

The Battery in our Car

- A fully charged battery holds the power to start the car and power all the “accessories.”
- A battery is made up of acid and lead.
- Fully charged these elements are perfectly balanced with two plates bathed in sulfuric acid
- The negative plate is pure lead and the positive plate is lead dioxide. As power is drawn from the battery lead moves from the negative to the positive and the acid is slowly used.
- When this chemical reaction is complete the sulfuric acid becomes water.

The Battery in our Car

- To keep the lead and the sulfuric acid in its maximum state we need an alternator.
- The alternator reverses the process of the chemical reaction.
- The lights, ignition, fans, radio, switches, etc all rely partially or fully upon the chemical reaction that is discharging the battery.
- As long as these “accessories” are working the battery is being discharged.
- The alternator is continually topping up the chemicals to keep the battery charged.

Similarity of the Battery and the Soul

- The soul and spirit of man are infinitely more complex than a battery, but share in one point.
- Enthusiasm, zeal, conviction, commitment, dedication, devotion and faithfulness require spiritual and emotional energy.
- The “plate” of truth and promises lies next to the second “plate” of faith and trust.
- Just like the battery there are things in life that discharge the power.
- Since “*faith comes by hearing the word of God,*” it is the deciding factor of whether we are recharging or discharging.

Faith and Energy

- *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the **power** of God to salvation **for everyone who believes**, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.*
Rom. 1:16-17
- “*dúnamis*” – only used of things with “*inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature.*”
- When Alfred Nobel, found the means to easily transport the explosive power of nitroglycerin, he called it “*dynamite.*” Because the power could then be transported wherever it was needed.
- The Holy Spirit chose this word because the power of the gospel can be carried everywhere and used where ever necessary.

The Parable of the Sower

- Power of the seed is power of the gospel. Lk 8:11
- The four types of soil illustrate how the power within each seed to germinate, grow and produce fruit can be impacted. (Mt. 13:3-9; 18-23).
- **Hard**: Power of seed to germinate is destroyed if it cannot enter the soil with the moisture/nutrients supplementing and activating its own power.
- **Rocks**: Roots are blocked from the power of the soil and energy of sun destroys it.
- **Thorns**: Block the energy of the light.
- **Good**: Everything works! Power of seed, soil, rain, nutrients and sunlight.

Protecting the Power Sources

- Jesus revealed that the heart must be kept soft. **Rocks of doubt** allow tribulations to drain us.
- **Thorns of lust** block the sun of the gospel leading us to be powerless to stop downward spiral into sin.
- When the power of the seed, **sown in good soil**, has access to nutrients, moisture, and sunshine it will bring forth the fruit.
- These are not fixed! We can monitor, resolve, and change the outcome. Quickly identifying and removing them will keep soil good.

Power of God Placed in the Word

- Illustrated by a seed, battery, or dynamite.
- Battery needs cables and alternator
- Seed needs soil, rain, nutrients, sunshine
- Dynamite needs a detonator
- Gospel needs faith:
- *For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also **effectively works** (**energéō – energizes**) **in you who believe.** 1Th. 2:13*

How Power is Generated

- A battery connected to an alternator continually adds power.
- The gospel connected to faith continually adds power to our heart.
- A good and honest heart uses faith to remove hardness, rocks and thorns.
- Being energized then is learning how to Balance the gospel and our faith.
- Simple yet profound truth reveals exactly how faith is strengthened.

How Power is Generated

- “So then faith comes from (**ex**) hearing, and hearing through (**dia**) the word of Christ.” Rom. 10:17
- “**ex-**” is “source” Alternator
- “**dia**” is “means /agency,” Cables
- Word is “**dúnamis**” “power within” = Alternator
- Faith = (Battery)
- Hearing and learning = (Cables)

How Power is Generated

- *For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And **make it bring forth and bud**, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, 11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall **not return to Me void**, But **it shall accomplish** what I please, And **it shall prosper** in the thing for which I sent it. Isa 55:10-11*

Power = Victory

- *And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith. 5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” 1Jn. 5:4-5*

Power can be Short Circuited

- This is exactly what happened to all those who came out of Egypt,
- They “heard” the ten plagues and God’s voice on Mt Sinai
- It never brought same power into their hearts
For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it. Heb. 4:2
- *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1Cor. 1:18*

We are the ones in Control

- Additional part to charging: voltage regulator
- Senses the state of the battery and give more or less power depending on conditions.
- When we feel fatigue and weariness.
- Zeal is fading, Commitment is compromised, Faith is wavering, Convictions are bending devotion and faithfulness are weakening.
- Clear sign of trouble somewhere.
- Power in the Word and the hearing that activates the faith in our heart is compromised

Time for Urgency and Action

- If it were our battery, we would open the hood and look at the cables, if we can't find a problem, take it for diagnosis. Can't ignore only gets worse.
- Realize and aware of the spiritual similarities.
- Prought by faith and hearing is vital and if we see it weakening we must try to fix it ourselves.
- If that fails, we must seek help.
- We cannot bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ if we won't let others know of the burdens we are carrying.