

Life in the Fast Lane



Building Blocks of Breakthrough: Getting Past the Roadblocks

Help! My engine is stalled!

Last week I had a series of business meetings in Ridgecrest, CA, near Death Valley. At the last vestige of civilization in Mojave, before launching into 70 miles of cactus, coyotes and sweltering heat, my car engine stalled... stopped... kaput! The temperature was 110 degrees. I frantically searched for the hazard light button (turns out it is the giant red triangle in the middle of my dash – who knew?). An hour later, bouncing along in the AAA tow truck, it occurred to me that our spiritual engines get stalled as well.

The car was towed 40 miles back to Palmdale. Here, the auto gurus could decide what to fix and whether I got to keep any part of last week's paycheck. Next, I picked up a rental car and drove back through Mojave to Ridgecrest. The plan was for me to return in a few days and pick up my woeful auto. Later, I arrived back in Palmdale, returned the rental and headed home. Hah! On Highway 14, about 20 minutes out in the canyons, the car broke down for a second time. I turned the key and the engine started ...stalled...started..stalled. Here I am in the hot sun waiting for AAA ...again.

Years ago there was a talented, terrific lady on my church project team. However, each time she took on a project assignment, it was start...stall. It could be that she was in the wrong place...maybe she took the task solely because there was a need...and now it was time to reposition. Her spiritual engine needed an overhaul!

Sometimes you have to break it down and check yourself when your spiritual engine keeps quitting:

- Am I asking the right questions? (I had a responsibility to make sure I had all the info).
- Am I in the right place? (I ended up doing a 3rd tow the next day to properly reposition my car at the dealer in Glendale).
- Am I changing out the right parts? (Are the new "parts" in your life getting you back on the road?)
- Am I being impatient? (Mechanic stopped short of success in his hurry – are you stopping short?)

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The final analysis determined the car needed a new computer chip. A car's computer chip dictates the workings of the entire internal mechanism. How is your "spiritual" computer chip functioning? It was decision time. The Master Mechanic was explaining all the engine codes correctly. Either I put a \$1000 computer chip in a 7- year old car or give up the car's equity and get a new vehicle.

When you start asking the right questions about your stalled spiritual engine, God will fill you with His wisdom. It could be that some areas need a major repair (revitalization). And, sometimes, the spiritual mechanics are too exhausted for retrieval. A new start, with a new vehicle, is needed. The story's end...I replaced the computer chip. I encourage you to challenge yourself to a *spiritual* engine analysis. Check your positioning, analyze your talents/gifts and decide what parts need replacing or revitalizing.

A Few Roadblock Busters:

- Discuss your current spiritual position. Are you in the right place?
- Discuss impatience in the life of the believer... in your life. Are you rushing solutions in areas of your life that require more time? How can you change this cycle?

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Life in the Fast Lane is a part of Online Bible Studies, provided by IPHC Women's Ministries.

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