
THE HOUSE OF THE INTERPRETER

THE JOURNEY through the house of the Interpreter is one of the most instructive parts of the allegory. Here, the Prince of Dreamers opens seven rooms to the eye of the pilgrim, each one a lesson in encouragement, instruction or warning.

You will recall that the transformation of a sinner into a saint involves the activity of the Triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Their actions are not carried out independent of one another but rather concurrently as well as confluent. Each divine Person has a distinct role in bringing the sinner to redemption and ultimately to glory, and yet they work in harmony as One.

Some commentators believe the Interpreter represents the illuminating work of the Holy Spirit, while others believe he is a portrayal of a Christian minister who teaches the pilgrim various truths. In this commentary, we take the view that the Interpreter is a picture of the Holy Spirit.

The text tells us that Christian came to the house of the Interpreter where he knocked on the door “over and over.” It may very well have been that Bunyan was thinking of Matthew 11:10–13 where Jesus instructs His disciples, “knock and it shall be opened unto you. If ye then being evil know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much

more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him.”

Once the true believer has been given access to the person and life of Christ via the gate, the Holy Spirit illumines the heart and mind, furnishing it with a new capacity for reading, hearing, meditating and praying. The ministry of the Spirit is clearly stated by Jesus Himself when He said, “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” (John 14:26).

A.W. Pink in his chapter on “The Spirit Enlightening” in *The Work of the Holy Spirit* says, “The Spirit’s quickening of the dead soul into newness of life lays the foundation for all His consequent operations. Once the soul is made the recipient of eternal life, all its faculties are capacitated unto spiritual exercises: the understanding to perceive spiritually, the affections to move spiritually, and the will to act spiritually.” Here is the work of Interpreter. The new convert is given a new capacity to love the truth that he once hated, and it is the illuminating work of the Holy Spirit, as the chief instructor of the heart, to disclose the will and truth of God revealed in the Word of God to him who now believes.
