

## Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Last Wednesday I'm the last one leaving the office – I think I was trying to unpack a box or two to find my Steelers banner and Terrible Towel (which, by the way, I did find!) The thermometer that afternoon read 4 degrees as I locked up and headed to the car – brrr! I slide into the car, popped the key in the ignition and turned the key – nothing. I tried it again, same result. Remember I mentioned I was the last to leave the office that day, so there's no one around, right?! I try a third time to turn the key and start the car – nothing! I look down at the console and realize that I have left the lights on... **ALL DAY!!** Now, I'm no rocket scientist, but it becomes evident pretty quickly that I've got a dead battery due to leaving the lights on all day in this frigid weather!

What did I do? I did what every self-respecting man would do in a situation like that – I called my wife! Karen was in the middle of getting dinner in the oven, but dropped what she was doing and came over with a set of jumper cables. As soon as we hooked a good battery up to the drained one, the one that was drained fired right up and I made it home in time for dinner! I learned something last week – It's a dangerous thing to let your battery drain of energy, and if you're not connected to a strong power source, you're going nowhere fast!

That got me to thinking – What is it that drains you and I? Physically? Emotionally? Spiritually? Relationally? Clearly we need to be plugged into a power source, the question is, which one? Hopefully we realize by now that for the follower of Jesus Christ, there **IS NO** other source but the Holy Spirit who indwells us...

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you...” (Acts 1:8a)*

Jesus put it this way...

*“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me... I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing... If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they*

*gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.” (John 15:4-6)*

The point is, you and I need to be continually “*plugged*” into the power source that won’t leave us out in the cold and stranded! But, let me mention a couple “*secondary sources*” that God graciously gives in order to keep our charge...

1) *Body Life* (Celebration) – I’ll tell you what, as a newcomer to NLF, the highlight is our weekend services because of the celebration of God’s mercy and grace we experience. I can’t wait to get here each time and see what God is going to do through our worship time, faith stories and the connecting we do with one another afterwards – It’s awesome! If you not in a regular habit of coming to one of the weekend services, can I encourage you to make it habit for 3 months running – I believe you’ll be overwhelmed by what God does in your life and through your life!

2) *Community* (Cells) – This is where heart-to-heart ministry takes place, where we see real life-change, as a cell community lives out their faith together and grows in the grace and understanding of our Lord Jesus Christ! If you’re currently not a part of a cell group – Why not? Let me encourage you to make this a priority in this new year to get connected and stay connected with a smaller group of people who will love you, serve you, encourage and lift you up as you grow in Him!

Finally, as a way of encouraging you to stay “*plugged in*” to the right source of power for your life, may I offer up this prayer on your behalf...

*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*  
(Romans 15:13)

**God Bless – Remember, Christ IS All!**  
**Pastor Mark**