

Reliability – July 18, 2010

I own an unreliable car. Being a General Motors car, it has the ill-conceived PassLock II security system installed. Basically, GM designed this system so that anytime at random, usually when most inconvenient, the system will engage and the next time you try to start the car, the system disables the fuel pump, preventing a successful start. At this point, the system takes ten minutes to reset. PassLock then lies dormant until its next random strike. GM fails to see why this is a problem, but to most sane people, this clearly classifies the vehicle as unreliable. You never know when it is going to work and when it isn't. Sometimes I'm almost late to work. Sometimes I sit at the gas pump after completing my sale while people wait in line behind me. You just never know. I think about this every time I stop for gas. Anyway, I was thinking about this on Saturday. I was headed out to tire shop to get new tires. I was leaving a little late and was going to arrive pretty close to closing time, hoping that they wouldn't be busy and could get me in. It was then that I realized the distinct possibility after getting the order in for tires that the technician might not be able to start the car and then they might squabble about it getting too late to wait for the reset. Fortunately, the car has behaved (and has for the past week or so) and I was in and out of the shop with no problem. But, it got me to thinking about reliability.

Perhaps it's our cultures collective sense of entitlement or perhaps it is a natural expectation, but I think that we as people usually expect reliability in most situations. Reliability is usually a consideration while comparing different products when making a purchase. Many things we use, such as tools, appliances, utilities, etc., we expect to just work. I think this holds true as well for people and even God. We expect people to be true to their word and do as they say, when they say. We certainly expect the same of God.

Now, I just got done describing something that I expect to be reliable that isn't (my car). Most of the things in that list (tools, utilities, etc.) also have a tendency to fail (again, usually at the most inopportune times). Well, guess what: so do people, oftentimes. But, God doesn't. God is reliable. He is always faithful. And as Christians, living with God's spirit, so should we be.

1 Thessalonians 5:24 – Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 – But the Lord is faithful, who shall establish you, and keep you from evil.

2 Timothy 2:13 – If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

Psalms 31:23-24

23 O love the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer. 24 Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.

Revelation 3:10

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Exodus 19:5-6

5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: 6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

Nehemiah 13:13

And I made treasurers over the treasuries, Shelemiah the priest, and Zadok the scribe, and of the Levites, Pedaiah: and next to them was Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah: for they were counted faithful, and their office was to distribute unto their brethren.

Romans 13:8

Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.