

Replacing filters

KORY PENCE | FEBRUARY 4, 2018

I'm a fixer.

When things break, I want them fixed. I move into assessment and action quickly. I'll sometimes try tackling a fix for things I have no business touching. Plumbing, roofing and electrical, to name a few.

This winter, my furnace wasn't heating the house. I jumped into fix-it mode. Two specific motivations for prompt action were my wife and three-month-old daughter. I replaced the filter because it was black. (That's bad.) Problem solved. Until two days later—the second, brand-new filter was black too. The furnace wouldn't heat for more than five minutes before shutting down. I tinkered with the furnace wires and fuses. I even tried turning the furnace off and turning it on again. Nope. When sub-zero weather hit, it was time to call the pros. The repairman agreed it was odd the filters turned black but diagnosed hundreds of dollars for a new part. A third filter was installed. A few days later the repairman was back for the same problem. He offered another bill as expensive as the first. Swipe the credit card again (racking up flight points now). The severe cold continued, as did the struggle to stay warm.

A third call to the repairman (practically a new family member) offered a \$600 "maybe fix" to replace the blower. At this point, the third filter was oddly warped. Frustrated, a second opinion was in order. I called a friend and shared my story with him. He immediately said, "The blower either works or doesn't." He went on to recommend a new brand of filter to allow more air flow. Cheap filters can restrict the air flow, causing furnaces to overheat, stop and leave the house cold. Sure enough, a new brand of filter fixed the problem. A simple, affordable fix. I kept replacing the filters with the same cheap brand and getting the same result. The correct filter allowed the necessary air flow and sustained warmth to the whole house. The blower was working. The filters were bad.

This "fix-it moment" has me thinking about my own spiritual filters. Some seasons feel cold, as if the Holy Spirit's flow has been restricted. If I'm honest, the "bad filter" often represents my will, habits and desires preventing the work of the Spirit in my life.

Galatians 5 describes the Spirit's product in our lives when good spiritual filters are in place:

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control ... Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires" (Galatians 5:22, 24).

Good spiritual filters make all the difference. Scripture, prayer, worship, community with believers (to name a few) are spiritual filters that actively allow the flow of the Spirit in my life. If not these filters, potentially bad ones will replace them.

The Spirit is working. Are my spiritual filters good? The Apostle Paul's prayer for the Galatians is as true for us today: "Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit" (Galatians 5:25).

February 11, 2018

FOCUS Wesleyan Church

In Christ Alone - "Ready or Not, Here Jesus Comes"

Sermon Notes:

2 Timothy 3:1-5

Luke 21:25-27

Revelation 1:3

1 John 3:2-6

Matthew 24:1-15, 30-31

1. What is the _____ ?

2. _____ will there be a rapture?

3. _____ will the rapture happen?

Matthew 24:32-51

Reflection: What is one new thing you believe God spoke to you today as a result of worshipping at FOCUS?

The Word of God directs us as we consider what the *next step* is for our lives. What is your next step? What has been your attitude and view of studying end time prophecy? Do you feel a greater urgency for sharing your faith as a result of this morning's worship? Who will you share with this coming week?

Challenge: This week I will pray for following city and state leaders:

Communion at FOCUS

Every Sunday at FOCUS we celebrate the Lord's Table, also known as Communion. We have open communion which means all are invited to receive. We receive communion elements by intinction. Tearing off a small piece of the loaf of bread, dipping it in the communion glass of juice, and then consuming it immediately. Please note, upon your request, we also have gluten free elements for those with gluten and other major food allergies.

FOCUS Youth Group

meeting tonight! 6:30 - 8PM

We hope to see you and any friends who don't already attend a Youth Group on Sunday evenings tonight!

***FOCUS Local Board of
Administration Ministry
Meeting - Tuesday, 2.13.18
at 6:30PM***

Wednesday Night Meal

We would like to invite you and your family to join us for supper this Wednesday night. The meal will be ready at 5:30 PM. You have been invited to come and share a delicious meal and uplifting fellowship with us.



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WELCOME

THANKS FOR JOINING US