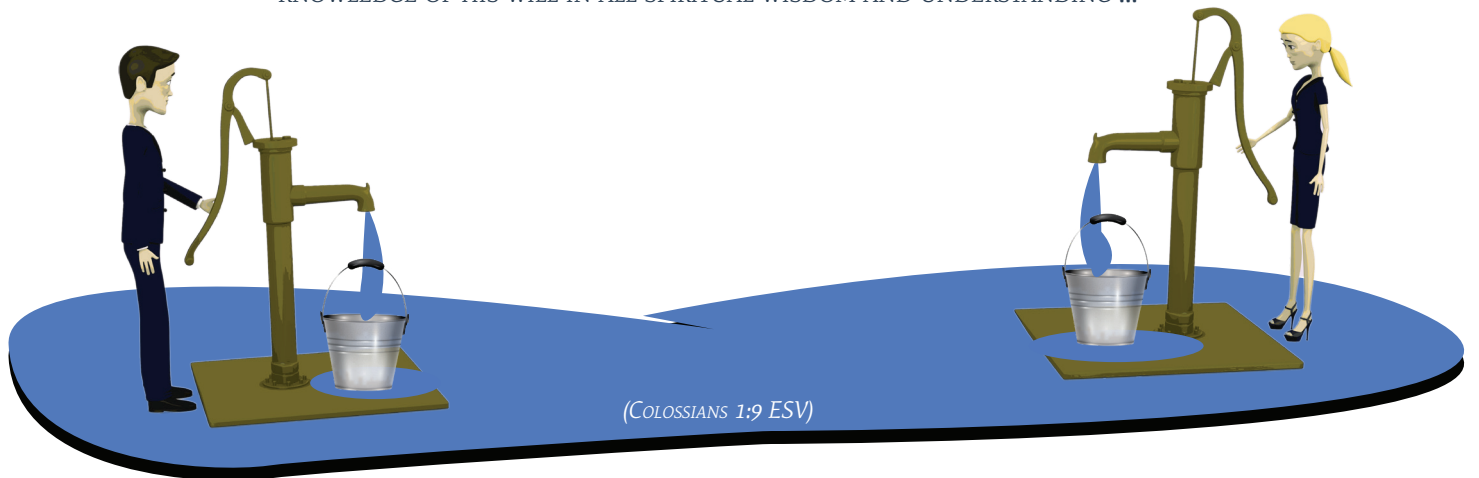


THE ESSENTIALS FOR FILLING

... WE HAVE NOT CEASED TO PRAY FOR YOU, ASKING THAT YOU MAY BE FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL IN ALL SPIRITUAL WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING ...



ESSENTIAL #1—FILLING

(We must be filled to walk worthy, 1:9-10a.)

- Filling is necessary—requisite. Merely attaining or possessing knowledge of God's will is not enough.**
 - (Colossians 1:9–10a ESV) And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking **that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will** in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him ...
- This filling is what enables and empowers us to walk in a manner worthy of our Lord—fully pleasing to him.**
 - (Colossians 1:10a ESV) So as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him ...
- Christ is our supreme example in doing the will of God.**
 - (Hebrews 10:5–7 ESV) Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; 6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. 7 Then I said, **Behold, I have come to do your will, O God**, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’ ”
- We will either be foolish, or we will understand what the will of the Lord is.**
 - (Ephesians 5:15–17 ESV) Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore **do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.**
- Discerning the will of God comes through a sacrificial, transforming process.**
 - (Romans 12:1–2 ESV) I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world,

but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, **that by testing you may discern what is the will of God**, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

ESSENTIAL #2—CLEAN WATER

(We must be filled with the right thing, 1:9b.)

- Clean water...** We must not trust knowledge that has been compromised by the wisdom of this world—religious or otherwise.
- (Colossians 1:9b ESV) Asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will **in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.**
- The knowledge of God's will is revealed to us by the Spirit—things we cannot know by human means.**
 - (1 Corinthians 2:9–10 ESV) But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”— 10 **these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit.** For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.
 - We receive the knowledge of God's will through the Spirit—that we might understand the things of God.**
 - (1 Corinthians 2:12 ESV) Now we have **received** not the spirit of the world, but **the Spirit who is from God**, that we might **understand** the things freely given us by God.
 - Don't be captured by human thinking. Don't go back to the darkness in search of light.**
 - (Colossians 1:13a ESV) He has **delivered us from the domain of darkness** ...
 - (Colossians 2:8 NLT) Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense **that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world**, rather than from Christ.
 - (Galatians 4:9 NLT) So now that you know God (or should I say, now that God knows you), **why do you want to go back again** and

become slaves once more to the weak and useless spiritual principles of this world?

4. **We must not dig our own wells.**

- (Jeremiah 2:13 NIV) My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and **have dug their own cisterns**, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

5. **We must not receive knowledge for our filling from polluted wells, 1:9b.**

- (Colossians 1:9b ESV) Asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will **in all spiritual wisdom and understanding**.

Dirty water ... polluted wells ... We must not trample on or pollute the wisdom of God with the wisdom of this world by listening to those who have dishonored their calling—who no longer share living water but have become polluted wells.

- (Proverbs 25:26 NASB95) Like **a trampled spring and a polluted well** is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked.
- a. Wells that at one time were good but have been polluted by those who have violated their sacred trust.
- (Malachi 2:7–9 ESV) For **the lips of a priest should guard knowledge**, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the **messenger** of the LORD of hosts. 8 But you have **turned aside from the way**. You have **caused many to stumble** by your instruction. You have **corrupted** the covenant of Levi, says the LORD of hosts.
- b. Wells that at one time were good but have been polluted by those who have rejected knowledge.
- (Hosea 4:6 ESV) My people are destroyed for **lack of knowledge**; because you [the priests] have **rejected knowledge**, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

- c. Wells that have been polluted by those who use the very wisdom that God vows to destroy.

- (1 Corinthians 1:19 ESV) For it is written, **“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”**

- d. Wells that have been polluted by those who use wisdom which God has rendered useless in reaching God.

- (1 Corinthians 1:21 ESV) For since, **in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom**, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

ESSENTIAL #3—GODLINESS

(We must be changed, 1:10b-14.)

- (Colossians 1:10b-14 ESV) **Bearing fruit** in every good work and **increasing in the knowledge of God**; 11 **being strengthened with all power**, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; 12 **giving thanks** to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. 13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

GODLINESS

When we have then been filled with the knowledge of God’s will and are walking worthy of our Lord and fully pleasing to him, we will be ... **godly**.

BEARING FRUIT IN THE WORK OF GOD,
INCREASING IN OUR KNOWLEDGE OF GOD,
BEING STRENGTHENED BY THE POWER OF GOD,
GIVING THANKS TO GOD.

IMPORTANT PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- ① Do I read the Bible?
- ② Study the Bible?
- ③ Bring it to church?
- ④ Meditate on the truth of the Bible?
- ⑤ Obey the teaching of God in the Bible?

How could we hope to know the will of God if we do not even read his word?

Reading begins our journey but to complete the process of having our minds and hearts cleansed and

renewed, we must respond to the Spirit’s call in obedience. **Reading the Bible** is simple yet powerful. **Never underestimate the dynamic of reading the word of God. Reading the Bible** opens our eyes to the world of God. Never underestimate how God can speak to your heart as you **read the word of God**—knowing that it is indeed the word of God you are holding in your hands.

Reading fits our Master’s design. God breathed words for us, directed prophets and apostles to write them down to be passed on, so that thousands of years after God gave the words, **we can still read them.**

READ YOUR BIBLE