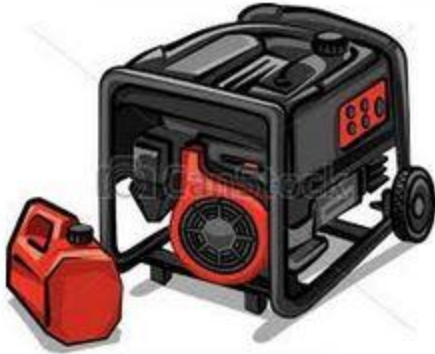


## Generating God's Power *Don't Leave It Unused and Still in the Box*

Word of the incoming hurricane came more than a week before it would make landfall in the US. Meteorologists began tracking the storm when it was still just off the coast of Africa. We had plenty of time to stock up on supplies and secure our properties for hurricane Florence. Until just before landfall it was difficult to predict its exact path and strength. We are 200 miles inland so our preparation was different than the coastal areas. We prepared for torrential rains and potential power outages locally.



One of my preparations took me to Lowe's Home Improvement the day before the hurricane would strike. I saw a large shipment of new generators coming into the store. They would be snatched up by people who were afraid of the possibility of losing electrical power to their home or business. When the storm did hit our area we incurred a great deal of rain, but thankfully few power outages.

The post-hurricane scene at many hardware and home improvement stores was dominated by people returning the unused generators, purchased just days before. They probably never took the generators out of the box so they could be easily returned if not needed. They wanted a full refund. In effect, they were saying "I don't need you. Maybe I'll ask again if the need arises." They would repeat the process the next time there is a potential power outage in the area, never fully investing in its capabilities. I heard one person say that half the generators sold in advance of the storm were returned to the store. Knowing this pattern, some hardware stores never stocked up on generators in the first place. It seems that people are short-sighted and only think of their present need. They may get surprised if the power goes out during an ice storm when the stores are closed or it is impossible to get to the store. Then, they will wish they had held on to the generator.

We can be like that in our faith walk. When we can foresee a difficult time coming we become very "religious." We want God in our life. We may be desperate so we are in fervent prayer. Once the difficulty passes or perhaps the crisis is averted, we return to our normal routine that doesn't include God. In those times, we only wanted the power of God to be at our disposal to handle the crisis, but not our life. Just like the person returning an unused generator, we return to a life largely without God. We are, in effect, saying "I don't need you Lord right now. Maybe I'll ask again if a crisis is on the horizon." What kind of message is this giving to God about our faith? The power of God can generate power to our lives not only during the storms of life, but during the rest of our lives.

Rest assured the storms of life *will* hit your home some time. Illness, difficulties within the family or workplace, relationship issues and financial worries can strike at any time. Be prepared. Have the power of God already in your house, unpacked and fueled to assist you through storms and all the time. It will help you weather any storm.

**Question:** Do you only call on God when you are in trouble, or is He part of your daily life?

**The Bible Says:** *The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him (Psalm 28:7).*

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father. It is easy to live a life with blinders on, relying on You only during times of crisis, and ignoring you the rest of the time. Help us to keep You front and center every day. Amen.