grammatical exegesis with the occasional theological observation), and a discussion of the proposed significance for the original readers. This latter section is often clearly concerned with the significance for contemporary readers (e.g. p. 66, Warrington suggests that Acts displays the 'painful lesson that Spirit-anointed preaching does not always result in converts').

Each chapter concludes with a brief bibliography for further research and a number of reflection questions to aid readers in considering the significance of that book's perspective on the Holy Spirit for today.

Due to the lack of critical reflection throughout the book, it would not be a sufficient text for a graduate-level course. It might have served as a useful supplemental text in an undergraduate course in pneumatology, but given that it does not aim to cover the Old Testament as well, it would miss many significant biblical perspectives on the Holy Spirit. This is not to say that the book does not meet its goals. Warrington aims to bring together texts about the Spirit in the New Testament in order to provide a reference tool and to supplement commentaries that sometimes neglect discussing aspects of these Scriptures that pertain to the Holy Spirit. He has succeeded well in this. Further, he specifically notes that he has written with 'the church leader and student of the Spirit in mind' (p. vii). Indeed, this text is appropriate for just such a group. I expect to find myself turning to this text as a valuable reference tool outside of the academic setting.

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