Bibliography of Books on “The Gifts of the Holy Spirit”


Annotated Bibliography of Articles on “The Gifts of the Holy Spirit”


In this article, Bouchard reviews 20th Century literature in an attempt to restore the gifts of the Holy Spirit to its proper place in theology following its years of diminishment in theological study. He also outlines the most important traditions in regard to the gifts of the Holy Spirit within theology.


This author argues that the Pentecostal movement of the twentieth century called for the restoration of New Testament power and gifts by embracing a model which identifies tongues as the sign or evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit from the book of Acts. The desire of this movement was to embrace the simple teachings and practices of the Bible by restoring the doctrine of the Spirit Baptism of the apostolic church.


Psalm 68:18 is quoted in Ephesians 4:8 to give scriptural warrant for Christ’s giving of gifts to the church. This has caused a major interpretive difficulty. In his article, Gombis critiques a leading interpretation and offers an alternative that develops the elements of divine triumph and warfare found within Ephesians.


This female pastor asserts that preaching is not to be a “do-it-yourself project.” Preaching is a gift of the Spirit and “an intimate, spiritual collaboration between God, the preacher, and the congregation.” The writer offers four petitions as a way to think and pray theologically about preaching as a spiritual gift.


This is a detailed study of all the biblical references to a “filling” with the Holy Spirit or a person’s being “full of the Spirit” in the New Testament. The writer emphasizes the importance of Christians seeking spiritual maturity through discipleship rather than merely praying to be filled with the Spirit. Being “filled with the Spirit” is only a small part of the biblical teaching on the roles exercised by the Spirit, which includes His role of providing spiritual gifts to every believer.

Within the religious traditions that are not so oriented toward the gifts of the Spirit, such as “Charismatics” and “Pentecostals,” there is a deficiency in the discussion of the work of the Holy Spirit. Mann’s article addresses the role of the Holy Spirit within Luther’s theology of justification and sanctification and offers practical suggestions to incorporate a greater inclusion of the work of the Holy Spirit within modern preaching and teaching.


Mayhue argues that the “gifts of healings” mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12 do not operate today as they did in New Testament times; sign-gifts ceased with the close of the New Testament canon. However, God does still heal as He did in both the Old and New Testaments. The author also argues that Christians should focus more on the spiritual/eternal rather than the physical/temporal.


Olson shares how he left the Pentecostal church after doubting their key doctrine that speaking in tongues is the initial, physical evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. The author also discusses how leaders within the church denigrate education and intellectual endeavors because questioning church doctrine is considered a sign of spiritual weakness, if not a sin.


In his article, Packer answers the question, “Is every believer guaranteed at least one spiritual gift?” Packer responds that every believer is given at least one gift, and perhaps more. He states, “Gifts are manifestations of the Holy Spirit, given to build up the church and the individuals within it.”


Snook provides a useful and thorough review of contemporary literature on the Holy Spirit. The theological works listed are used to justify the author’s conviction that the Spirit of God cannot be confined to Luther’s explanation of the Spirit in the *Small Catechism*. The themes covered include the Spirit in Scripture, the History of the Church, Christian Doctrine and Theology of Mission, and the Spirit and Transformation of Thought and World.