

Made New

HEATHER GEMMEN WILSON | APRIL 14, 2018

My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. (James 2:1)

HAVE YOU SEEN THAT VIDEO of a boy who found a dead rat in his bottle of soda? You can imagine how disgusting the image was—and how easy it would have been for someone to take a swig before noticing the problem. I have no idea whether that kid really found the rat or if he put it there himself; but if his claim is true, I doubt he'll ever drink pop again.

You probably have experienced the same kind of before-and-after events, experiences that permanently change the way you behave. Maybe you quit eating meat after seeing how inhumanely some animals are treated. Maybe you started exercising after the doctor told you of a serious health risk. Maybe you created a budget, and lived by it, after going bankrupt. Some events change our perspective so that we can't help but live differently.

That's how it is for Christians. When we feel the power of Jesus' death and resurrection, our world turns upside down; we begin living by a new set of rules. We become disgusted by our own selfishness and begin putting others first. We are horrified by how we have pandered to people in high places and turn our attention to the downtrodden. We see clearly how hypocritical we've been and we repent of our sins. Because of Christ, our lives will never be the same.

Tell someone about how Christ has changed you.

Heather Gemmen Wilson is the author of the *Global Warning Series*, a fiction series for preteens, and she inspires young minds as a professor of creative writing.

April 15, 2018

Live by Faith - Not by Sight

*“You've Got What it Takes
to hear from God”*

Sermon Notes:

1. Hearing God through your

Acts 22:1-5

2. Hearing God through your

2 Corinthians 11:24-30

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

James 4:6

Psalms 23:4

Psalms 51:17

3. Hearing God through your

Ephesians 3:20

Philippians 1:6

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 God been trying to speak to you through your past? How about the pain? What does God desire to show you about His closeness to you through those painful moments of deep hurt? Have you surrendered you potential to God? What has He placed within you as a dream that you haven't started doing yet?

Challenge: This week I will pray for the following civil servants:

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.

Main Street Clean Sweep

Earth Day - Sunday 4.22.18

Following the 11 AM service next Sunday, we will have sharing a meal, and then preparing to clean up along Water Street. If you would like to be a part, please consider wearing comfortable casual clothing to service, and also consider bringing some lunch to share. Sandwiches, chips, salad, and potato salad is what we have in mind.

FOCUS Work Day -

Saturday April 21 - 9 AM

All ages are welcome to come and serve.

Wednesday Night Meal

We would like to invite you and your family to join us for supper this Wednesday. The meal will be served from 5:30-6:30 PM. All ages are invited and welcome!



FOCUS

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**LIVE BY FAITH
NOT BY SIGHT**



2 CORINTHIANS 5:7