



Archie Spencer, author of *The Analogy of Faith: The Quest for God's Speakability* (SIET)
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"Years of careful research stand behind this book, which is distinguished by its strong thesis, bold argumentation and close reading of sources ranging across the entire history of theology. Scholars interested in the doctrine of analogy, or the relationship between Christology and theological method, will find much of value here, as will those interested in Thomas Aquinas, Karl Barth, Eberhard Jüngel, or the relationship between Protestant and Catholic theology."

—**Keith L. Johnson**, Wheaton College

Uncovering Ways of Speaking Meaningfully of God

Archie J. Spencer (ThD, University of Toronto School of Theology) is associate professor of theology and John H. Pickford Chair of Systematic Theology for Northwest Baptist Seminary. A scholar, speaker and theologian, he has spoken and taught at institutions all over the world such as Wycliffe College, McMaster Divinity College, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Seattle Pacific University, Briarcrest Seminary, Trinity Western University, Redeemer Pacific College, Regent College and Associated Canadian Theological Schools.

In Spencer's book *The Analogy of Faith*, which is the latest in IVP Academic's Strategic Initiatives in Evangelical Theology (SIET) series, he examines the problem of analogy in its ancient, medieval and modern forms. For centuries philosophers and theologians have asked whether and how it is possible to talk about God. The shared answer to this question goes by the name of "analogy," which recognizes both similarity and difference between the divine being and human language. In the twentieth century, Karl Barth, Erich Przywara, Hans Urs von Balthasar and Eberhard Jüngel explored this question in new and controversial ways that continue to shape contemporary debates in theology.

Spencer argues for a christological version of Barth's analogy of faith, informed by Jüngel's analogy of advent, as the way forward for Protestant theology in answering the problem of God's speakability.

"Spencer's provocative thesis maintains that Augustine's undue reliance on the Neoplatonic tradition led most of the subsequent Christian tradition astray. Boethius, Pseudo-Dionysius, Anselm, Peter Lombard, Bonaventure, Thomas Aquinas, as well as the later Thomist tradition, were all beguiled by a totalizing metaphysical epistemology that was alien to God's self-revelation in Christ," praises Hans Boersman, the J. I. Packer professor of theology at Regent College. "Spencer's penetrating critique, along with his clarion call for an alternative, Christological analogy of faith, is truly deserving of the intense discussion it is bound to evoke."

Spencer is a member of the American Academy of Religion, the Karl Barth Society of North America, Society for the Study of Theology, and is a founding member of the Western Institute for Theological Studies. His research and publication interests include contemporary theology in the Western tradition and the theology of Karl Barth, Eberhard Jüngel and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. He has also served as a pastor within Pentecostal and Baptist contexts for over fifteen years.

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