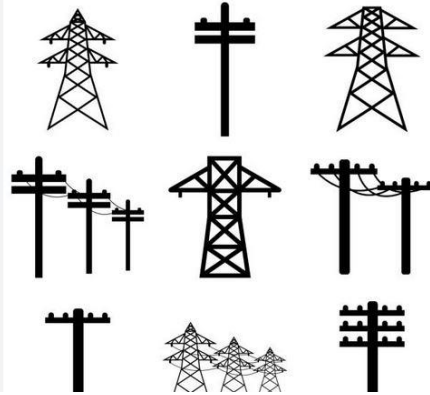


## Power Outage

Most of the coastal states in the Southeastern US braced for tropical storm Debby. Even though it was downgraded from a category 1 hurricane, we knew it would bring heavy rain to inland North Carolina. As the slow-moving storm generated substantial rain and high winds, the ground was so saturated that some trees were uprooted, and water-soaked limbs took down power lines. At 8:05 AM, our lights flickered several times before going out.

Instantly, I could hear the beeping of my computer's battery backup device, warning me to exit any open programs and shut down the computer. It didn't take long for us to realize that the power outage was widespread and wouldn't be a quick fix. The agenda planned that day was no longer a reality. We were now in survival mode with a new agenda as we weathered the storm.



The grandkids staying with us that day were disappointed to learn there was no internet or TV. Then, we told them that the refrigerator and freezer doors would not be opened, because our food could spoil if the power outage were extended. We readied the generator to sustain us if the outage would continue later in the day. Breakfast became a menu of cold cereal with no milk. With the torrential, all-day rainstorm, our day was destined to be spent hunkered down in the dark.

We depend on electrical power to operate all our house devices and appliances and rely on connectivity to communicate with the outside world. We had running water but no other utilities. We tried to make adjustments and live with limited means.

We need God's power and connectivity to overcome the storms of life. God strengthens us if we are on the path He prepared for us. We sense his guidance if we listen to Him through His Word and prayer. If we are not connected to His power, we live in the uncertain darkness of a broken, stormy world. If we are cut off from both, we only have our flawed human capabilities to navigate this earthly world. Life on earth is like the hurricane season – one threat after another. People of faith face storms, too, but have God's power and direction to guide them. Only through trust and confidence in the Lord can we keep the "lights on" through the perils of life.

The lights came on four hours later, and we were functional again. The time disconnected gave us a glimpse of living in darkness. We can't do it alone. Plug into His strength. Live your life connected to God so you can live in His light.

**Closing Prayer:** Dear Lord. We pray we will stay grounded and connected through your Word and seek to live in your light. We know that the storms of life will come. We trust that You will carry us through those times. Amen.

### *Interesting Verses about God's Power*

Philippians 4:13	strength to overcome
Exodus 15:2	eternal destination
Isaiah 40:29	power to achieve
Matthew 19:26	God's power
Romans 15:13	hope, joy and peace
1 John 1:7	Living in the light
John 16:33	You will have trouble

### *Interesting Verses About Being Connected to God*

John 14:6	Jesus is the Way
Matthew 18:20	God is with you
Jeremiah 29:11	God's plan for you
1 John 1:9	forgiveness
Philippians 4:6	prayer
1 John 4:9	God lives within you
Colossians 3:2	set your mind on things above