

ENDORSEMENTS



Flame of Love

A Theology of the Holy Spirit

April 5, 2022 | \$30, 304 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-**0130**-1

Praise for Previous Editions

"I greet Clark Pinnock's book with praise for his seriousness and intellectual courage. Flame of Love is evangelical: a biblically grounded systematic theology for our time with an ecumenical openness to the truth about the Holy Spirit in other Christian traditions and the newer Pentecostal movements."

-Jürgen Moltmann, University of Tübingen

"Recently a rapprochement has been occurring between evangelical Protestantism and Eastern Orthodoxy. Flame of Love advances the meeting and is bound to deepen understanding.... Pinnock's book is not only a comprehensive and profoundly trinitarian work, it is also beautifully written, filled with grace, and a joy to read."

-Vigen Guroian, Loyola College in Maryland

"Clark Pinnock's Flame of Love is a timely book for American evangelicalism, bringing its doctrines into the mainstream of classical Christian faith and teaching. . . . It reaps a vast harvest of recent developments in theology—trinitarian doctrine, Spirit-Christology, theosis-soteriology, sacramental spirituality, charismatic renewal, and interreligious dialogue, among others."

-Carl E. Braaten, Center for Catholic and Evangelical Theology

"At last the Christian community has a sound Pentecostal theology to guide the still growing renewal movement of the Holy Spirit. Flame of Love is solidly biblical, ecumenical in appeal, evangelical in spirit. . . . Most important, it prophetically challenges tendencies toward quenching of the Spirit and toward excessive enthusiasm that have plagued this spiritual renewal."

-Roger E. Olson, George W. Truett Theological Seminary

"This is an impassioned, yet reasonable and sometimes lyrical tribute to the Holy Spirit. In surely his most important and ecumenical work, Clark Pinnock picks up the Spirit-longings of a culture. . . . This work will stand as an important contribution to a neglected subject and may well become a theological bridge between mainstream, evangelical, and charismatic understandings."

-Linda A. Mercadante, Methodist Theological School in Ohio

"Flame of Love is vintage Clark Pinnock. . . . Above all, the book reveals his passion for the triune God, and it shows how deeply he has drunk from the well of the Spirit about whom he writes. It provides a way not only into Pinnock's head—indeed it is the best summary to date of his entire theological odyssey—but also into his heart."

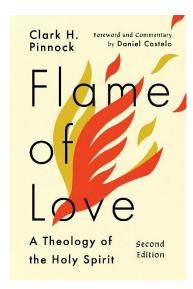
-Stanley J. Grenz, Carey/Regent College

"Drawing upon Eastern Orthodox, Wesleyan, Roman Catholic and Reformed traditions, Clark Pinnock forges an ecumenical, evangelical theology of the Spirit that deserves serious consideration by the whole church. Even those who take different positions on some of these questions will appreciate the author's willingness to dialogue in the spirit of Christian love."

—Donald G. Bloesch, emeritus professor of theology, Dubuque Theological Seminary







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"What if theology and life were seen through a Holy Spirit lens? Anticipating and contributing toward a Third Article Theology, Pinnock's Flame of Love invites the reader on a thought-provoking ecumenical journey of heart and mind through the pneumatic foundations and implications of Christian theology. Castelo's winsome commentaries and helpful updates add pedagogical value to this revised edition of Pinnock's classic for a new generation of readers."

—Leopoldo A. Sánchez M., professor of systematic theology and Werner R. H. and Elizabeth R. Krause Professor of Hispanic Ministries, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri

"Clark Pinnock's Flame of Love has long been an insightful and accessible treatment of pneumatology. His reflections on the Holy Spirit reflect both his wide reading and his deep love for God. The lively style and ecumenical orientation make this book a good fit for classroom use. Now with Daniel Castelo's helpful foreword and commentary, this second edition will introduce a new generation of readers to Pinnock's work."

-Doug Koskela, professor of theology at Seattle Pacific University

"In this, one of his later theological offerings, Clark H. Pinnock provides a thoroughly researched and creative discussion of the least familiar member of the Trinity. He shows that the theme of the Holy Spirit sheds a distinctive light on each of the central themes of Christian faith—God, humanity, salvation, and church. Equally important, the doctrine has far-reaching practical implications. Few theologians have more directly connected their intellectual efforts to a personal religious journey, and this is nowhere more apparent than here. Readers may find themselves challenged by Flame of Love—perhaps spiritually ignited by Pinnock's appeal to think of the Spirit as more than an object of abstract reflection. This second edition of Flame of Love is enhanced by Daniel Castelo's foreword as well as the informative and practical reflections he provides for each chapter. And many readers will agree with him that this book is nothing other than a modern-day theological classic."

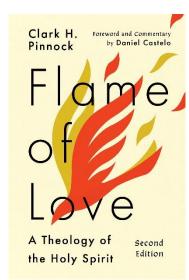
—**Richard Rice,** emeritus professor of religion, Loma Linda University, and author of *The Future of Open Theism: From Antecedents to Opportunities*

"Flame of Love is a modern classic that has profoundly shaped a generation of evangelicals and Pentecostals, and Daniel Castelo is a perfect guide. Castelo offers helpful in-text comments and thoughtful postscript reflections that highlight the significance of Pinnock's thought and demonstrate where scholarship has gone since. Without a doubt, this edition should be a mainstay in any classroom where the Spirit is the subject."

—Steven Félix-Jäger, chair of worship arts and media at Life Pacific University







EXCERPT



Flame of Love

A Theology of the Holy Spirit

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In what may be regarded as his magnum opus, Clark Pinnock explores the vital Christian doctrine of the Holy Spirit, restoring the Spirit to centrality in the life and witness of the church. For this second edition, theologian Daniel Castelo draws from his experience using this book in the classroom to add helpful commentary and brief reflections on each chapter.

A Testament to a Pilgrim

Clark H. Pinnock (1937–2010) could be labeled a maverick given the way his life played out, but one senses that Pinnock was not so much defiant for the sake of maintaining individual independence as he was simply attempting to attend to the work of God in his life. He was pliable at the hands of the Potter. He was willing to have his mind changed. And when it was, he was willing to stay true to those convictions, whatever the consequences. Those consequences involved former allies dismissing him, some even going so far as to call him a heretic. The designation of a pilgrim may be more fitting in the case of Pinnock. His life was a pilgrimage in that he aimed to be faithful to what he experienced and learned along the way as a servant of God.

Of course, people change their views over time. Humans are entities "in process" and in motion. Shifts in opinion should be expected where people are concerned. But how to account for dramatic changes? Those are harder to understand and possibly more difficult to accommodate from the vantage point of an observer. One would think that Christians would be amenable to the possibility of dramatic changes in others given their views on conversion. But conversion is one thing; what about dramatic changes among those already in the fold? Given the witness of the saints, we ought to be open to unexpected and surprising occasions when God truly makes a difference along the way, and this because of who God ultimately is. If the God of Christian confession is a glorious mystery to behold, then theologians—of all people—should value and attend to the possibility of being overwhelmed and reconstituted by the source and end of their vocation. Should this happen more than once in a person's lifetime, all the more should praise be lifted to God.

Flame of Love is a testament to the dramatic changes that took place in the life of a Christian pilgrim. The depth of conviction comes through from the very start of its opening pages. Like Paul's epistle to the Romans, Flame of Love exhibits a kind of energy that is bold in overturning old paradigms and fearless in forging new ones. That is not to say that people will agree with everything Pinnock says—that can never be a standard for estimating the value of any written work! But this book remains relevant today for more reasons than its content. Its style is pneumatologically exquisite. In my judgment, this book is written in the Spirit that it bears witness to. For this reason it is theologically serious, and as a result it can be designated a modern-day theological classic.

The text that follows is largely unchanged from Pinnock's original. Some slight typographical modifications have been made for the sake of accuracy and style. Endnotes have been switched to footnotes in order to facilitate the reader's awareness of Pinnock's broader thinking. Throughout each chapter, I have sparingly added notes signified by superscript letters and shaded boxes for the sake of offering further comments, expanding on certain claims, or qualifying particular remarks. After each chapter, I have offered a brief postscript on the chapter's main themes and contributions. Collectively, these efforts aim to make the book even more accessible to contemporary readers.

—Taken from the foreword, "A Testament to a Pilgrim," by Daniel Castelo



