

One summer I worked at a gas station where we filled propane tanks. A customer came in one day with a tank that, unbeknownst to me, had a bad valve. So when I started to hook up the filling nozzle to the tank, the tank's bad valve sprayed frozen, pressurized propane right onto my hand. I ended up with a bad case of frostbite - in the middle of July!

We expect that things in this life are going to work the way they are intended to work. We expect that our car will stop when we apply the brakes, that our oven will heat up when we turn the dial, that our television will change channels when we press the remote. When things don't work the way they ought, we might be inconvenienced or even hurt.

Of course, things in this life simply do not always work. Machines rely on all their parts to be in good working order - if a part is bad, the machine cannot run. And every machine constructed by humans eventually breaks down and needs to be replaced. We have all felt the frustration of something breaking down, something that we were depending on to work.

The next time that you feel let down by a machine's failure, remember something on which you can always rely: God's love. God's love for you is so strong that nothing can cause it to break down; nothing can get in the way of it doing its job. As we read in Romans 8: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (38, 39).

You can't always depend on your car, your appliances, or even your friends and family members. You can always depend on your God. The apostle goes on to make the point that if he loves us enough to grant us salvation, won't he also take care of us in this life as well?

It's this chapter of Scripture that contains the wonderful promise that God is working for our good in all things. Even through unscheduled vehicle repairs. Even when the cable TV goes out. Even when people let us down. Even through frostbite in July. It's all good, because it's all under the governance of our gracious and loving God.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for all that you did for me while you lived here on earth. Help to remember your great act of love on the cross for me when I find myself in difficult situations. Teach me to trust that you are always working for my good. In your name I pray, Amen.

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