

## When Life Breaks Down

Go outside and sit in your car. What you will find is that your vehicle will not move unless you start it and put it in gear. There are so many gadgets built into your car that give it the friction and power it needs to move. When one of these gadgets are broken, the vehicle will either not run, or it may not run properly. If your vehicle was to start making a loud sound right now, you wouldn't just leave it in the parking lot, yard or garage and hope the sound would go away. You would likely look under the engine to try and figure out what's wrong, or you'd take it to a mechanic. To take it to a mechanic, you'd have to drive it. This means that even though there is something wrong with your car, you still got behind the wheel, started the vehicle and drove it in hopes that it will get you at least to the mechanic shop. All the same, there are many people who simply cannot afford to take their cars to the mechanic at any given time. In cases like this, many who have cars with mechanical issues continue to drive those vehicles with the intention of getting the vehicles repaired when their funds allow for it.

Your life is very similar to a vehicle, and your body is what you use to drive through this force we call life. There are times when you may feel you have everything you need, and in those times, your life will seem to run smoothly. Then again, there are those times when you are hurting, and you feel there is something else you need to get you to the next day. This is the time when you want to be repaired by God, but at the same time; this is the time that many won't move themselves towards the heart of God for repair. We want God to meet us where we are, broken down and stranded along the side of our fears. We want God to fix our lives and help us get back on the road towards what we want. Oftentimes, it just won't happen that way.

If you drove your car at top speed and tried to fly across a railroad track, you would find that gravity would pull you back down at such a force because cars were not created to be flown. If you tried to fly an airplane underwater, you wouldn't be able to do it because an airplane was designed for the skies. If you tried to drive a submarine on a highway, you wouldn't be able to do it because submarines are created to be navigated in water. Everything that man has created was created for a specific purpose. The same goes for God. Everything and everyone created by God was created for a specific purpose, and when you try to operate against His plans for you, you will find yourself breaking down until you get back on the road that God has paved out just for you.

Many of the issues that you will find yourself faced with are not attacks from the enemy; they are opposing forces attempting to reposition you and those around you to where you all need to be in Christ. These opposing forces aren't always demonic; sometimes, they are manifestations of God's voice calling you back to His will and purpose for you. All the same, He may be calling them back to what He has purposed for them, and this may mean that the two of you are called to go in separate directions in Him. When we witness these forces, we often think we are being attacked because we have plans for our lives; plans that did not involve separating from the people we love or from the

lifestyles we have come to grow fond of. With God, however, the forces aren't opposing since He can never oppose Himself, nevertheless, with us, these force oppose our plans and desires, and this is where the pain comes in.

In life, you will find that you are often dealt a hand that you don't know how to play. As human beings, we all have pictures of where we are right in front of us, and where we want to be in our imaginations. Where we want to be is what helps us to continue through each day, since most of us understand that we are on a journey towards a new day. When our journeys take us on detours that we did not plan for, it can be upsetting and scary at the same time. It's like driving down a highway that you are not familiar with; you are not even sure if you are going in the right direction. You are simply driving and hoping that you will find a familiar sight or sign along the way that helps you to navigate back to the roads in which you know.

Because we are creatures of repetition, we often won't move from our comfortable lifestyles unless we suffer a breakdown in our plans. We would all continue to live outside of God's will for us, hoping that one day His plans for us will meet us where we are, but He just does not work that way. He calls us to meet Him in His will, and when we don't come; we find ourselves outside of His will. There, you will find yourself attacked, ridiculed and heartbroken; there you will find yourself feeling the effects of being void of Him. All the same, what He has already declared over your life will begin to line up with His Word, even when you attempt to stay within the comforts of your own plans and are against the changes being made to your life. That's when you will find yourself in opposition. Again, this opposition isn't always from the enemy; sometimes, it is the already declared Word spoken over your life which opposes what you are attempting to call your life. The Word of God is Truth, and every man is a liar; we lie to ourselves daily because our flesh is full of sin and sin nature. When what God has spoken begins to manifest into your life, people who were not called to be in your life will often disappear. Anything that you have that opposes God's will for you will step out of His way as His Word creates a way of escape for you, allowing you to re-enter His will for your life. It isn't easy because this is a time in which you are made to part ways with what's familiar to you to enter into a life of peculiarity and things unfamiliar. This is when you find yourself on a highway not knowing where you are going, but faith is your G.P.S. ensuring you along the way that you are in God's will for you. During this time, you may feel that you don't have what you need to get where God wants you to be. It is during these times when you will want to pull over and ask the Lord to come and rescue you. But just like you'd drive a broken car to the mechanic, you will have to keep going in Christ, bringing your heart before Him just as it is; broken, fearful and without the faith it needs to fuel it up. In His hands, your heart will be restored; your strength will be renewed, and you will soar upon eagle's wings.

You didn't give up on your car because you needed to get from one point to another. You've had vehicles that have failed you, but you did everything in your power to get them back up and running. When you had to sow a seed into your mechanic, you did so because you needed your vehicle to work.

When your life suffers a breakdown, you should never give up on the One who gave you life, nor should you give up on living. Just as you sowed a seed into your mechanic; you should sow a seed into the men and women who God has used to help you along the way in your life. These are your Pastors and Teachers; those who have stood in the gap for you and acted as mechanics when you were ready to break down.

Don't give up on life, and definitely don't give up on God. Life is but a journey that we all must take to get to our forever homes in Christ Jesus. We will suffer breakdowns along the way; our hearts will be broken; our bodies will oftentimes refuse to operate properly and our minds will go in the opposite direction of where we want it to go. Nevertheless, it is all a part of the journey. Keep moving and don't let one breakdown cause you to abandon this vehicle we call life.