

Lately I've been wrestling with the idea of fights and quarrels. Some of you know that all too well. But I'm not going to write an article about how to handle fights and arguments here. I feel like I've done that a lot lately. So, what I want to write about is my own personal thoughts and what exactly I'm wrestling with.

As I look at my own life and the desires, needs and agendas that I have, both personally and as a pastor, I find myself having an attitude of confidence. I feel blessed, in fact, to know that I feel like my ducks are actually in a row and I know what I want to do in my life. I am doing that in my life. It isn't perfect, never will be, but I have wonderful reasons to get up in the morning and purpose throughout the day.

That being said, my life is not without conflict. I get annoyed, upset and angry like everyone else, and this pandemic doesn't help. But I've tried to ask myself in each of the individual situations why those emotions flair up at certain times and in certain situations and not others.

There are the obvious things that come to mind: being tired, not feeling well, more emotionally draining experiences and such. At those times, and especially when I'm hungry, I find myself more irritable than normal.

But even on good days, I wonder, why does anger flash in me when something pops up on Facebook or in my home or in my office? Why do some of these little things get me so angry?

And some thoughts came to me as I've been wrestling (not literally) with my 4 year old lately. Usually she's pretty good and obedient, but she's also been pushing back on just odd things, too. For example, she would only put her pants on (but not her shirt) unless I let her have a cat with her while she got dressed. She also almost broke down about washing her hands after using the potty. Just odd

things.

So as I contemplated her responses to certain situations, I realize she's a young girl who is just relying on her basic responses and not necessarily processing things well. But I think her responses mimic my own.

These odd places of defiance are at times where I think she feels less control and so she responds with an attempt to get some control. And I begin to realize that's a part of what I'm doing as well. Probably a large part. I believe, think and feel a certain way about something and want to make the decision on it. And this is true especially with things that are important to me. I want to be in control. I want the final say.

And I think we all do that. Sure we might not all want control in the sense of responsibility, but we want control so that we can get our way. So we can have what we want. And, like me, some of us think we've got 'better' wants. 'Better' ways.

In fact, I think that's what James is telling us in James 4.1, "What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this: that your passions are at war within you?" (ESV) And so, it's hard to let go of control. It's hard to let someone else make the final decision. It's hard to say, "I'm just going to let it alone."

And so, my prayer for myself and for you, is that we remember that as much as we want to be in control, real control is very limited. We might be able to make a decision here and there in terms of the big picture, but really, the main decisions we can make are in ourselves. I can decide how I will handle something, how I will respond. There are so many other factors (people, circumstances, weather) that dictate the outcome. So, I resolve to let go and let God because he'll do it infinitely better than me anyway.

Serving Him and you,
Matthew

OCC Shoeboxes

This year instead of having a shoebox filling party, we are asking everyone to take a shoebox and fill it on their own. Boxes and instructions are available in the foyer of the church and are due back **Sunday, November 15th**.

Community Thanksgiving Service

The Ministerial Alliance has decided to move forward with our Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 22nd at 6:00pm. The location will be announced in the coming weeks, and we'll try to get the word out on Sundays, via Facebook and the website.

Sermon Series

We started a new sermon series called '**Culture of a Kingdom: A Study on the Sermon on the Mount pt 1**' on October 4th. It'll be an interesting look at the words Jesus gave us in Matthew 5. If you missed any of this series, you can check it out on the website and then be sure to join us for the rest of this series on Sundays at 9am.



Prayer List

Tina Althiser (Judy B's friend) – cancer
 Tammy Bowman – kidney failure and other health concerns
 Jerry Bubbs (and Patti) – panic attacks
 Kaylee Greene – gall bladder surgery
 Todd Hamm – cancer
 Dean Harris (Marion T's uncle) – stage 4 throat cancer
 Sandra Howell – esophageal issues and early stage breast cancer
 Cathy Ignatius (Lakeview Seminary) - surgery
 Edna Miller – surgery went well
 Norma Powell – nursing home
 Amanda Rennert – upcoming procedures
 Lori Rodriguez – stage 4 cirrhosis of liver
 Judy Windsor – hospice
 Carissa (Sandy Morris' daughter) – multiple health issues
Praises:
 Birth of Finnegan and Oliver Rittenhouse
Condolences:
 Hurley Crossman Family
 Tammy Burden Family (Denny Belville's daughter)
 Sharon Filler Family (connected to Jones')

October Financials

	Weekly Actual	Yearly Actual	Yearly Budget
Oct 4	\$990.00	\$50,576.60	\$53,251.60
Oct 11	\$1,073.00	\$51,649.60	\$54,582.89
Oct 18	\$665.00	\$52,314.60	\$55,914.18
Oct 25	\$1,631.00	\$53,945.60	\$57,245.47
Totals	\$4,359.00		

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You Are Welcome At
Our Services!

Sunday

Morning Worship.....9 a.m.
Sunday School.....10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Family Night.....6:00 p.m.

Events:

Sunday, November 8th

6:00pm Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 10th

6:30pm Man Up

Sunday, November 15th

OCC Shoeboxes Due

Sunday, November 22nd

6:00pm Community

Thanksgiving Service @ TBD

Sunday, November 29th

5:00pm Hanging the Greens



Astoria Christian Church

