

Consider the Source

JOHNATHAN KANA | APRIL 7, 2018

Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? (James 3:11)

FOLLOWING A RECENT STORM, widespread power outages placed us under a “boil water notice.” The equipment at the wastewater plant was offline, so there was potentially untreated water in the lines. Unseen bacteria could make us sick.

I found myself reluctant to drink from our tap for several days after the notice was lifted. Just knowing it could dispense contaminated water was unsettling. I’d never considered that although our water runs clear and tastes fine, it isn’t necessarily safe. Anyone who has been on the receiving end of insincere flattery or a “white lie” knows that words sometimes come from impure sources too. People who use such words insist that they’re being kind, but they end up hurting others’ feelings and eroding trust. Like untreated water, speech that derives from unclean motives will eventually make someone sick. It’s easy to run our mouths without giving due consideration to what we’re trying to achieve, particularly when we think we’re being helpful. Perhaps before we speak, we should prayerfully examine whether we’re more interested in benefiting ourselves than building the other person up. If so, our words aren’t suitable for consumption.

Restraining our tongues isn’t easy, but it’s an act of love. It gives the Spirit time to treat the well of our hearts so that when we do open the taps, only life-giving words proceed forth.

When tempted to offer unsolicited advice, pray for the person first.

Johnathan Kana lives with his wife and two children in rural central Texas. When he’s not writing, he enjoys playing piano and composing music.

April 8, 2018

Live by Faith - Not by Sight

*“You’ve Got What it Takes
to Do Something Great”*

Sermon Notes:

Judges 6:1-6

**1. God calls us to _____
not to _____**

Matthew 5:14-16

Judges 6:11-16

**2. Being _____ is one way we
hide**

Psalms 139:1-12

3. God calls us to be

2 Corinthians 12:5-10

Judges 7:16-25

**4. We are made available
through _____**

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? Have you allowed fear, uncertainty, or sin to keep you from being available for God’s Kingdom use? What is one specific thing in your life that you need to surrender to Jesus? Ask for your friends to pray for you and help you take that step.

Challenge: This week I will pray for the following teachers and local schools:

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.

Philippines Clean Water Project

For nearly three years, our Church and several others from our KY-TN District of **The Wesleyan Church**, have been supporting a clean water project at a village in the Philippines through World Hope International. If you would like to help support this effort, consider placing a donation in the wooden bucket before you exit today.

FOCUS Youth Group - Sundays 6:30 - 8 PM

Snacks provided and friends welcome!

Wednesday Night Meal

We would like to invite you and your family to join us for supper this Wednesday, April 11. 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