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8-19-2020

MAINTAINANCE REQUIRED

With all of the modern gadgets like cell phones, smart watches, computers, iPads, and smart cars, it is hard to keep up with all that they do. We own a car that is about 4 years old, but it can connect to the internet, and we can play music and videos through the system installed. One of the things it also does is that it puts a message on the panel to let us know when something needs fixing.

Today a message popped up that said, "maintenance required." It is time for an oil change, and it was letting us know. As I looked at the message, I thought that we, as Christians need to have a "maintenance required" alarm that goes off when we need to "fix something." What am I speaking of? Maybe a fix of a bad attitude. Maybe a fix of unforgiveness. Maybe a fix of repenting of sin. There are many fixes that we need in our Christian walk.

Yet, we do have a system that is fail proof. It is the voice of the Holy Spirit. Jesus told His disciples that He would send the Holy Spirit and that the Holy Spirit would guide us into "all truth." Holy Spirit speaks to our spirit and convicts us when "maintenance is required." That little nudge is like that screen in my car. We can respond to the nudge or ignore it. In our car we can turn the message off by touching a button, but it comes back on the screen every time we start up the car again. It stays like that until we get the required maintenance, and the mechanic resets it.

In a sense, we stay in a spiritual "maintenance required" condition until we get a spiritual reset. When we respond to Holy Spirit and "get things fixed" through repenting or doing what we should be doing, then we no longer feel that nudge. If we do not respond to it, eventually Holy Spirit will be grieved and not nudge us. Our heart will become hard and it will be hard to hear when God speaks to us. Just like my car, I can ignore the "maintenance required" warning message and face the consequences that might cause my car to fail and live with the results, I can do the same with God.

I think it is a good idea to keep the "maintenance required" channel open so we never have to be concerned about a spiritual breakdown. Listen to that still small voice and respond to it immediately and you will never go wrong.