

- Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, Philemon all written by Paul while under house arrest in Rome ... All speak on the centrality of Christ and the Christian's new life in Christ ... Ephesians and Colossians mirror each other the most – Eph4-6 seems to expand Col3-4 ... C3:16-17 – E5:18-21 ... Is there connection between “let the word of Christ dwell richly among you” and “be filled with the Spirit” – absolutely!
- Few weeks ago, I spoke on the armor of God, and how putting on the armor is more about putting on Christ, who is the armor God provides ... In this provision, we're given the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God ... What is said of Scripture can also be said of the Spirit ... The word of God exposes the intentions of our heart, as does the Spirit ... The word of God is profitable for teaching, correcting, convicting, and training in righteousness, so that we can be equipped for every good work, and so it is with the words of the Spirit ... The One who revealed God's truth, and inspired the writing of God's truth, also illuminates God's truth to those who seek, listen, and follow His voice ... The Holy Spirit will never lead you contrary to the Scriptures ... He will always lead you by them
  - Dwell – to inhabit, to live in, 2Tim1:13-14 ... The word of God is to take up permanent residence within us as the Spirit of God does ... And God uses both to bring about His transformation into the image of Jesus that He desires – 2The2:13 ... Spirit and Word lead us to speaking the truth of Christ, worshipping the glory of Christ, extolling the generosity of Christ, imitating the humility of Christ (see Ep5:19-21, Co3:16-17)
- We are to intentionally foster our relationship with the Spirit, which entails making a habit of experiencing His filling ... C.A.L.L. ... R.E.A.D. ... WORSHIP
- **R – Regular Time** ... Ps119:114 ... Reading God's word should be regular, not irregular ... In developing a habit of reading the Bible: 1) when is best for you to sit down and spend time with God – morning, afternoon, night; 2) what is best for you – physical bible or audio bible; 3) get away from / turn off distractions; 4) try to meet in same place each time; 5) consider using a study bible and a journal (use audio bible as you read) ... When done regularly, no matter if success or trial comes our way, we will learn and understand how to prosper as we follow God's lead
- **E – Engage the Text** ... Ps119:18 ... Lord, open Your word to me, and open me to Your word
  - When reading the Bible, we need to be aware of what we're reading and how we're reading the passage that we are ... The Bible is one continuous and united story that spans across 66 books ... And as it moves, it reveals to the reader more of who God is, the purpose and fulfillment of Jesus, and how God's people are to live in response ... So, each book is connected to a larger context, as well as a specific context
  - Each book has been written for a purpose, to an audience, by an author according to his writing style (40), that fits into a genre (historic, poetic, wisdom, epistles, prophetic) ... Helpful tools: Study Bible, Bible Handbook (personally I recommend Halley's Bible Handbook)
  - Each verse is connected to the verses around it (the context) ... Verses can connect to other verses found in other books, giving additional meaning and understanding to what you're reading ... Fee, “A text cannot mean what it never meant” – meaning, it's very dangerous for us to read a text however we want, making it say whatever we want, all while ignoring the intended meaning of the text ... Scripture interprets scripture
  - As you're engaging the text, this is where a journal or notebook comes in handy – to write down what you discover ... If you don't have a Study Bible, use a pencil or a pen for Bibles to write down info in your Bible (a great pen for Bibles – Pigma Micron 005) ... The point is that you want to record what you're learning ... This will be very beneficial for you, especially in times of need, as God will remind you what He has taught you
  - Instead of jumping around, begin going through the Bible book by book ... Read a section or a chapter at a time ... The point isn't to rush through a book; the point is to learn and understand what you're reading

- Choose a book to read and study (Pray) ... Find out the background info and context ... PRAY ... Start with Ch1 and read a section or the whole chapter ... Summarize what you read ... Then begin to work through 4 Questions: 1) What does this teach me about God ... 2) What does this teach me about humanity / myself ... 3) How does this point me to Jesus ... 4) How will I apply this to my life ... Maybe take one question per day; reading the same passage before answering the next question ... Again, record what you're learning
- **A – Apply the Text** ... [Ps86:11](#) ... Scripture is meant to be read, understood, and applied ... If we fail to apply what we have read, then we have not truly understood what we have read ... As we rely on the Spirit to help us read the passage, so we also rely on the Spirit to help us apply the passage to our life ... His application leads us to a trust and surrender and dependence that is deeper than before ... The Spirit is filling us with Himself, leading us through His word, strengthening us by His word, teaching us to see the truth of Scripture and how it applies to life ... Does the passage give you: 1) an example to follow; 2) a command to obey; 3) a warning to heed; 4) a promise to believe
- **D – Desire God's glory** ... [Col3:17](#) ... We read the Bible for God's glory ... We seek to be changed by the Bible for God's glory ... Our life is about the glory of One ([Ps115:1](#)) ... I want to know God so as to make Him known ([Phi3:8](#)) ... As we read, our relationship with God deepens ... We begin to hear Him and understand Him better, as we also understand ourselves better ... The Spirit nurtures this, as we intentionally nurture our relationship with Him
- **WORSHIP** ... "Corporate worship has a teaching function through the lyrics of its songs" ... This is true of hymns and of contemporary songs ... While music can create energy and emotion within us, the purpose for worship on Sunday mornings is not to create this within us ... The purpose for worship is centered around God – it is Him we have come to worship; it is Him we celebrate; it is Him we experience; it is Him we are singing to and enjoying
  - We may not always know the tune, or even like the song, but these do not exempt us from worshipping God as we should ... Our worship is in response to all that God is and has done ... Our voices join the millions of voices in Heaven and around the world, who are declaring His worth and greatness ... [1:15-19](#)
  - If you cannot sing the song: 1) read the words on the screen; 2) pray; 3) sing your own words; 4) close your eyes and listen to the words ... Just don't disengage from worshipping the God who is among us ... Our posture and engagement in worship matters ... The Spirit enables us to worship God as He deserves to be ... As He fills us, He enables us