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## The Value of a Charge

Fred Nowell

It's not often that our automobile battery will need to be charged or that our car will be in need of a "jump start," but we keep jumper cables in the trunk just in case. We may not need to use them for our own personal benefit, but we may come across one who has left their lights on and their battery has drained, or the weather may be such that the cold has caused one to need to be "jumped." So it is, we are prepared just in case we or another are in need of a charge. The cost for a charge or new battery: \$50. Having jumper cables in the trunk: priceless!

Being technologically challenged, it is frustrating for this writer to run into computer problems. A few weeks ago, things went so well that my class as well as both sermons were done ahead of schedule. The plan was to enjoy a Sunday afternoon and take in some football and maybe even a nap if I desired. When I went to retrieve my evening sermon from my computer so I could go over it again one last time, there was an error and there was no way to bring it up and print it. So, needless to say, my afternoon was spent trying to recall and type up my lesson for that evening. NOT FUN! The problem was a small battery inside of my laptop that needed to be replaced. The function of this small battery was great, in that it controlled many internal things. A new battery and labor: \$42. Having my laptop back and working: priceless!

We understand very well how our automobiles and many other things need to be sufficiently charged for them to run properly. Is the Christian much different than these? Though we may not rely upon a literal battery to function (with the exception of some medical implants), many rely upon the charge received when we come together as members of the body, the church of our Lord (Rom. 12:4-5; Col. 1:24; 1 Tim. 3:15).

Our attendance on Sunday morning has been very good. There is often an energy in the atmosphere that gives us all a charge. There is often a "buzzing" that is heard as the family gathers and greetings are given as well as received. Encouraging words and loving embraces can be seen. I pray that as we gather we will each be prepared to worship our Heavenly Father in spirit (proper attitude) and in truth (according to His

Word , Jn. 4:24). Though our Sunday evening and Wednesday evening attendance may not be as great, the energy and the charge received is just as powerful. As a young Christian, it would have been very difficult for me to remain faithful and get through my week if it were not for Wednesday evenings. It is this writer's humble opinion that Wednesday evening gatherings (and other gatherings with the family of God throughout the week) are powerful and needed in order to grow in the faith. These assemblies are a "charge" for the spirit of man! To go through the week without a mid-week charge for me was a great loss of power. It did not happen often, but when it did, it was difficult to always keep looking above (Col. 3:1-2) and to think on things that a Christian ought to (Phil. 4:8). Gathering together at the *appointed* times (Sunday Bible class, AM and PM Worship and Wednesday Bible study) as we advertise takes effort, time, and even finances. The charge received when we gather as the family of God and study His word is priceless!

**“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 it; but exhorting one another...”**

(Hebrews 10:24-25)