

 **PRINCIPLES FOR ABUNDANT, FRUITFUL & VICTORIOUS LIVING**

 **DAILY IN THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT**

 **1-ADMIT 2-COMMIT 3-SUBMIT**

These 3 key words collectively have captured an extremely helpful & practical way to understand how to be controlled (filled, under the influence) of God’s Spirit in our everyday living (Gal. 5:16-18; Eph. 5:18-20 cp Col. 3:16-17). For many believers appropriating the power of God in their lives has been confusing, illusive & misunderstood. When you incorporate these 3 concepts into your spiritual preparation to face the day & pray them into your life throughout the day, you will continually be moving forward by faith in the power of the Holy Spirit. In understanding the balance of the Christian life you will know that you are doing your part & now God is “free” to do His part in & through you. The depths at which you do these things are the depths at which you’ll change & experience the life of Christ through you. (Gal. 2:20) By the way, when Paul said in Eph. 5:18 “Do not be drunk with wine…But be controlled by the Holy Spirit”, he made an insightful contrast! Why I previously used the phrase “under the influence” is understood in our culture to define someone who has “taken in” enough alcohol so that it effects (controls & influences) them – the way they walk, talk, think, feel…. Therefore, one becomes under the influence of alcohol by continually drinking more & more (it’s not hard to understand the way it works). Consequently the more we take in “The Sword of the Spirit” which is the word of God (Eph. 6:17) the more we will be under His influence (filled/controlled/even motivated)! John MacArthur’s connection of Eph. 5:18-20 compared with Col. 3:16-17 is the best evidence to show that “being controlled by the Spirit” is indeed synonymous with “letting the Word of Christ dwell in you richly” (Col. 3:15)! They are 2 ways of saying the same thing. If I’m to experience the power (influence) of the Holy Spirit…it’s in direct proportion to my getting Scripture into my life… Drinking it in more & more until it affects the way I walk, talk, think, act, & live. The unmistakable proof that these two passages are saying the same thing is…simply read the next verses in the context! Both “being controlled by the Spirit” & letting “the Word of Christ dwell in you richly” have the exact same results: “speaking to, teaching & admonishing one another in psalms & hymns & spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts, making melody in your hearts to the Lord….giving thanks to God the Father through in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ” (Eph. 5:19-20 & Col. 3:16-17). Another key to understanding this is, we already have the totality of the Holy Spirit living in us (Rom. 8:9-17; Eph. 1:13-14). He indwelt us at the moment we trusted in Christ alone for salvation & received Him as our Savior, thus becoming a child of God (Jn. 1:12, 1 Cor. 12:12-13). Therefore we don’t need to get anymore of the Holy Spirit…He needs to get more of us! And that only happens when we ADMIT (get sin & self out of the way) & ACKNOWLEDGE (getting God’s Word in to replace sin and self)–letting God fill us with Himself with His truth. Then COMMIT (give everything over to God) & SUBMIT (give in to God’s will). Now lets unpack it further, but first ask God for wisdom in understanding, not just for information, but transformation.

1. **ADMIT – Getting Sin Out & Getting Truth In (ACKNOWLEDGE)**

We must continually empty ourselves of ourselves & anything that would quench or hinder God’s Spirit from having complete control. Bill Bright condensed it down to what he called “Spiritual Breathing”… “exhale” – get out the bad air (sin) “inhale” take in the good air (The Word of God). It is a 2 factored process, there’s a negative & a positive responsibility. We don’t just admit…confess our sin to get it out of the way. But, we must also acknowledge (take in/meditate on) what Scripture tells us to replace it with –those things about God Himself, His wisdom & truth that we must now be under the influence of & have rule over our hearts. The more we redirect our focus to meditate on “righteousness” (Phil. 4:8; Mt. 6:33) the sooner we are transformed by the renewing of our minds (Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23). However, if I

don’t have relevant “chapter & verse” that directly relates to my spiritual battles, I’ll fall back into my past vicious cycle & rut of destructive thought & habit patterns perpetuating my defeat!

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1. Humble yourself (Ps. 34:18; 51:17; Js. 4:6-10; 1 Pet. 5:5-11; Isa. 57:15; 66:2) honestly admit who you are (what you lack, what you need, your spiritual battles….) in light of who God is. Since God resists the proud, this is always the starting point of getting anywhere with God. We must, as the actual word means, “bring ourselves low” so He can lift us up to where He wants us to be.
2. Confess your sin & repent (Ps. 51; 1 Jn. 1:7-10; Pr. 28:13). The word confess means “to say the same thing” not only about our sin but an acknowledgement of the righteousness that needs to replace it. I must turn from \_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_(repentance 1 Thes. 1:9 “put off the old & put on the new” (Eph. 4:20-32). Come clean w/God….When you uncover your sin He covers it.

“Lord I admit my\_\_\_\_\_(to get started see list entitled “I ADMIT MY…”)

Thank you for Your forgiveness and that You have solutions to my issues. I commit to obeying your will in these matters…”

1. Be honest with God & continue emptying yourself by admitting your weaknesses, struggles, needs, anxieties, doubts, fears, deficiencies… (also see list) (1 Chron. 20:12, 15, 17; Isa. 6:1-5; Lk. 5:8; 18:9-14; 1 Cor. 2:2-5; 10:12; Jn. 15:5 cp. Phil.4:13). He already knows everything about us (Ps. 139:1-4). And He invites us to freely come to Him (Heb. 4:15).
2. Now for the positive focus, “taking in” the truth, moving in a solution oriented direction. ACKNOWLEDGE the Lord as your source of all sufficiency (2 Cor. 3:4-6a; 12:9-10). The True Vine that you must stay connected to (abide, remain in) and rely upon (Jn. 15:1-17). Everything you need is in Him & we already have it, since we are “in Christ” (Col. 2:9-10; Phil. 4:13, 19; 2 Pet. 1:3-4; 2 Tim. 3:14-17). Again, He invites us to come to Him for whatever we need (Matt. 11:28-30; 2Cor. 9:8, Heb. 4:14-16; 1Cor. 15:10) (See list entitled “I ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR…”) Once you make meaningful connections: revive, renew, refresh, reprogram, remind yourself daily of these truths, as you pray them into your life. Start living as though they’re true…because they are!!!

“Lord, thank You for Your\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Spirit, grace, wisdom, power, presence, peace, protection, precepts, promises, provision, purposes). Use Your Word to fill up my life & replace whatever would hinder Your Spirit from working in & through me. I’m going to live this day appropriating Your fullness (resources) & walking under Your influences, sovereign authority, power & control. I’m moving forward, by faith, depending upon the power of Your Holy Spirit.”

 **2- COMMIT – Giving It All Over to God**

Ps. 10:14 Prov. 16:3

Ps. 37:5 2 Tim. 1:12

This is an ongoing devoting, pledging, offering & giving of ourselves, relationships, circumstances & everything, to be set apart to & for the Lord & His sovereign purposes & glory.

“LORD, I dedicate my\_\_\_\_\_(self, mind, heart, body,\_\_\_) to You as a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1-2) to do Your will, as my service of worship. LORD, I present the members of my body as weapons (instruments) of righteousness (Rom. 6:13-19) for You to use me as a clean vessel (2 Tim. 2:21).

LORD, You are sovereign over my \_\_\_\_\_\_ & I commit/entrust it/them to You for Your will to be done.” Be specific in naming it/them, be intentional & sincere (not legalistic or hypocritical) such as:

 day/schedule time(s) possessions health

 wealth/finances marriage spouse ministry

 heart/inner man family parents children

 gifts/abilities relationships friends church

 safety/security resources circumstances job

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“LORD, I let go, I surrender, relinquish my control, agenda, feelings, expectations, desires, anxieties, fears, demands, rights…. & I lay it all down at Your feet, at Your throne, for Your will to be done. I put it all on the altar (Gen. 22:1-19) I am trusting You with \_\_\_\_\_\_and moving forward in the power of Your Holy Spirit to boldly do Your will & faithfully fulfill my responsibilities as unto You (Col. 3:23-24). Give me wisdom (chapter and verse) that will govern and influence my decisions in all these areas (Js. 1:5-8)

1. **SUBMIT – Giving In To God’s Will**

This is a military term which literally means “to rank under, to line up under” like soldiers under the authority of their commanding officer. It also means “to be subject or in subjection to, to yield, give into & obey”. Obviously in the scripture context of a relationship with God we are commanded to submit to Him (Js. 4:7) submit to Christ (Eph. 5:24) line up/rank under His sovereign authority. This means nothing less than completely trusting & obeying His revealed will & yielding to the Lordship of Christ.

Mt. 6:10 Lk. 6:46

Charles Stanley said that his struggle in understanding how to walk in the Spirit was finally ended when he saw the connection here to….SURRENDER. (overlapping also with the “commit” part). The most powerful Biblical example of this whole concept is revealed in Lk. 22:42 when Jesus struggled in the garden with going to the cross…”Father, if it is Your will take this cup away from me, nevertheless NOT MY WILL, BUT YOURS, BE DONE.” Only when we honestly empty ourselves of our \_\_\_\_ (control, desires, agenda, see all lists) can we be ready to surrender, yield to/give way to and get ourselves and our choices in line with God’s will. We still must set goals (short & long term) prepare, make plans (see Rom. 15:22-23; 2 Cor. 1:15-17) but, we must have the submissive attitude that we consciously & confidently say “if the Lord wills.”

Js. 4:13-16 Acts 18:21

Rom. 1:10 Heb. 6:3

Rom. 15:32 1 Cor. 4:19

1 Pet. 3:17 1 Cor. 16:7

“Lord willing” is not mindlessly tacked on to our lives (prayers and plans), but is a continual acknowledgement that I am trusting in the Holy Spirit to “override” my agenda, control, plans, and give me clarity and wisdom to see His leading. No doubt we should always want His will to be done above all. Who am I that I would want it any other way?

“Sovereign Lord, I recognize my place under your authority I empty myself of my \_\_\_\_\_\_& fill up myself with Your Word. I submit today obeying Your Word; may Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. I yield control of my life to you, right now, I surrender\_\_\_\_\_\_(all) to You for Your purposes to be carried out & for You to have Your way. I move forward by faith in the power of Your Spirit to obey Your promptings to be, do, say, respond, act, and make decisions in line with Your will, wisdom and Word. Fill me with Yourself, so that not my will, but Your will and way might be done in and through me, that You may receive the Glory, in Jesus Name, AMEN.”

Even the world recognizes “power without the will to use it is irrelevant.” Therefore Christians, within moments after humbling ourselves in these ways, we can experience spiritual power for abundant (John 10:10), fruitful (John 15:1-17) and victorious (Rom. 8:28-39; 1 John 5:4-5) living. Now you can start living as though His promises are true, because they are.