



CORE
CONFERENCE



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--C. H. Spurgeon, *Lectures to My Students*,
“The Holy Spirit in Connection with Our
Ministry.”

If you study the original, consult the commentaries, and meditate deeply, yet if you neglect to cry mightily unto the Spirit of God your study will not profit you; but even if you are debarred the use of helps (which I trust you will not be), if you wait upon the Holy Ghost in simple dependence upon his teaching, you will lay hold of very much of the divine meaning.

**--C. H. Spurgeon, *Lectures to My Students*,
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I. WHAT is ILLUMINATION?



I. WHAT is *ILLUMINATION*?

A. In Strict Scriptural Expression:

Open my eyes that I may behold
wonderful things from Your law (Psalm 119:18).



I. WHAT is *ILLUMINATION*?

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... flesh and blood did not **reveal** *this* to you,
but My Father who is in heaven (Matthew 16:17).



I. WHAT is *ILLUMINATION*?

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Then He **opened their minds**
to understand the Scriptures (Luke 24:45).



I. WHAT is *ILLUMINATION*?

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... and the Lord **opened her heart** to respond to the things spoken by Paul (Acts 16:14).



I. WHAT is *ILLUMINATION*?

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. . . the things of the Spirit of God. . . they are **spiritually appraised** (I Corinthians 2:14).



I. WHAT is *ILLUMINATION*?

A. In Strict Scriptural Expression:

For God. . . the One who has **shown in our hearts to give the Light** of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ (II Corinthians 4:6).



I. WHAT is *ILLUMINATION*?

A. In Strict Scriptural Expression:

**. . . the eyes of your heart may be enlightened,
so that you will know . . . (Ephesians 1:18).**



I. WHAT is *ILLUMINATION*?

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... God will reveal that also to you (Philippians 3:15).



I. WHAT is *ILLUMINATION*?

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... the Lord will give you understanding in everything (1 Timothy 2:7).



I. WHAT is *ILLUMINATION*?

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But you have an anointing from the Holy One,
and you all **know** (1 John 2:20).



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. . . His anointing **teaches** you
about all things . . . (1 John 2:27).



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Clarification: Some of these references are to illumination *initially*(at regeneration) and others to it *progressively* (throughout one's Christian life.



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A. In Strict Scriptural Expression:

1. The phenomenon is God's doing only.

I. WHAT is ILLUMINATION?

C. In Strict Scriptural Expression:

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2. The object is the person reading or hearing God's Word.



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It is his/her *eyes* (Ps. 119:18; Eph.1:18),
heart (Acts 16:14; II Cor. 4:6; Eph. 1:18), or
mind (Lk. 24:45) that is said to be illuminated.



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--shown. . . to give the light (II Cor. 4:6)

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C. In Strict Scriptural Expression:

1. The phenomenon is God's doing only.
2. The object is the person reading or hearing the Word of God.
3. The Divine ministry to the individual(s) is expressed variously.
4. **The result** is expressed variously
 - behold wondrous things (Psalm 119:18)*
 - persuasion (that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son; Mtt. 16:16)**
 - response (Acts 16:14)**



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2. The object is the person reading or hearing the Word of God.
3. The Divine ministry to the individual(s) is expressed variously.
4. **The result** is expressed variously
 - knowing* (Eph. 1:18; I John 2:20; *knowledge* (II Cor. 4:6)
 - understanding* (Lk. 24:45; I Cor. 2:14; II Tim. 2:17)
 - realizing what there is about myself that is contrary to what God's Word teaches that I am to be (Phil. 3:15)



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I experience that the word of God is *living, active, sharp, and piercing* (Hebrews 4:12).



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I experience that my soul has been *restored*. . . I have been made *wise*. . . my heart *rejoices*. . . my eyes *enlightened*. . . my fear of the LORD *clean*. . . (Psalm 119:7-9).



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I truly feel that in all of its many aspects,



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I truly feel that in all of its many aspects, the Word of God is *more desirable than gold. . . sweeter also than honey. . .* (Psalm 119:10).



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Will you have knowledge?

There must be light to accompany the truth if we are to know it. The experience of all gracious men proves this. What is the reason that you shall see some things in a chapter at one time, and not at another, some grace in your hearts at one time, and not at another, have a sight of spiritual things at one time, and not at another?

The eye is the same but it is the Holy Ghost that openeth and shutteth this dark lantern, as I may so call it; as he openeth it wider, or contracts it, or shutteth it narrower, so do we see more or less. And sometimes he shutteth it wholly, and then the soul is in darkness though it have never so good an eye.

Beloved brethren wait upon him for this light

--Thomas Goodwin, Sermon on Ephesians 1:18, Works, III.

“The Spirit’s role ... is not to change the meaning but to *charge* it with significance ... not to add a new sense to the Word, but to energize and empower the sense. . .”

*--Kevin VanHoozer, *Is There a Meaning in This Text* (1998), 421*

“ . . . the Holy Spirit so impresses, convinces, and convicts the believer as to the truthfulness and significance of the author’s intended meaning in the text that a change in action, attitude, or belief occurs, resulting in a more transformed, Spirit-filled life.”

--Greg Heisler, Spirit-Led Preaching: The Holy Spirit’s Role in Sermon Preparation and Delivery (2018), 43

“Only when the authority of the Holy Spirit comes to bear upon us do all these things [the authority of Christ and the authority of the Scriptures] become real and living and powerful to us

--David Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Authority* (1958), 62