

Programming Your Spiritual Computer

“Be filled with the knowledge of [God’s] will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord.”

– Col. 1:9-10 –

As an Information Technology administrator and consultant for many years, one of the popular catch terms or acronyms I remember hearing years ago was G.I.G.O.: “garbage in, garbage out.” Input determines output. What you feed into a computer is what you’ll get out.

Similarly, what you program into your mind will eventually influence your behavior. That’s why you must expose your mind to things that are “true,” “honorable,” “right,” “pure,” “lovely,” “of good report,” “excellent,” and “worthy of praise” (Phil. 4:8). As Mr. Spurgeon used to put it, “You should be so saturated with God’s Word that your blood is ‘bibline.’ If you cut yourself, you should bleed Bible verses!” His exaggeration revealed his passion for God’s truth – a passion every believer should share.

In this Colossians passage Paul prayed that we would “walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; [and be] strengthened with all power. . . for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience, joyously giving thanks to the Father” (Col. 1:10-12).

Those are marvelous Christian characteristics, but how are they achieved? Verse 9 gives us the answer: “Be filled with the knowledge of [God’s] will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.” The Greek word translated “filled” speaks of influence or control. It’s the same word Paul uses in Ephesians 5:18!: “Be filled with [controlled by] the Spirit.” It is also worth comparing Ephesians 5:18 with Colossians 3:16. It is an amazing

equation noted by preachers for centuries. In order to be filled with the Spirit's influence we must be saturated in God's Word. A simpler truth could not be communicated. When you're controlled by and filled with the Spirit, God governs your choices. Similarly, when you're filled with the knowledge of God's will, your choices reflect godly wisdom and understanding.

The phrase "spiritual wisdom and understanding" indicates more than merely knowing God's Word. It speaks of applying it to your life under the Spirit's power and direction.

As you prayerfully saturate your mind with God's Word, it begins more and more to control your thinking and behavior. And then the Spirit uses the Word to renew your mind and to protect you from conformity to worldly attitudes and actions. (Romans 12:2)

- Suggestions: Begin to systematically, but slowly, commit God's Word to your mind in memorizing and retaining key verses of Scripture. Ask someone for help if you don't know where to start. As you do this, ask the Holy Spirit to control every aspect of your life and apply Biblical principles to every circumstance you face.

– Article submitted by Chuck Wetzel, 05.25.20