

**SEKOLAH TINGGI TEOLOGI REFORMED INJILI INTERNASIONAL**

**REFINING ABRAHAM KUYPER'S VIEW OF  
THE SPIRIT'S WORK AMONG OTHER FAITH COMMUNITIES  
WITH MICHAEL WELKER'S PNEUMATOLOGY**

**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO  
THE FACULTY OF  
SEKOLAH TINGGI TEOLOGI REFORMED INJILI INTERNASIONAL  
FOR THE DEGREE OF  
MASTER OF THEOLOGY**

**BY  
HANS TUNGGAJAYA**

**JAKARTA**

**MAY 2025**



**Sekolah Tinggi Teologi Reformed Injili Internasional**

**DECLARATION OF APPROVED THESIS**

**REFINING ABRAHAM KUYPER'S VIEW OF  
THE SPIRIT'S WORK AMONG OTHER FAITH COMMUNITIES  
WITH MICHAEL WELKER'S PNEUMATOLOGY**

written by

**HANS TUNGGAJAYA**

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement of  
the degree of  
**Magister Teologi**

has been approved by the Board of Graduate Studies of  
STT Reformed Injili Internasional  
with recommendation from the examiners below:

---

**Billy Kristanto, Dr. phil., Dr. theol.**  
(Supervisor)

---

**Prof. Benyamin Fleming Intan, Ph.D.**  
(Chief Examiner)

---

**Audy Santoso, M.Th., Ph.D.**  
(Examiner I)

---

**Hendry Ongkowitzjojo, D.Th.**  
(Examiner II)

**22 May 2025**

The old year still would try our hearts to torment,  
of evil times we still do bear the weight;  
O Lord, do grant our souls, now terror-stricken,  
salvation for which you did us create.

...

By powers of good so wondrously protected,  
we wait with confidence, befall what may.  
God is with us at night and in the morning  
and oh, most certainly on each new day.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *By Powers of Good* (1944)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGMENTS</b> .....	<b>vi</b>
<b>ABSTRACT</b> .....	<b>vii</b>
<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1. Research background .....	1
1.2. Research question .....	6
1.3. Thesis statement .....	7
1.4. Research methodology .....	7
1.5. Outline of the study .....	8
<b>2. THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT AMONG OTHER FAITH COMMUNITIES ACCORDING TO ABRAHAM KUYPER</b> .....	<b>10</b>
2.1. The cosmic Spirit .....	10
2.2. Kuyper's interdisciplinary view of religion .....	19
2.3. The Spirit among religions through the lens of common grace .....	35
2.4. Conclusion .....	47
<b>3. THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT AMONG OTHER FAITH COMMUNITIES ACCORDING TO MICHAEL WELKER</b> .....	<b>49</b>
3.1. Religion as a phenomenon of the multimodal human spirit .....	49
3.2. A biblical rationale for discerning the Spirit in other faith traditions .....	53
3.3. Discerning the Spirit among other faith communities .....	56
3.4. Concluding critical remarks .....	85
<b>4. REFINING KUYPER'S VIEW OF THE SPIRIT'S WORK AMONG OTHER FAITH COMMUNITIES WITH WELKER'S PNEUMATOLOGY</b> .....	<b>90</b>
4.1. Common affirmations .....	90
4.2. Addressing Kuyper's limitations with Welker's pneumatology .....	93
4.3. Ten theses .....	99
4.4. Critical evaluation of the ten theses .....	103
<b>5. CONCLUSION</b> .....	<b>115</b>
5.1. Summary .....	115
5.2. A preliminary implication: a rethinking of conversion .....	117
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b> .....	<b>120</b>

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Completing this thesis has been not only an academic milestone but also a deeply personal and spiritual journey. Along the way, I have been sustained by the presence, guidance, and encouragement of many people—without whom this work would not have been possible.

I am especially grateful to my supervisor, Dr. Billy Kristanto, for his thoughtful challenges, generous guidance, and for continually directing me back to the depth and beauty of the gospel and the Reformation tradition. His mentorship has shaped not only the direction of this thesis but also my growth as a believer.

To my friends from church and fellow students, thank you for being a source of strength, joy, and inspiration. Our conversations—sometimes extending late into the evening—sparked fresh insights and reminded me that theology thrives within the context of shared life and learning.

I owe a special debt of gratitude to my family and the Marthen family. Your love, patience, prayer, and unwavering belief in my calling gave me strength in moments of doubt. Your quiet yet steadfast support has been a constant presence behind every page of this work.

## **ABSTRACT**

Churches in Indonesia today face the vital challenge of developing a theologically robust foundation for engaging in mission while fostering peaceful living with other religious communities, without resorting to dualism or demonization. Contemporary pneumatology provides vital resources for constructing such a theological framework, particularly through the articulation of the Spirit's work among non-Christian faith communities.

In pursuit of this aim, this study engages Abraham Kuyper's programmatic vision of the Holy Spirit's work among religious communities. Kuyper's insights are then critically refined with Michael Welker's contemporary pneumatology, which facilitates discernment and enables interdisciplinary and interreligious dialogue. The study proposes: (1) a clarification of the embodied and embedded nature of religion, (2) a nuanced framework for discerning the Spirit's presence among non-Christian faith communities in light of biblical traditions, and (3) a differentiated account of the church's indispensable role in this ongoing discernment.