

Your Filter

I have a hot tub, and I really enjoy sitting in it and enjoying God's beautiful nature, the trees and hearing the wind whistle through the leaves and watching the birds fly and sing their songs.

And my hot tub has a filter to keep the water clear and clean, in fact if I don't keep the filter clean the water can get so dirty that I can get sick from being in it.

Just like my hot tub every person views their life through a filter.

For example, optimists see opportunity in every situation they face, while pessimists can only see defeat and failure.

Both could be facing the same circumstances, but their filter determines how they respond.

That filter could also be called their philosophy.

A philosophy is simply a way of thinking.

And whether you know it or not, the direction that your life is going has been influenced and controlled by your personal philosophy or your dominant way of thinking.

Proverbs 23:7 says,

*"For as he **thinks within himself**, so he is."*

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So if that is true—and it is—then it makes sense to be sure that you are viewing your life through the right filter.

Colossians 2:8 says, “See to it that there is no one who takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception in accordance with human tradition, in accordance with the elementary principles of the world, rather than in accordance with Christ.”

In this scripture, Paul was giving the believers a warning.

“See that no one takes your thoughts captive” is telling us to “BEWARE” which is like a sentry on guard duty.

In fact the King James Version Of Colossians 2:8 says this “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”

Beware is a military term talking about being on guard, being on the lookout.

And the word “spoil” is not talking about food; it’s talking about the spoils of war that go to the victor—the gold and silver and land.

Paul was saying to be on guard lest you be overcome by an Enemy that will strip you of your

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treasure, which is the truth that God has placed in your heart.

We as a church have been spending a lot of time and teaching in how we think, dream, imagine, were do you give your thought life and time.

Pastor Darlene spent eight weeks on being victorious in your mindsets.

She talked about healthy and un-healthy strongholds that can play havoc in your thinking.

I will be talking about “Victorious Emotions” using Wendy Backlund’s book and also Andrew Wommack’s book “Harnessing Your Emotions”

That Enemy, the devil, wants to steal what God has given to you, using the world’s philosophies and the religious traditions of man.

Jesus referred to this in *Matthew 15:8-9*,

*“8 This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
9 in vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines human precepts.”*

The people believed the commandments of men more than the Word of God.

They maintained a form of godliness but denied the power of the Gospel of Jesus.

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Jewish leaders were saying that Jesus was not enough, that the people still needed to observe rituals and ceremony, and those requirements were making the Word of God of no effect in their lives:

Matthew 15:6

need not honor his father.’ You have nullified the word of God for the sake of your tradition.

They were operating according to a philosophy, but the wrong one.

Many of us are doing the same thing today.

We have bits and pieces of the Word of God filed away in their brains, but we have not meditated on them enough to change our core beliefs.

When the pressures of life come, and they will come, you may be able to quote dozens of scriptures claiming God’s promises, but they act according to their heart values.

A good example of this can be seen in the life of my great uncle Bill, he was a man of wealth and lived a very regular life style. He was a very good man with a big heart and he did give to the church and to charity, he understood scripture and he could quote it well.

But at the heart level, he still had a poverty mentality, or you could say a poverty philosophy.

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You see He had been raised by parents who went through the Depression and had successfully indoctrinated him with the fear of lack.

He was so fearful that he stored and saved everything.

Although he had accumulated some money with his philosophy, he still saw herself as poor, and it affected all of his decision making.

His philosophy, or way of thinking, was actually holding him captive and limiting what God could do through his life.

If at your core, you have a philosophy—a way of thinking—that is negative, it will manifest in your life.

If you see yourself as broke, sick, or a failure, it will become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

But, on the other hand, if at your **CORE** you see yourself as prosperous, healthy, and successful, that will be what manifests in your life.

So, it's important that your philosophy is based on the truth of God's Word.

As a church we went through a “**Negativity Fast Positivity Feast**” to help reset our hearts to see ourselves they way God see's us!

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It brought us to life changing heart setting **declarations** like

- ✓ I am a powerful and influential communicator.
- ✓ I set the course of my life with my words according to James 3:2-5
- ✓ I am releasing Life through the power of my tongue. According to Proverbs 18:21
- ✓ I speak words of wisdom that bring healing according to Proverbs 12:18
- ✓ I inspire people when I speak
- ✓ My words carry authority and anointing
- ✓ I am known as a great encourager

It's through the subtle deception of human philosophy that Satan tries to rob us, of the very life God gave us.

The first example of that can be found in

Genesis 3:1-5.

1 Now the snake was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He asked the woman, "Did God really say, 'You shall not eat from any of the trees in the garden'?"

2 The woman answered the snake: "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden;

3 it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, 'You shall not eat it or even touch it, or else you will die.'

4 But the snake said to the woman: "You certainly will not die!"

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5 God knows well that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, who know good and evil.”

Now think about this: It says that the serpent was more cunning, the King James Version say's subtle.

The word subtle means crafty, sly, cunning, and deceptive.

He wasn't using a frontal attack to overpower Adam and Eve; he was attempting to change their way of thinking, their philosophy.

Worship Team

Adam and Eve began with a pure philosophy. They were completely dependent upon God and never questioned His wisdom and goodness.

Satan first caused them to question God's word, and then he caused them to question God's goodness.

He tricked them, which is what Paul was writing about in 2 Corinthians 11:3.

*2 Corinthians 11:3 – “But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts may be corrupted from a sincere **[and pure]** commitment to Christ.”*

Satan has never changed his tactics.

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He is at work through our society and culture trying to create a philosophy that is contrary to God's Word.

He is always trying to devalue the finished work of Jesus and His Word.

Sad to say, it's working.

Even most Christians today do not have their belief systems firmly in place.

They are influenced more by culture, social media, their upbringing, or the opinions of others than by the Word of God.

Many of you know what the Scripture says.

You have read that God wants you to prosper and be in health even as your soul prospers.

You have read that by His stripes, you were healed and that Jesus came to give you life and life more abundantly.

But, when you look in the mirror, you see a failure, a loser, or a sick and defeated person.

Why is that?

It's because of your core philosophy.

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Maybe your parents told you that you would never amount to anything, or a previous girlfriend or boyfriend convinced you that you were worthless.

Whatever the root cause for your belief (philosophy),

Your **FILTER** is dirty and you are being spoiled, and your treasure is being stolen.

If that is you, then begin changing the way you think.

Study and meditate in the Word of God, and change your basic core beliefs.

Hebrews 4:12

“ Indeed, the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart.”

In my own life, as I began to change the way I thought, it opened the door to the blessings that God had for me all along.

I was actually limiting God by my small thinking; i.e., my philosophy.

You may be doing the same thing!

My wife Darlene is going through a transition in her job, and it has not been easy, we have been praying together, standing on his word and she told

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me on a walk the other day that she is imagining herself being very successful in this new role.

Darlene is empowering herself in the supernatural kingdom of God. She is building an empowering stronghold and mindset that will be successful because it is the word of God!

If you are done, wasting time with the world way of thinking....

You Need to Change your....

- Change your mind set.
- Change your thinking.
- Change your CORE values.

Every believer needs to have a clear biblical philosophy, and it must be based solely on the Word of God.

Without it, you will be tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine.

Just like a boat in a storm with no anchor.....

I absolutely believe that....

- ✧ Revival City church is known for its people of powerful influencer's for the kingdom of God
- ✧ Your prayers are powerful and effective

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- ✧ Your faith is being strengthened to possess all that Jesus won for you.
- ✧ Your powerful beliefs and prayers are dissolving demonic activity in your sphere of influence
- ✧ You have FAITH in seemingly impossible situations
- ✧ Every time you pray something happens!