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The Holy Spirit has been a topic of debate since centuries. In the academic world as well as in the world of the Christian church. Especially since the rise of various revivals, holiness movements and the expansion of Pentecostal and charismatic denominations, the Holy Spirit has been in the center of theological debate, pastoral ministry and personal faith. However, opinions about the nature and working of the Holy Spirit vary. Different, sometimes opposing, interpretations of the same biblical passage are key in one's view of the Holy Spirit. Are these interpretations equally valid? Are there limits in interpreting a certain text? Or is our interpretation limitless? Does the reader constitute his or her own meaning of a biblical passage?

In this dissertation, Marco Wittenberg discusses the specific role of the reader during the process of reading and interpreting a biblical passage. The Spirit passages in the narrative of Luke-Acts are the stage for his research. Respectively Max Turner, Robert Menzies and William Kurz, all leading scholars in the field of Luke-Acts and/or the Holy Spirit, are discussed. All three scholars read and interpret from a different denominational background. By using the model of the cooperative reader, developed by renowned novelist Umberto Eco, Wittenberg gives insight in the respective roles these three scholars play in interpreting the Spirit passages in Luke-Acts.

Is their interpretation a responsible interpretation of the biblical narrative or not? This dissertation closes with an assessment of these three scholars and provides some guidelines for responsibly interpreting a biblical narrative.



Marco Wittenberg (1973) is an ordained minister within the Christian & Missionary Alliance. He holds a *B.A.* in theology from the Evangelische Theologische Hogeschool in Veenendaal (now Ede) and a *M.A.* and *M.Phil.* in theology from VU University in Amsterdam. He is senior pastor of the Alliance Church in Amstelveen and guest lecturer in Alliance History & Theology and New Testament Theology at the Dutch Baptist Seminary in Amsterdam.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN LUKE-ACTS

The Role of the Reader



Marco Wittenberg