

SPIRITUAL CHARGING STATIONS

It's easy to tell when winter arrives. You can smell the aroma of firewood hitchhiking on the chill in the air. The leaves have fallen (and been raked and raked and then raked some more), the grass is brown, the snow falls, the limbs break, and the wind blows. Wait a minute! This is Kansas! Blowing wind is NOT seasonal!

Of course, there are other telltale signs that the blanket of winter has fallen upon our house and one of them is especially annoying! It's that sound, the one that I have the displeasure of hearing every year about this time. It's not the sound of geese honking overhead (although that sound can be a terrifying warning of horrible things if you're in the wrong place at the right time)! It's the sound that's heard even with fingers crossed, brow furrowed, and vague visions of hope dancing like shadows in the back of your mind. It's a grim and agonizing reminder that something's missing; that life is not quite firing on all cylinders. It's the unwelcomed sign of a dead battery!

Well, it's not quite dead. There's still a flicker of life left in it, but certainly not enough to turn the engine over more than once or twice. And then there's the ensuing fingernails-on-a-chalkboard sound of an incessantly clicking starter voicing its disgust with the situation.

Now it's the same...old...story; nothing new here. I know what to expect. Been there; done this. Time to heave and ho my four-wheeled friend out of the garage without getting my foot run over, wrestle the other car into position, and apply the life-giving jumper cables.

This NEVER happens in the summer! In the summer, I never have to worry if it's going to start. I just get in, turn the key, and enjoy the rumble. It's not rocket science! I know that if I would just drive it more consistently, the battery would stay charged and it would start just fine! But in the winter I tend to neglect it a bit and this is the price I pay.

Sometimes, our spiritual engine can suffer the same condition. If we neglect it, it can begin to lose its charge; begin to run down, and before long we're struggling to breathe life into it again. Sometimes we just let it sit; not having the strength (or sometimes the desire) to do what it takes to revive it. It can be particularly easy for this to happen when winter seems to have accosted our world; when the physical, financial, or emotional landscape of life gets frigid and bare and the sun seems to set too early. Have you been there? Are you there today? Does your spiritual engine need a jumpstart?

Get back in church and be encouraged through worship and fellowship. Get back in the Word and be changed. Get back in prayer and be revived with your Father. You'll be back on the road in no time. Ladies and gentlemen...start your engines!