

Are We “Plugged In”?

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One day when I was planning on heading out of the house, I checked my cell phone to see if it was charging. I saw the charging cable plugged into the phone and continued getting ready to go. When it was time to leave, I unplugged the cable from my phone, only to realize that the other end of the cable had not been plugged into the wall outlet! Although I had assumed that my battery was fully charged, the truth was that my battery was completely dead.

I am afraid that many times this same sort of thing happens with people’s “spiritual batteries.” Some brethren seem like they are only halfway plugged in, or not plugged in at all, to the Word of God or their Christian duties. Whether they realize it or not, their neglectful attitudes are causing their spiritual batteries to be very weak, or possibly even dead. The following questions are posed for our self-examination:

Are we only halfway plugged in? Perhaps we habitually show up late for services when we could have left earlier and arrived on time. Such actions show a lack of respect for God and our brethren, and it likely signifies a lack of desire to be present. Maybe we habitually leave before services are dismissed—not because of anything urgent, but rather so we can beat the crowd out of the parking lot, get to our favorite restaurant quicker, or because of some other worldly reasoning. Maybe we arrive on time and stay until services are dismissed, but we are only “halfway there,” with our minds on worldly things, lacking interest in what is taking place. Perhaps we only attend on Sunday mornings, or maybe we never study the Bible outside of the church’s building. If so, then we are only halfway plugged in, and our spiritual batteries are suffering.

Perhaps we are completely plugged in for normal services, but when it comes to other activities of the church, we are totally unplugged. Where are we when the congregation is holding a Gospel meeting on weeknights? Where are we when the congregation is having Vacation Bible School? Where are we when the congregation is door knocking as a group, visiting a nursing home, or doing other good works collectively? If we are physically able to be present and active, why are we not plugged in to these activities? If we are present for normal services, but choose to be absent from these other activities, then we are only half-way plugged in, and our spiritual batteries are suffering because of it. Not only that, but our brethren’s batteries are suffering from it as well. Have we considered that it is very discouraging to those who put forth effort when many in the congregation refuse to help or participate in things we are all supposed to be doing together as a family? Have we considered that our actions can drain the congregation’s spiritual batteries instead of charging them? We need to be

careful that we do not deceive ourselves into thinking we are completely plugged in, when we really are not: *“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves”* (James 1:22; cf. Matthew 25).

Are we completely unplugged? There are some who have completely unplugged themselves from the assemblies of the saints, and in doing so, have unplugged themselves from Christ. Their spiritual batteries are dead, and their poor example and lost condition drains potential power from the entire congregation. We are commanded to assemble—not just to worship God and study His Word, but also to lovingly exhort one another to be faithful: *“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching”* (Hebrews 10:24-25; cf. Ephesians 4:16). When our brothers and sisters fail to assemble, their batteries die, and they also fail to help “charge up” their brethren. Imagine how much more “power” a congregation would have to do good if all the brethren who have unplugged themselves would plug themselves back in!

To keep our spiritual batteries from dying, we must be active, faithful members of Christ’s church, always remaining “plugged in” to Christ through the “Power Source” He has given us—His Word (Romans 1:16; 10:17; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 4:12). If we remain connected to Christ through adherence to His Word, our spiritual batteries will be recharged day by day: *“For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day”* (2 Corinthians 4:16; cf. Philippians 4:13).