

Fuel for the Journey— Week 2

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Do you like to watch the parades on New Year's Day? I do. It is something that I look forward to doing. One New Year's Day, in the Tournament of Roses parade, a beautiful float suddenly sputtered and quit. What a disappointment. It had stalled and was hindering the other floats from going forward. The crew, who checked for mechanical failure, was shocked to realize that the float had simply run out of fuel. The most amusing and uncanny thing about this whole scenario was that the float represented the Standard Oil Company. With its vast oil and gasoline resources, its truck ran out of gas!

Have you ever had the experience of moving forward when all of a sudden you seemed to just stop your spiritual progress? You simply just ran out of gas spiritually. There you are stalled and no doubt you, along with many people, realized that you aren't moving forward. You are stalled, and can't progress. You are also hindering others who want to go forward. We always have an influence on someone. Too bad, because God never intends for His children to run out of "fuel" for the journey.

Elijah, in the Bible, had such an experience. He was a mighty prophet. He had even called down fire from heaven and it had consumed the bulls and lapped up the water. Then the fire had even slain his enemies. He had victoriously confronted the prophets of Baal and revived the people of Israel (1 Kings 18:20-40). But then he ran out of spiritual fuel. While he was gloating over the great victory on the mountain top, little did he realize that his spiritual fuel was being depleted.

It is often when we come down from the mountain of victory that we seem to run out of spiritual strength. We became spiritually depleted because of all the fighting of the enemy and running the race. Brave, courageous, fearless Elijah fled from the wrath of Queen Jezebel. He had gone a day's journey into the wilderness, hiding from her wrath. Can you imagine a mighty man of God being afraid of a wicked queen? God didn't forget about this fearless prophet, who had suddenly turned a coward. Before God sent him further on his journey that ultimately would allow him to meet with God in Mount Horeb, he had to be refueled. Elijah didn't have the strength to do it on his own. God sent an angel who said to Elijah, "The journey is too great for you." Then God gave Elijah supernatural strength, and in that strength he traveled forty days and forty nights.

Friend, you may think that you are strong, but, believe it or not, you can't live a powerful, victorious life in your own strength. One may say, "But I am a powerful church member. I am a choir member. I am even the youth pastor or the senior pastor." May I remind you that you can't make this journey in 2010, in your own strength.

Someone said that if we fed our body like we feed our soul we would soon be depleted of strength. In fact, we would probably be extremely ill. Have you seen an anorexic Christian lately? They are completely depleted and devoid of power and spiritual strength. God knows that we are weak and He reminds us that "Our weaknesses are made perfect in His strength." He has provided the needed strength so that we may continue this journey. God has unlimited resources, but unless we appropriate them they will do us no good.

We are only a few days into the year of 2010 and we don't have any idea what the months and days ahead may hold for us. I am sure there will be battles to fight. There will be trials of fire sent by the devil. He sends them to deplete our faith and spiritual energy. This race must be run with patience and in order to keep on running, like the New Year's float, we need

to refuel from time to time. How do we do that? By staying in the Word, praying fervently, singing praises, and attending church.

Don't "stall-out" in your Christian life, because you are out of fuel. While you are inadequate in yourself, once again let me say that God is more than sufficient for all your needs. The last thing to consider is "be filled with the Spirit." The Holy Ghost has all the resources that we need for this year of 2010.

"I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH
CHRIST WHO STRENGTHENS ME" (Philippians 4:13).