

Power

Joe Slater

Here in Texas the electrical power grid is either operating perfectly or in imminent danger of catastrophic collapse, depending on whose propaganda you're reading. Our recent extremely hot summer and even more recent record-setting cold snap both taxed the grid. I have no solutions to offer here.

We depend heavily on power. Let the electricity go out a few hours (or days) and you realize anew just how reliant we are. I even purchased a generator to use if we are without power for more than a few hours. It won't run the whole house, but it can keep the refrigerator and freezer from letting the food thaw and ruin.

But what if I can't get any more gasoline for the generator? Then I'm back to square one. Yes, it's important to have access to power!

Being connected to the power of God ought to concern us more than the electrical grid. Christ's gospel is God's power unto salvation (Romans 1:16). No matter how powerful you might think you are, your own power can't save you from your sins.

God "*is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us*" (Ephesians 3:20). That's not our power but His! But it will work through you when you are connected to it.

Our "*faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God*" (1 Corinthians 2:5). Confidence in the electrical grid may or may not be justified; but God's power never fails, and it is always available to those with an obedient faith.

Stay connected to the power!

Stuck in my Head

A tune was stuck in my head. It was a jazzy clarinet tune. I was racking my brain trying to figure out what it was and where it came from when I happened to see a Land Rover TV commercial playing that very tune. I had picked it up without paying attention.

Without even trying, our minds scoop up what we see, hear, smell, and feel. God has created us in such a way that we can remember an event from twenty-five years ago like it happened yesterday.

Knowing it is possible for us to absorb so many things without even thinking about it, shouldn't we be extra cautious about where we go, what we do, and what we expose our minds to? The more we fill our minds with good things, the more good things there will be to well up into our conscious or unconscious minds. We need David's attitude: "*How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!*" (Psalm 139:17).

The song was "Baby Elephant Walk," written by Henry Mancini for the 1962 movie *Hatari*. Listen to it, and it will probably get stuck in your head, too!

Why not spend some time this week putting good things from God in your head?

--Bob Prichard (via *Bulletin Gold*)

Readin', Writin', & 'Rithmetic will teach our children how to make a living.

God's Word will teach our children how to make a life.

Putting Jesus Back in the Box

The Christmas holiday has come and gone. Time to take down those decorations, Christmas trees, blow-up yard ornaments, and lights, including those religious scenes and figurines. Along with the tinsel and multicolored lights, the little statues of the baby Jesus will be placed in boxes and storage bins and stored away till next December. Folks will stop posting memes that say "Jesus is the Reason for the Season" and "Put Christ Back in Christmas" on social media.

The time of year in which so much attention is given to Jesus Christ has past. Sadly, many people will not attend church, pray, or even mention Jesus until the traditional Easter holiday. They will return to their busy lifestyles full of work and play. It would seem that they have put Jesus in a box, only to let Him out on a couple of religious holidays during the year.

It has been said that we should be thankful that so many think about Christ, even if it's for a short time. However, such traditions practiced only occasionally do not find favor with the Lord. Jesus said if any person desires to follow Him, they must deny themselves, pick up their cross and follow Him every day (Luke 9:23). What a worthy goal it is to have Christ in the forefront of our daily activities, including bible reading, prayer, evangelism, benevolence and regular worship.

--Jay Launius (Maud, TX)

Be the reason someone loves Jesus, not the reason they hate Christians.

--Kevin Patterson (via Facebook)