

CCP

THE WITNESS OF THE SPIRIT: An Essay on the Contemporary Relevance of the Internal Witness of the Holy Spirit. By Bernard Ramm, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Mich. 1960. 138 pp. \$3.00.

Every preacher, teacher, and as many laymen as possible ought to read, study and praise God for this book. Dr. Ramm, professor of Systematic Theology and Apologetics at California Baptist Theological Seminary, has focused attention in this volume on a much neglected aspect of the ministry of the Holy Spirit. He defines the witness of the Spirit as "the touch of the Holy Spirit upon native and resident powers of the soul which had been rendered ineffectual through sin" (p. 84). He proceeds to develop the ramifications of that touch in the many areas of the Christian's life and experience which it affects. Dr. Ramm's discussion always emphasizes the supernatural character of this work of the Spirit. Often the treatment is outstanding and in many places it is stirring. For instance, in discussing the witness of the Spirit (or testimonium as it is designated in the book) in relation to scholarly pursuit he declares: "Scholarship per se cannot be the basis for our certainty of the gospel, for the gospel and the testimonium do not make us professors but Christians. It is not learning or scholarship which enables a man to find the Word of God in Scripture, but the testimonium; and the testimonium is given in terms of the gospel. On the contrary, learned investigations seldom lead to faith or to the dissipation of doubt; rather, they increase the possible places where the Christian faith may be equivocated" (p. 83).

The book opens with an outline of certain necessary historical and theological background material. The heart of the essay is found in chapters 3 and 4. Chapter 3 sets forth the Scriptural evidence for the witness of the Spirit, and chapter 4 relates that ministry to various