

UNDER THE INFLUENCE

The Spirit-filled life is not an aspect of the Christian life, it **is** the Christian life.

"I believe that it is impossible for any Christian to be effective either in his life or in his service unless he is filled with the Holy Spirit who is God's only provision of power."

Henrietta C. Mears, author of *What the Bible is All About*

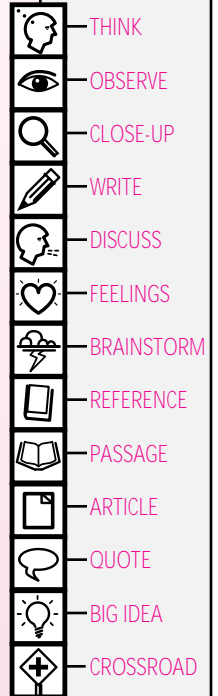
"No truth is more important to the believer than an understanding of the ministry of the Holy Spirit and how to be filled and controlled by Him."

Bill Bright, founder and president of Campus Crusade for Christ

"If the Christian life is simply a matter of doing our best, there was no need for God to send the Holy Spirit to help us."

Charles Stanley, author of *The Wonderful Spirit-filled Life*

TOOLBOX

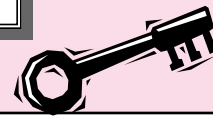


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YOUR EXPERIENCE

- I have never heard anything about it.
- I have heard many confusing and conflicting statements about the Spirit.
- I have heard a clear explanation of the Spirit and His filling.
- I have studied what the Bible says about the Spirit-filled life.
- I think I know what I believe, but I'm still a little unsure.



KEY

Truths about the importance of God's Spirit in living the Christian life are not to be derived from what I think, feel, or believe. Instead, these truths are to be derived from what the Bible teaches.

But, how do I know what the Bible teaches?



There are three steps in discovering what the Bible teaches—**observing** what a passage says, **interpreting** what a passage means, then **applying** it to our lives.



PRAYER

“Open my eyes that I may see the wonderful things in your law.”
Psalm 119:18



CONTEXT

Paul's letter to the Ephesian Christians can be divided into two sections. Chapters 1-3 deal with doctrine—all the great things that are true about these new believers in Ephesus. Chapters 4-6 deal with life implications and applications in light of who they now are. Paul, the author of the letter, records two great prayers for these new Christians. The first prayer is found in Ephesians 1:15-19. The second prayer is found in Ephesians 3:14-19. Apparently Paul wanted them to understand something of the Spirit's power before he delivered the applications in Chapters 4-6. Although this prayer encompasses five verses, for simplicity sake, we want to concentrate on the verse and a half in **bold type**.



OBSERVATION

What does it say?

Observation is the skill of seeing what is really there. Questions are tools which help you in this process. Begin by asking investigative questions—Who? What? Where? Why? When? and How?



EPHESIANS 3:14-19

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. **I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.** And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.



WHO is involved and what is said about them?



WHEN does this take place?

WHAT is happening?

WHERE does this action take place?

HOW does this action take place?

WHY did Paul pray what he did?



ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS



INTERPRETATION

What does it mean?

The purpose of interpretation is to come to an accurate understanding of the author's meaning. The interpretation of a passage must always be considered within the context of its immediate surroundings, the whole Word of God, and its grammatical structure.

DEFINE KEY WORDS

Key words are those which are central to the meaning of the text. Since words are the basic units of thought, it is helpful to define key words.

EPHESIANS 3:16,17

I **pray** that out of His glorious **riches** He may **strengthen** you with **power** through His **Spirit** in your **inner being**, so that Christ may **dwell** in your **hearts** through **faith**.



PRAY



INNER BEING

RICHES

DWELL

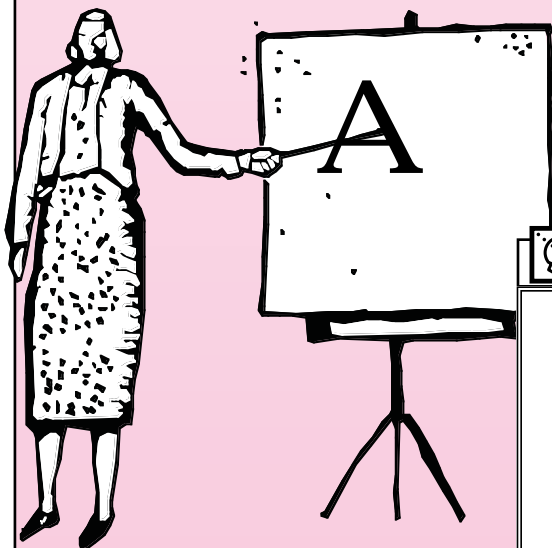
HEARTS

STRENGTHEN

FAITH

POWER

SPIRIT



SUMMARIZE

Summarize what you have learned so far by paraphrasing the text.



ILLUSTRATIONS

Illustrations are windows that let the light in to help explain complex truths. Illustrations help you visualize biblical principles.



APPLICATION

Application is moving from "What does it say?" and "What does it mean?" to "What will I do?" We apply God's Word with our will. God's Spirit gives us the power to carry out these decisions.



MY HEART, CHRIST'S HOME



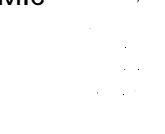



Several years ago, Robert Munger wrote a short booklet entitled, *My Heart, Christ's Home*. The basic premise of the booklet is that our heart is Christ's home—His dwelling place. When Christ came into our hearts, He came to dwell and have free access in every room—every area of our lives. Although we may have relegated Him to a room or two, Jesus wants to have access to every room—your garage, your study, your recreation room, those old musty closets . . . every area.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

If we believe that Christ cannot change what He does not control, how will that influence our daily decisions?

AREAS OF OUR LIVES

SOCIAL 	PHYSICAL 	ACADEMIC 
JOB 	CAREER 	FAMILY 

TAKE INVENTORY



1. In which area(s) of your heart does Christ dwell comfortably and consistently?



2. In which area(s) does Christ dwell occasionally?

3. Which area(s) have you never allowed Christ to enter?

4. What would it look like if you gave Christ free access to every area in your life?

5. In what ways would you live your life differently than you do now?

6. What changes would you have to make?



APPLICATION

What is one application point you would like to make in light of what you have learned today?



CLOSING THOUGHT

"The Spirit-filled life is the Christ-directed life by which Christ lives His life in and through us in the power of the Holy Spirit."

Bill Bright