

1 **How to not run out of gas**

PSALM 51

2 **The Shell Answer Man**

3 **An example**

4 **Have you ever run out of gas?**

- ▶ A few weeks ago, I left Mansfield with just over ¼ tank of gas. I thought I'd fill up halfway on my trip to Tyler.
- ▶ But I was engaged in conversation and drove the whole way to Tyler without stopping.
- ▶ After lunch, I couldn't start my car. Guess why!

5 **Sometimes I feel like I have run out of gas!**

- ▶ Lots of pain
- ▶ Lots on my to-do list
- ▶ Deadlines with stress
- ▶ For a really long time
- ▶ I'm exhausted

6 **Without gas, your car just won't go....**

7 **Shell Answer man's tips for fuel**

- ▶ Clean your air filter (to get optimal combustion)
- ▶ Keep your tires properly inflated
- ▶ Fill up the tank (prevents water condensation in tank)
- ▶ Slow down – get more miles / gallon
- ▶ Get your car properly tuned
- ▶

8 **Or to put it another way...**

- ▶ Clean up
- ▶ Air up
- ▶ Fill up
- ▶ Let up
- ▶ Tune up

9 **Psalm 51:1-2**

For the music director. A psalm of David. When Nathan the prophet came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

Be gracious to me, O God, according to your loyal love. According to your abundant mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and from my sin cleanse me.

10 **Psalm 51:3-7**

For I myself know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, only you, I have sinned and have done this evil in your eyes, so that you are correct when you speak, you are blameless when you judge. Behold, in iniquity I was born, and in sin my mother conceived me.

Behold, you delight in truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden parts you make me to know wisdom. Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean. Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

11 **Psalm 51:8-10**

Make me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and all my iniquities blot out. Create a clean heart for me, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

12 **Psalm 51:11-15**

Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and with a willing spirit sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you. Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation; then my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will proclaim your praise.

13 **Psalm 51:16-19**

For you do not delight in sacrifice or I would give it. With a burnt offering you are not pleased. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. Do good in your favor toward Zion. Build the walls of Jerusalem. Then you will delight in righteous sacrifices, burnt offering and whole burnt offering. Then bulls will be offered on your altar.

14 **CLEAN UP**

PSALM 51:1-7,9

1 JOHN 1:9

15 **Cleansing's Need**

- ▶ A dirty air filter on your car will rob your car of power because it is suffocating the engine.
- ▶ Sin's sorrow suffocates the saints
 - ▶ Inability to cleanse yourself
 - ▶ Inability to die peacefully with unconfessed sin (especially if unsaved); "*The sting of death is sin.*"
 - ▶ Inability to deal rightly with guilt. "*My sin is always before me*" (v. 3).
 - ▶ Inability to deserve anything other than judgment. Sin is a violation of God's law (v. 4).

16 **Cleansing's Creed**

- ▶ I sinned against you God (v. 4).
- ▶ I am sorrowful over my sin (implied throughout).
- ▶ According to your love and compassion (v. 1) and your faithfulness (Lamentations 3:22,23) forgive and cleanse me.
- ▶ I believe you have made me whole (v. 7).
 - ▶ [Hyssop is representative of faith. It was used in the cleansing of lepers and to apply the blood to the doorposts at Passover.]

17 **Cleansing's Deed**

- ▶ A "turned" life resulting from true repentance. Isn't that what we need?

18 **I'd rather see a sermon**

I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day.

*I'd rather one should walk with me than merely show the way.
The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear;
Fine counsel is confusing but example always clear;
And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds,
For to see the good in action is what everybody needs.*

19 **I'd rather see a sermon (continued)**

*I can soon learn how to do it if you'll let me see it done.
I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run.
And the lectures you deliver may be wise and true;
But I'd rather get my lesson by observing what you do.
For I may misunderstand you and the high advice you give,
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.*
-- Edgar Guest

20 **Air up**

PSALM 51: 8, 12

21 **The example of joy**

- ▶ Paul was a little flat in one tire when he says, "O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from this body of death?" One flat tire can drag the whole car (or the whole church).
- ▶ But then Paul airs up! "I thank God through Jesus Christ my Lord!" (Romans 7:24,25).

22 **The types of Joy**

- ▶ Joy of CONFESSION. (1 John 1:9)
- ▶ Joy of COMPLETION (We are complete in Him.)
 - ▶ Just look at all the attempts by the world to unsuccessfully fulfill a God-shaped vacuum.
 - ▶ Only God can fill the longing and the gap in our hearts. And He with His Word is all that is needed to fill the gap.

23 **The types of joy (2)**

- ▶ Joy of COMMUNION.
 - ▶ "My soul panteth for God, for the Living God."
 - ▶ Remember the example of Hosea.
- ▶ Joy of COMFORT
- ▶ Joy of CONQUERING
 - ▶ "O Death, where is thy sting? O Grave, where is thy victory?"
 - ▶ "We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us."
 - ▶ Jesus' first words out of the tomb (Matthew 28:9 – Χαίρετε)

24 **Types of joy (3)**

- ▶ Joy of COMMUNITY
 - ▶ Fellowship within the body -- "in one accord"
 - ▶ Hebrews 10:24,25; Philippians 1:3-5 -- "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, for your fellowship [partnership] in the gospel from the first day until now."

▶ Joy of COMPASSION (Comes from sharing His compassion with others.) Compassion comes from seeing the needs of others. Listen to that again.

25 **Fill up**

PSALM 51:10-12

26 **Ephesians 5:18-20**

▶ *Be filled with the Spirit speaking to yourself in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing, and making melody in your heart to the Lord; giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

27 **We need to be filled with the Spirit**

▶ *Right spirit* (Psalm 51:10) -- Our Attitude.

▶ We need the attitude of praise.

▶ *Holy Spirit* (v. 11) -- Our Aptitude.

▶ He is our ability for living the Christian life.

▶ *Free Spirit* (v. 12) -- Our Altitude.

▶ He enables us to soar over the power of sin just as the law of flight enables us to overcome gravity; see Romans 8:2.

28 **Tune up**

USE YOUR SPEECH AND SONG TO GLORIFY GOD

29 **What does a tuned-up Christian sound like?**

▶ Teaches Transgressors (v. 13)

▶ Saves Sinners (v. 13)

▶ Rehearses Righteousness (v. 14)

▶ Presents Praise (v. 15)

▶ Builds the Body and Beautifies the Bride (v. 18)

30 **Let up**

PSALM 1:16,17,19

31 **Making progress by slowing down**

▶ Psalm 51:16, 17, 19) -- Don't get ahead of God.

▶ Martha was too busy FEEDING to BE FED. She was "*much concerned about things*" -- SERVICE.

▶ Mary chose the better part -- WORSHIP.

▶ Worship must always come BEFORE service.

▶ Example of church in Dhonavur, South India where Amy Carmichael had two steeples put on church. One on the front of the church was called "worship" and the one on the back called "service."

32 **Luke 10:38-42**

Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her

therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

33 **Martha's roller-coaster faith**

- ▶ She believed Jesus had the power to heal.
 - ▶ John 12:20-21. -- Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house. 21 Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.
- ▶ She even seems to believe that Jesus can STILL do something about the situation and she believes that Jesus is the Messiah (John 12:22-27) -- *But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee. Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.*

34 **Martha's roller-coaster faith (2)**

- ▶ But then she doesn't think Jesus can raise Lazarus now
 - ▶ *Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.*

35 **Martha's roller-coaster faith (3)**

- ▶ But in spite of this apparently great demonstration of faith up to this point, Martha is the only one to speak at the grave other than Jesus.
- ▶ Here it is that her faith wavers: John 12:39-40 -- *"Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days. Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?"*

36 **Mary – like a rock**

- ▶ When we serve before we worship, our faith is weak; our commitment is weak; our service is weak. We must always keep worship first.
 - ▶ Mary did not challenge Jesus at the grave site. She waited quietly for the Lord to do something great.
 - ▶ Mary anointed Jesus' feet with perfume that had cost her life savings and pours out her vial of tears on his feet). Mary poured out two substances that symbolically represented all she had in life.
 - ▶ Why? To prepare Jesus for burial. She understood something the disciples didn't, because she drew near to worship Him.

37 **Revelation 4 on worship**

- ▶ 2 key elements
 - ▶ Submission (bowing down)
 - ▶ Giving ALL glory to the Lord (casting our crowns before him).
- ▶ Some today too busy with TOKENS to be BROKEN.
 - ▶ Too busy with bulls, rams, and goats to give best sacrifices. "To obey is better than sacrifice."

▶ "broken" -- crushed; "contrite" -- collapsed. God wants our heart with all of its desires crushed and collapsed before Him and He will give us a new heart (Ezekiel 11:19-20).

38 **Stop being run-down**

- ▶ CLEAN UP -- confess (II Chronicles 7:14).
- ▶ AIR UP -- Rejoice! Learn to praise God once again.
- ▶ FILL UP -- Be filled with the Spirit.
- ▶ TUNE UP -- Tell others how good God is (instead of how bad people are).
- ▶ LET UP -- Give your life to the essential things (what is eternal) instead of the nonessential things (what will be dust when it is all over).

39 **S.M. Lockridge knew
how to do it**