

Peace, Clarity, and Guidance

In my casual walks through our neighborhood, I've noticed that some drivers pull into their driveways and others back into their driveways. Although there is no "right" way to park your car, my curious (wandering?) mind wondered what accounts for this variety. My curiosity led me to learn that researchers have studied this behavior. Their findings suggest that those who pull into the driveway tend to do so because of relative ease and because of an eagerness to get into their homes. Conversely, those who back into their driveways tend to do so because it gives them a "psychological jump" on the next trip, expresses a certain eagerness to travel again, and simultaneously gives them a clear line of sight when they leave.

The researchers speculate that drivers have certain needs: some have a need to quickly get into the peace and quiet of their homes after a taxing trip or day; others are eager for the next day's activities and hope to get a safe head start.

What's your preference when you arrive home? Pull in? Back in? Depends?

As far-fetched as those speculations may initially sound, the fact of the matter is that we do have both needs. On the one hand, we have a need for peace and quiet; the sort of refuge from the world we hope to find in the safety and comfort of our homes. On the other hand, we are often eager to plan ahead, stay busy, and go about life with a clear line of sight.

God acknowledges both types of needs. He realizes that we can become frazzled and need peace and refuge. He also realizes that we have a need for a certain sense of clarity and safety when we venture forth in our respective callings.

God's love for us does not end with the mere acknowledgement of our needs. Oh, no; the Lord goes much further in His care for us. He provides the peace and refuge we need and simultaneously provides the clear guidance we need.

As for His gift of peace and restorative care for you? Listen to His assurance: "The Lord is our refuge and strength, a very present help in every time of need." (Psalm 46) As for His gift of clarity and guidance as you venture forth? Listen to His promise: "My Word is a lamp to your feet and a light to your path." (Psalm 51)

If your mind is anything like mine, it probably tends to wander a bit. Maybe your mind becomes easily focused on your need for peace and refuge; perhaps your mind becomes easily focused on thoughts of tomorrow and the many challenges that may be waiting for you. Perhaps at times your mind has even gone so far as to ponder the way people park their cars in their driveways!

But thanks be to God; His tender care and ever-faithful attention to our needs does not drift or wane. He puts our minds and hearts at ease with His bountiful care. His care frees us to confidently and gratefully pray: "Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in your peace." And to that prayer we affix our hearty, "Amen!"

Pastor Case