Horton's "Rediscovering the Holy Spirit" (Book Review)

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Few topics in theology cause as much debate, and even division, as does discussion about the Holy Spirit. It seems in the history of the church there have been theological traditions that have either over or under emphasized the role of the Spirit in the life of both the church and the individual believer. For that reason Michael Horton’s book on the Holy Spirit is much needed. Horton is a professor of theology at Westminster Theological Seminary in California and an ordained minister. I have listened to and read much of Horton’s work and this is the fullest exposition on the Holy Spirit I have seen from him.

This is a fairly long and theologically rich book. It covers a lot of ground – from Scripture, to history, to theological engagement. But anyone who takes time will benefit greatly, even if he or she does not agree with all the conclusions Horton draws. It is clearly written from a confessionally Reformed perspective. Among other places in the book, this becomes clear when Horton discusses the role of the Spirit in regeneration, the role of the Spirit in the life of the Church, and the continuation (or cessation) of certain gifts of the Spirit, such as prophecy or tongues. Since it is a hot button topic in any study on the Holy Spirit, his discussion on the continuation of the sign gifts today is useful. While those people who identify as more charismatic will likely disagree with his conclusions, everyone would do well to consider his arguments. While his convictions are clear, he does not take as a hard of a line on the issue as others have; and like all of Horton’s work, these arguments are made with deep exegetical engagement.

This book would make a good edition to any collection and could be used for much benefit by upper level undergraduate and graduate classes in theology.

**Reviewer**

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