

GET A SPIRITUAL CHECK-UP

Whether we purchase a new car or a pre-owned automobile, the thrill of having a new car is a felling all its own. We sometimes hate to see a car we have had many good times in go to the used car lot, but there is nothing quite like having something new. Or it could be that the car we get rid of is a lemon, and the ownership of something that promises to be more dependable is a sweet, song to our pocketbook.

With a new car we have increased responsibilities. First of all paying for it is of the utmost importance. We may be forced to budget our income to make the monthly payments. Upkeep is essential, and insurance is a must. Next comes the gasoline or diesel and a little oil now and then. It's all part of having the freedom of transportation, and this freedom cannot be taken for granted.

If we neglect our car, it will begin to show early signs of unnecessary wear and tear. Periodic oil changes, grease, new brake and transmission fluids are parts of our car that need replacing from time to time. If we neglect these items big problems could be "just down the road." It would be nice if all we had to do is put in a little gas when necessary and that would be the end of responsible car care, but such is not the case.

None of us, we hope, would be foolish enough to think that if we purchase a new car, fill it with gas, oil, proper brake, transmission and power steering fluids, air up the tires and fill the radiator with antifreeze, we will never again have to worry about the performance of our car. If we did this and continued to drive mile after mile, we would soon ruin the car we worked so hard to buy. Just like a wrist watch that needs to be set and re-set to keep the proper time, our auto needs periodic "fine tuning" to keep it running smooth and help it last a long time.

Our Christianity is much the same way. As foolish as it is to not take care of a car, some do not do any "fine tuning" to their Christianity. Some take a look back at the "time we were saved," only to do nothing from that point on about living a pure and holy Christian life. Just as our automobile is destined for the junk yard if we don't, take care of it, so is our spiritual life headed for eternal punishment without constant care.

We can stay free from spiritual breakdown by doing some simple things every day. Our life must be set and re-set by God's word to function properly. Many do not last as Christians because they will not pay the price of discipleship. As a learner of Christ (which is what the word 'disciple' means) we are constantly applying that, which we read in God's word to our life to be sure we don't encounter any "engine failure."

Just as we can ruin a new car by not practicing good maintenance habits, so we can also ruin our spiritual life by neglecting daily Bible reading, prayer, sharing, giving, singing, regular worship, and repenting of sin. To have a good Positive Spiritual Attitude (PSA), one must willing to take care of their spiritual life each day, much the same as one continues to care for their new car. To ignore one's car and ruin it is a temporary mistake that can be corrected; but to ignore one's soul (spiritual life) is a mistake with eternal consequences.