



Advent is fast approaching its ending. Time is running out for us to prepare our hearts and our homes for God's re-visit. Some days, I run out of daylight way too early; some nights, I run out of slumber time way too soon. Either way, energy is a premium and mostly at crisis level of empty. Way below the line. The warning light has been on and I have been in denial about running out.

This photo was sent to me via social media, by a friend I went to high school with in Cleveland, Alabama. He shared it from a social media page called Women of God. I think that it can be broadened to include People of God. All of us need to have our tanks filled. Especially during this out-of-controlled time we call preparation and waiting for God to enter our hearts anew and again.

This photo also reminded me of a story I read a week or so ago about a Rose Bowl Parade from yesteryear.

In his book, Connecting with God, Herb Miller tells about a float in the Rose Bowl Parade that stalled--thus blocking the floats behind it and bringing the parade to a stop. They brought in mechanics to tinker with the engine, but it did no good. Finally, someone thought to check the gas tank--which they found to be empty. Then, as someone went to get gas, people began to notice that the sponsor of that float was a major oil company. It didn't matter how many billions of barrels of oil that company had at its disposal. What mattered in that moment was whether there was gas in the tank on that float.

Miller concluded by saying that the power available to Christians exceeds the power of gas and oil. We live and serve by the power of God--but we must be sure not to let our tank run dry--not to let the cares of the world block the flow of God's power into our lives.

So as you and I are busy with the preparations of the season; as we are busy with preparing our homes and our hearts for the Christ-child, let us not forget to replenish our tanks. If we are running low on power, how can we expect to effectively share God's love during this pinnacle time for Godly moments in our world.

A prayer for you and me...

Good Day, God: You call us to prepare to be alert to wait and watch, to be awake for the coming of glory, to receive your presence in our lives. Send your Spirit upon us, we pray, that we might be made ready to open our hearts and lives with gladness. Fill us with energy, with renewal, with fresh eyes, with fresh ears and with the joy of anticipation and make our waiting preparation a part of the bigger event that is about to take place in "Bethlehems" all over this world. Amen.

God's Blessings and God's Speed!

The Reverend Jim Harper III, Pastor St. Stephen UCC/Louisville, KY

Sources:

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FaceBook Message from Dale Simmons  
Herb Miller, Connecting with God  
<http://www.sermonwriter.com>  
<http://www.lectionary.org>