

# Input Determines Output

BRIAN D. BENNETT | APRIL 20, 2018

*But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. (James 3:17)*

YOUR INPUT DETERMINES YOUR OUTPUT, and nowhere is that more true than with our vehicles. I am not a mechanic, but I am a driver. As a driver, I know it is essential to make sure I not only have fuel when I drive, but also ensure it is the right kind of fuel. If my midsize car that takes unleaded gas is filled with diesel fuel, it won't run and will likely be ruined. In the same way, the inputs into our lives result in our outputs. If we are consumed with worldly thinking and worldly ways, worldly desires will no doubt become our primary output. In contrast, when we have God's ways and wisdom as our primary input, we can expect that our outputs will be godly as well.

Taking this analogy a step further, let's do a little diagnostic work. Take a look at the list of outputs described in James 3:17: pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial, and sincere. If these represent the "gas gauge" of your life, then how are you doing? If you are on empty, a quarter tank, or even three-quarters of a tank, adjust your inputs and let God's wisdom begin to flow in and through you.

**Fill your mind and heart with God's ways and wisdom.**

Brian D. Bennett is the pastor of Overflow Church and lives in Benton Harbor with his wife and three children. He is the author of *Go Now and Be the Church*.

April 22, 2018

**Live by Faith - Not by Sight**

*"You've Got What it Takes  
To Get Through This"*

Sermon Notes:

Psalm 23

## 1. God allows for time in the \_\_\_\_\_

**V.1 The Lord is Shepherd**

**John 10:3-4**

**V.2 The Lord my Peace**

**Matthew 6:31-33**

**V.3a The Lord my Healer**

**1 Peter 2:25**

**V.3b The Lord my Righteousness**

**Isaiah 53:6**

**Romans 8:28**

**2 Chronicles 20:12**

**1 Peter 5:10**

## 2. God will not \_\_\_\_\_ you in the \_\_\_\_\_

**Hebrews 13:5-6**

**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? Which would you prefer, God's presence in the midst of darkness, or His absence with light? Are you going through a valley right now? If not, when was the most recent time God lead you through one? What are you learning/did you learn going through it? Do you have a story of God working in and through you during a time of pain? Share that story with a friend to encourage them and their walk with the Lord this week.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Challenge:** This week I will pray for the following local and national 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.

### **Main Street Clean Sweep Earth Day - Today 4.22.18**

Following the 11 AM service this morning, we will be sharing a meal, and then preparing to clean up trash along Water Street. If you would like to be a part, please consider eating lunch here at the church. Food has already been generously provided.

### **FOCUS Youth Group - Sundays 6:30-8 PM**

Friends welcomed, snacks provided.

### **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

WESLEYAN CHURCH

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**LIVE BY FAITH  
NOT BY SIGHT**



**2 CORINTHIANS 5:7**