

## Study of Theology

### IV. QUALIFICATIONS.

**Mental:** soundness of judgment and power of systematic thought. For the questions to be considered are numerous and difficult; the evidence to be weighed is manifold and easily perverted; and a mistake at one point is sure to bring in darkness or error at other points. Good sense, rather than genius, is needed in the study of theology.

**Moral:** fairness of mind and deep reverence for truth. The doctrines of the Bible should be examined with perfect candor. Indifference is impossible; but docility and a love of truth that overcomes prejudice are within the reach of every honest student.

**Religious:** faith, love, humility, docility, fruits of the presence of the Spirit of God in the soul. The importance of these is admitted by nearly all theologians. "The Scriptures," says Andrew Fuller, "exhibit a beauty and a life utterly incomprehensible to an unholy mind." "We must love divine things in order to know them," says Pascal...

**Educational:** knowledge of biblical interpretation and acquaintance with mental philosophy, with physical science, and with the history of religious thought. The first of these, interpretation, is far more important than either of the others. Hollaz mentions these conditions as pre-requisite to sound interpretation...

(Manual of Christian Theology and Christian Ethics by Alvah Hovey, Boston: Henry A. Young & Co., 1877, 14-15)