



When You Run on Empty

We bought a *Bug* in 1960. I mean that my wife and I purchased a used Volkswagen Beetle. A friend painted the vehicle for us. A miserable blend of blue and green—with blobs of yellow resulted. That ugly *Bug* drove easily and gave us mobility we never experienced before. Fun camaraderie with other *Bug* owners included saluting one another when we passed on the road.

The little car ably carried our family up and down the West Coast to visit relatives. The *Bug* did it economically, that is, until the oil company I worked for made me sell our beloved *Bug*. Their reason; it was too economical, and its air-cooled engine didn't require antifreeze or radiator hoses (oil companies liked to sell parts and accessories then).

Our *Bug* gave us only one problem. Early Volkswagens came with no gas gauges. When fuel in the tank lowered to about a gallon, the engine sputtered. No worry. Turning a handle underneath the dash gave us fuel to travel another 30-40 miles. There was a catch. If we failed to turn the handle back when refueling, we ran out of gas with no warning.

We see fewer Volkswagens in the U.S. now. People increasingly “run out of gas,” though Their cars come equipped with digital gauges, warning lights, and alarms. Yet their driver's lives run empty because they don't “fill their spiritual tanks.” Some have forgotten how to refuel them. If you feel hollow and your hope sputters, change your lifestyle. Consult and live by the Word of God—"the owner's manual" every day. Pray. Humbly serve Christ and others. Model Jesus' forgiving love. You'll never run empty again.

“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength,” Isaiah 40:31.