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Kim's Kaleidoscope for Singles

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I Don't Ever Want to Go through That Again!

Last week Rev. Fran's article "*Did You Lose Power?*" really echoed the sentiments of most folks in this part of New England. I don't think anyone has ever seen the magnitude of devastation and despair. It affected over 800,000 people. When you think about it, that's a lot of folks dealing with the same set of circumstances. Everyone around you was struggling with loss of power, a very limited supply of food, no heat, and no gas. I'm sure this is what it must have felt like for people in days of old, and many of them were accustomed to doing without, but when you become so used to the amenities and necessities of modern life, you take them for granted – hence the old adage "*you never miss your water until your well runs dry*". Sadly, the well ran dry for days and for some, weeks.

A circumstance that takes you completely out of your comfort zone and leaves you vulnerable like that beckons you to reach deep down inside. It calls upon you to draw from a well of strength that you never thought you had. At first, you might say to yourself "*God, why did you allow this to happen?*", but then you are reminded of His Word, that He will never leave us nor forsake us. You realize that He truly is the only one you can count on. And so you begin to understand that in order to tackle the stress and discomfort of the situation, the power of prayer and the love of God must be continually on your mind.

During my week without power, I would drive home at night and street after street was without electricity. My town and neighboring communities were left in complete darkness. I remember thinking to myself, "*God, this is what it's like for folks who haven't accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior; they are in an abyss of darkness.*" 1 Thessalonians 5:5 (KJV) says of the believers, "*Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.*" This means that if you don't have the love of Jesus Christ on the inside of you, then living in darkness is an everyday reality.

To literally be in darkness and have all of the necessities of life stripped from you without any say so is one thing, but to make the *conscious* choice to be in spiritual darkness is another. The simple truth is that you will either choose to live in darkness or choose to live in truth, which is the light. Jesus Christ said in John 14:6 that he is the way, the truth, and the light. 1John 1:5 says "*This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6; If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth. 7; But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*" So to live in Christ is to have a light shining from within at all times, even if there are no lights on the

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outside. In other words, no matter what comes our way, God is a way-maker; there's always a way out through Him.

I don't ever want to go through that again! You might think it's a bit dramatic to say that, but I challenge you to try living without electricity, heat, gas, or hot water for a while. It's not comfortable at all. It will wake you up out of a slumber very quickly, and cause you to appreciate that God truly has made a more than abundant life possible for most of us who live in this day and time.

We take so much for granted. We've lost the sensibility to be truly, genuinely, and passionately thankful for God's grace, but we need to snap out of this sense of entitlement. Yes, I say that I don't want to endure that kind of discomfort again, but in all honesty I may have to. This is the kind of world we live in. So I encourage you not to wait until something difficult happens. Take the time now to prepare for hiccups like living a short while without the necessities we count on every day. Learn emergency preparedness and survival skills from agencies in your local area, and most importantly, stay spiritually prepared by praying continually, studying God's Word, and living Godly.

Here are a few helpful links:

[Red Cross Emergency Preparedness](#)

[FEMA: Family Emergency Plan](#)

[FEMA: Basic Disaster Supplies Kit](#)