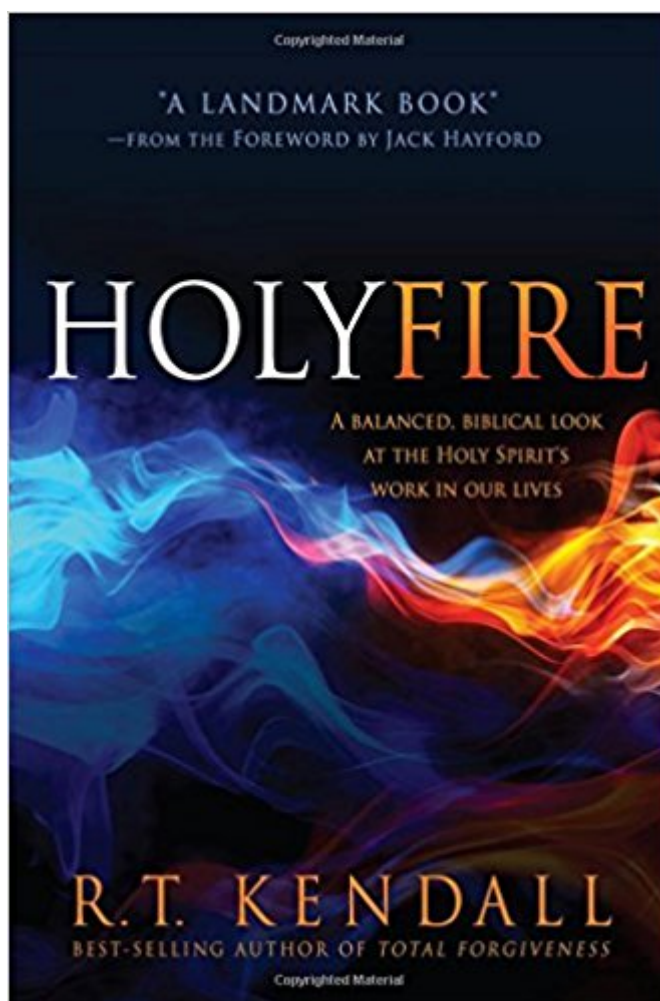


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Holy Fire: A Balanced, Biblical Look At The Holy Spirit's Work In Our Lives



Synopsis

The Holy Spirit... Greater than your theology, bigger than denominations, beyond all we can imagine, God's gift to the church and to you. Debate about the Holy Spirit has been around for a long time. In *Holy Fire*, best-selling author and respected theologian R. T. Kendall sets the record straight about the Holy Spirit's role in our lives and in the life of the church. If you want to increase your knowledge of this most misunderstood member of the Trinity, or if you long to experience His presence in your life in a deeper way than ever before, this book is for you. Are you charismatic? He is bigger than your signs-and-wonders events. Are you Reformed? He will not be limited by your theology. As Jesus said of the Holy Spirit, "He blows where He will."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"R.T. Kendall's *Holy Fire* is an important book because he bridges communities that have often talked past each other—or perhaps worse, ignored each other's existence."
—David Neff, former editor in chief, *Christianity Today*
"Epic work on the Holy Spirit."
—John Arnott, *Catch the Fire Ministries*, Toronto
"A challenge both to Reformed-cessationists and card-carrying charismatics."
—Colin Dye, senior minister, Kensington Temple, London, England
"Combines the Word and Spirit to set the record straight."
—Marcus Yoars, editor, *Charisma* magazine
"Best I've read on the Holy Spirit."
—William Dwight McKissic, senior pastor, Cornerstone Baptist Church, Arlington, Texas
"Pastorally sensitive. Theologically exact."
—Rob Norris, senior pastor, Fourth Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, Maryland

R. T. Kendall was the pastor of Westminster Chapel in London, England, for twenty-five years. Born in Ashland, Kentucky, he was educated at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Oxford University. He is well known internationally as a speaker and teacher. Dr. Kendall is the author of more than forty-five books, including *The Power of Humility*, *Total Forgiveness*, *The Sensitivity of the Spirit*, *The Thorn in the Flesh*, *Grace*, *Pure Joy*, *Imitating Christ*, and *The Anointing: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow*.

Whether you consider yourself a conservative evangelical or a Charismatic/Pentecostal of some kind, R.T. Kendall's opus, *Holy Fire*, will empower you to go to the next level in your journey as a well-balanced believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. By the way, balance in the Kingdom is not living in some lukewarm place between boredom and passion. It is not a little bit of Bible-based theology mingled with a little bit of Holy Spirit. Balance is desiring "all of the Word" and "all of the Spirit, as the Word of God and the Spirit of God work together, not independently of each other. Kendall reminds us of this powerful Truth on every page, concluding with Smith Wigglesworth's prophetic statement: "When the Word and Spirit come together, there will be the biggest movement of the Holy Spirit that the nation, and indeed the world, has ever seen." What I appreciate is that *Holy Fire* is not another immediate response to Pastor John MacArthur's *Strange Fire* book and conference (Dr. Michael Brown has superbly tackled this with solid and outstanding integrity in his book *Authentic Fire*). Rather, Kendall gives us something extraordinary and unusual. He offers a user-friendly apologetic for the Scriptural basis for the present day movement and power of the Holy Spirit. Every piece of information he delivers is Scripturally reinforced. If you are Charismatic, Kendall is both your ally and encourager. He is also inviting Charismatics/Pentecostals to seriously consider "their ways" and ensure that everything done in the Name of the Holy Spirit represents the Truth of Scripture. If you read any of Kendall's testimony or know anything of his personal history with the Holy Spirit, he is by no means one who plays it safe. So don't worry about someone trying to throw a wet blanket on your fire. Kendall is not the man for that job. His passion is to see your fire sustained, for only Holy Fire is sustainable fire. The *Strange Fire* and counterfeit may last for a season, but it delivers no lasting fruit. Plus, Kendall provides a well studied criteria for evaluating whether something is born of the Spirit, or is not (in the chapter, "The Ultimate Proof of the Holy Spirit"). If you are a conservative evangelical, coming from a Baptist, Reformed, Nazarene, or any other type of denominational background, Kendall's history will be oddly appealing. He's been there. Seriously - he has been "everywhere." He is reformed in his theology. He has pastored Baptist churches (and attended a

Baptist seminary). He was brought up Nazarene. He also happens to be charismatic, as one who has experienced the dynamic touch of the Holy Spirit in his life (on several occasions (his chapter, "My Personal Testimony," will surely be a blessing to you). In addition, he provides user-friendly chapters on some of the most controversial Charismatic doctrines, such as the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. One of the most important sections of Kendall's book boldly confronts the dangers of cessationism. He is right to acknowledge that cessationism is not a dogma, as many tend to uphold it as; cessationism is merely a possible theory. Whether you have enjoyed decades of the Holy Spirit's presence and power in your life, or, you are curious about the possibility of experiencing "more" from God (but don't know if this "Holy Spirit stuff" is Scripturally legal), *Holy Fire* was lovingly written with you in mind. Get ready to discover Who the Holy Spirit is, what He does, and Why relationship with Him is absolutely vital for every single believer living on the Earth.

As someone coming from a Reformed perspective and recently becoming more open to the Charismatic movement, this was just the book I needed. I used to be someone who knew very little of Pentecostals/Charismatics. Most of my knowledge of the movement was based off of jokes I heard by our cessationist pastor. I always thought they were just "out there." That is until I became friends with a very scholarly Charismatic. At first I poked fun at him every time he talked about anything supernatural the Holy Spirit was doing today. But I began to listen to him. I believe God opened my mind and used him as a way of introducing me to all the Holy Spirit is capable of in every believer, even today. With that background--being open minded but not having had any kind of experience--I read *Holy Fire*. What I found was not a systematic layout of a Charismatic theology. Rather I found the testimony of a man whose life had been radically changed by the Holy Spirit and who had witnessed wonders in his community, family and around the world. This book is filled with so much hope, and it's written in such a humble way. This book dramatically changed the way I think about the Holy Spirit and how neglected He is as a member of the Trinity. I recommend this book especially to those coming from cessationist churches and who have genuine interest and questions about the Charismatic movement.

Kendall embraces Reformed theology (after growing up Nazarene). He also believes the gifts of the Holy Spirit are operative today. This may be a surprise because he was trained and ordained in a theological setting that taught him to resist charismatic teaching and experience. I really like Kendall's book (perhaps because I am Reformed and charismatic). He has written it to (re)introduce

us to the Holy Spirit, to show the inconsistency of the teaching of some evangelicals, and to warn of strange fire. He notes that some Christians emphasize the Word and other the Holy Spirit. He says both are right but the problem is that neither will learn from the other. He desires to see a combination of sound biblical teaching and the encouragement of a greater measure of the Holy Spirit. Kendall is not naive. He admits there is the counterfeit, "strange fire." He identifies the pitfalls in the charismatic/pentecostal movement and warns against them, such as a defective view of God. He does the same for the Reformed camp, such as cessationism (the idea that miracles ceased when the canon was completed). He explores what every Christian should know about the Holy Spirit (21 truths). He also writes about Dr. Lloyd-Jones (his predecessor at Westminster Chapel), how to recognize strange fire and what lies behind it, the sensitive nature of the Holy Spirit, his own testimony, cessationism and its consequences, and evidence of the Holy Spirit. Kendall is open and honest in this book. It is a good look at who the Holy Spirit is, how He is active today, and how that activity is sometimes misunderstood and misused. Any of Reformed theology will find a balanced perspective in this book.

Though a highly educated and learned man of Scriptures, RT writes this excellent work as though he were sitting down by the fire and chatting with you. For everyone with an open mind regarding the work of the Holy Spirit, and His ongoing work today, readers will find clear, biblical answers to the confusion of the Holy Spirit's role in the life of the believer, the local church and the Kingdom at large. For those with closed minds of the legal dogmas of cessationism, just move on to something else.

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