

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

*A bad attitude is like a flat tire: If you don't change it,
you will never go anywhere! —Anon.*

Let's talk about thermometers and thermostats.

I bring this up because this morning I tried to adjust the temperature on the thermostat. We have a thermostat that looks like a panel from the Space Center Houston. The buttons and digital figures are confusing — not at all like the simple thermostats we had when I was a kid.

Anyway, think first about the *thermometer*. This is a very handy device that lets us know if we have a temperature. The device is controlled by its environment. It responds to the heat or the cold of its surroundings. It goes up and down in accordance with the temperature around it.

Some Christians are like that. They get hot and bothered when certain things happen, and cold and uncaring at other times. You might say they're "thermometer" Christians. Their actions and attitudes are totally dictated by their surroundings.

A *thermostat*, however, is different. The thermostat *dictates the temperature*. It sets the tone. The context, surroundings and atmosphere all respond and obey the directives, orders and plans that the thermostat demands. If the thermostat says, "We're going up to 72° today," then the atmosphere adjusts accordingly. No if, buts and ands about it!

Perhaps we should be more like "thermostat" Christians than "thermometer" Christians. Let's control the temperature of our emotions, the atmosphere of our home or wherever we are living. Let's make it warm and comfortable for those around us!

There's one more interesting difference in this little analogy between the two devices: The thermometer *works on its own*; the thermostat works *only with electrical current*.

I like to think that this is an image of our need for the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Without this connection, we cannot be effective "thermostat" Christians. The Holy Spirit empowers us with all that we need to produce the warmth of love, gentleness and patience.

So which will we be today: a thermometer or a thermostat?

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Gracious Holy Spirit, pour yourself into my life today, enabling me to set the temperature — to provide the warmth that I need and others as well. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Matthew 8-11
- Monday:** Matthew 12-15
- Tuesday:** Matthew 16-19
- Wednesday:** Matthew 20-22
- Thursday:** Matthew 23-25
- Friday:** Matthew 26-28
- Saturday:** Psalms 4-6

Verse to Remember

*The LORD has heard my supplication;
the LORD accepts my prayer. —Psalm 6:9*

WHO AM I?

Directions: The purpose of this exercise is to discover the identity of a well-known biblical person. To do so, you must assign a number value to each letter of the alphabet, assuming that M equals 1, N equals 2, O equals 3, etc. A letter and number chart for you to fill in has been provided for your convenience. Use the numbers in the clues to spell out each word in the sentence.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
												1	2	3											

First Clue: 15-7 15 13-3-9-2-21 1-15-2 22-19 25-23-26-26-19-18 7-3-1-19-3-2-19.

Second Clue: 22-19 11-15-7 8-19-2-18-23-2-21 7-22-19-19-4 23-2 8-22-19
18-19-7-19-6-8 11-22-19-2 21-3-18 17-15-26-26-19-18 22-23-1.

Third Clue: 15-7 15 16-15-16-13 22-19 11-15-7 20-3-9-2-18 20-26-3-15-8-23-2-21
23-2 15 16-15-7-25-19-8 23-2 8-22-19 2-23-26-19 6-23-10-19-6.

WHO IS THIS PERSON?



Answer
(spelled
backwards):
SESOM.