

Scripture. For the only inspiration which is recognized becomes known to us by personal experience. The power of the Scriptures to lodge Christianity and its doctrines in the minds of those in whom the Spirit works is what is meant by inspiration.

For this view of the witness of the Spirit this author claims the authority of the Westminster divines, as we have seen Robertson Smith alleges that of "all the fathers of the Protestant church."

In emphasizing the witness of the Spirit, these authors have directed attention to an important truth which has often been too much overlooked in modern times in this connection; but we cannot admit that it should be allowed to supersede the careful discussion of inspiration, or that these writers have presented the doctrine in its proper relations, or that they are entitled to claim for their views the sanction of the Westminster divines.

What we shall attempt in this lecture is to examine the Confessional doctrine of the authority of Scripture, consider what is involved in the witness of the Spirit of which the Confession speaks, and, lastly, inquire into the relation which the witness of the Spirit sustains to the authority and the inspiration of Scripture.

I. THE CONFESSIONAL DOCTRINE OF THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE.

It is stated with great clearness and care in the *Confession of Faith*, chapter i. 4-5: "The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed and obeyed, dependeth not upon any man or church, but wholly upon God (who is truth itself) the Author thereof; and therefore it is to be received, because it is the Word of God. We may be moved and induced by the testimony of the church to a high and reverend esteem of the Holy Scripture, and the heavenliness of the matter, the efficacy of the doctrine, the majesty of the style, the consent of all its parts, the scope of the whole (which is to give all glory to God), the full discovery it makes of the only way of man's salvation, the many other incomparable excellencies, and the entire perfection thereof, are arguments whereby it doth abundantly evidence itself to be the Word of God; yet, notwithstanding, our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth and divine authority thereof is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit, bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts."