

## Reconnect and Recharge

Once I was on the highway returning home from a long day's work and noticed that a couple of lights on my dashboard suddenly lit up as I was getting off my exit. The vehicle was still cruising at full speed down the off ramp to the stop light. I pushed on my brakes as usual but noticed it took additional effort to slow the vehicle down. It became clear that the engine had stopped running and I discovered my battery needed charging.

A friend of mine recently told me a story about his car. He was sitting in his car while on a phone call. His car was running, and the air conditioning was blowing. After an extended period, his children walked to the vehicle, but were unable to get the power doors open to enter the vehicle. After questioning why they could not get the unlocked doors open, he discovered that the car had stopped running. The air conditioner was still blowing, though not as cold. After getting his vehicle to the shop he discovered that his battery was severely depleted.

In both instances, the culprit was not actually our batteries, but our alternators. A battery powered car relies on a good alternator to keep it charged because it is the alternator and not the battery that is the source of power. If that connection and continual charging stops, the car will eventually stop. Sure, it may coast for a while and some electrical features in the car may still function for a bit, but eventually even those features will stop working.

In the same way, we may not initially notice the symptoms of a life partially or generally disconnected from the Holy Spirit. We may have stopped spending adequate time reading and meditating on Scripture, We might be going through the motions, but not listening for the Holy Spirit's voice in prayer; or we may hear his voice, though not as clearly as before. We may have miss the disconnect because the effects of not doing so tend to be gradual.

The focus of this corporate fasting and prayer time is a simple one...to get spiritually reconnected/more connected to God – our source of divine favor, wisdom, rest, peace, and power. Let John 15:1-11 serve as the initial passage you read multiple times a day. Let its truth wash over you. Feel free to add any other activities, tools, and resources to your daily routines in place of meals. Confess and repent of sin. Ask God what things he wants to say and do and yield to his instructions. Also spend time interceding for others.

May the Holy Spirit speak, strengthen, and steady each of us during this time!

Michael