**FOCUS Bible Study - December 14**

[**VIEW RECORDING - 65 mins (No highlights)**](https://fathom.video/share/5bS7NMuAGBsggLuXZPrR-zKssKrHDhBu)

[**Attendance and Announcements @ 0:00**](https://fathom.video/share/5bS7NMuAGBsggLuXZPrR-zKssKrHDhBu?tab=summary&timestamp=0)

Rick Stephenson opens the meeting, noting that attendance is lower than usual, likely due to the holiday season. He announces that the group will not be meeting in two weeks on December 28th, but will reconvene on January 11th. Rick also mentions the ministry's funding and provides a link to the website for those interested in donating.

[**Testimony and Transition to Bible Study @ 4:00**](https://fathom.video/share/5bS7NMuAGBsggLuXZPrR-zKssKrHDhBu?tab=summary&timestamp=240)

Rick shares a testimony about his new business venture, "Wisdom Well, Abundance Coaching", which will teach biblical financial principles. The group then transitions into the Bible study, with Rick explaining that he plans to take a more high-level approach to the book of Job rather than a chapter-by-chapter analysis.

[**The Power of God and Godliness @ 8:29**](https://fathom.video/share/5bS7NMuAGBsggLuXZPrR-zKssKrHDhBu?tab=summary&timestamp=509)

Rick discusses the idea of "having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof", drawing from his recent experience visiting a new church. He emphasizes the importance of surrendering to God and allowing the Holy Spirit to work in our lives, rather than relying on outward displays of religiosity. The group explores biblical passages that contrast true godliness with a mere outward appearance of it.

[**Relationship with God vs. Obligation @ 18:56**](https://fathom.video/share/5bS7NMuAGBsggLuXZPrR-zKssKrHDhBu?tab=summary&timestamp=1136)

Rick delves deeper into the distinction between a relationship with God based on love and one based on obligation or fear. He explains how the power of the Holy Spirit should motivate us to love and serve others, rather than focusing solely on our own spiritual performance.

[**Discernment and Overcoming @ 25:55**](https://fathom.video/share/5bS7NMuAGBsggLuXZPrR-zKssKrHDhBu?tab=summary&timestamp=1555)

The discussion turns to the importance of discernment in identifying true godliness versus a mere "form of godliness". Rick emphasizes the need for daily repentance and self-examination to ensure our motivations are pure. The group also explores the concept of overcoming through the blood of the Lamb and the word of one's testimony.

[**Closing Prayer and Requests @ 1:00:57**](https://fathom.video/share/5bS7NMuAGBsggLuXZPrR-zKssKrHDhBu?tab=summary&timestamp=60)

Rick concludes the meeting with a prayer, lifting up specific prayer requests from the group, including Wendy's upcoming move, Mike's medical situation, and Luke's father's health.