

Instagram Filters and the Bible

Preview

If you're like me, you check Instagram about five hundred times a day (I may be slightly exaggerating). We scroll through the lives of our friends, noting what we like and ignoring what we don't. In most cases, these pictures are a small snapshot of what people's lives are like. Let's go around the room and give each other a "snapshot" of what our week has been like so far. (Encourage everyone to participate.)

Praise

Invite everyone to talk about something good that happened to them this week and tie it in with how God's blessings are evident throughout our lives.

Parable

One of the more popular features that Instagram has is the preset filters we can apply to the pictures we post. These filters change how our pictures look. While the picture may be in black and white now, the image underneath is still the same. Let's delve into that concept a little more and learn how it can be used to look at things through God's eyes.

Present

The many filters that Instagram has can be compared to some of the filters that God places into our lives. Let's look at some of these filters:

Attitude—The Bible says in Philippians 2:14 to "do all things without complaining and disputing" (NKJV). It is easier to say that we shouldn't complain than it is to refrain from complaining. However, we need to apply God's filter to our attitude. When we get upset with a classmate, we need to remember that we are called to be a light in this world, and losing our temper for something insignificant is the opposite of being a light. Our attitude is a choice, and we need to choose to view it through the filter God has given us in His Word.

Perspective—Sometimes it's hard for us to put things into the right perspective. When we fail a math test or get hurt by a friend, it may seem like everything is tumbling down around us. But the Bible says in Isaiah 41:10 (NKJV), "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you." The very God that hung the stars in their place is always with us, in every season of our lives. When we view our situation through the filter of perspective that God gave us, we can surely know that He is with us always. When everything is crashing down around us, God is the rock that will never move.

The Future—The future can be a scary thing to think about for some people. We may worry about college or getting a good job or finding the "right" person. However, there is a filter we can apply to this as well. In Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV) we are told to "trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." When we apply this filter to our lives, we can have peace in our hearts, knowing that God is the One who is directing our paths. In every season of our lives, whether we are making the jump to high school or college, God is directing our paths. Our future is being crafted in the hands of God.

Practice

So let's review the three filters we've learned about.

1. **Attitude:** When we let God take control of our attitude, we can be a brighter light for His kingdom.
2. **Perspective:** When we step back from our situation and let God take control of our lives, we can be comforted by the fact that He is always with us.
3. **The Future:** When we allow God to have control of our future, we allow His perfect will to take place in our lives.

Let's make sure we remember to view our lives through the filters that God has placed there. Do you want to know where to find all of them? Read your Bible! God isn't trying to hide these filters from you. In fact, He gave you the guidebook that shows you how to live your life to its full

potential.

Pray

Lord, help me to view my life through the filters you have placed in it. I pray that I can become the young person You desire me to be. I give You my life and I place it in Your hands. Help me to trust You in every season of my life, the good and the bad. Thank You for your Word and for the help that You provide.

Plus

Encourage everyone to look for practical ways to apply these filters in their everyday lives.