

## **Turning Up the Radio**

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Command Chaplain

My wife and I travel a lot. My parents are two hours away; her parents are four hours in a different direction. Each of our grandchildren live four hours away, but in different directions. If want to visit with members of our families, it means we have to drive. Also, we have a home to which we are retiring at the end of this year and we try to get down there to check on it once each month or so. The result is that we spend a lot of time on the road.

In my truck, I have programmed in all of the local radio stations I enjoy listening to. I have also gone to the FM-2 function that allows me to save an additional 6 stations. Here, I have saved my favorite 6 stations that I listen to in my home town. This way, when I get about half way between here and my destination, I can easily switch stations to the new local area.

Sometimes, however, I will be traveling and I hear the station begin to fade out. If I really enjoy what I am listening to, I turn the radio up a little louder, trying to hang on to the old station. But the problem is not volume; it is distance. The farther I get from the source of the broadcast, the fainter the signal becomes. I still try to hear the old source, but I am just too far away. Soon, the signal is completely overpowered by other stations that are closer to me.

I have found that it is much the same way in my walk with God. As long as I stay close to God, I have an easy time listening to him. It has been my experience that when God speaks to me, it is very softly and gently. I have to listen intently and focus myself on what He is saying. As long as I stay close to God, I can hear Him speak softly because we are close. However, when I get farther away from God, it doesn't take much for other sources to make it more difficult to hear God. I can't make God's voice louder. The problem is not volume; it is distance.

Now, I realize that God is everywhere, so you may wonder how I could ever be far from Him. What we are talking about is not physical proximity, but spiritual proximity. Just as two people can be physically close without being emotionally close, we can also be spiritually separated from God. This happens because of the presence of sin in our lives. The more sin we have, the farther from God we become. We get farther and farther away when we live a lifestyle that is more reflective of a sinful life than a godly life.

As we live sinful lives, it becomes much easier to hear the sources of sin than it is to hear the source of godly direction. The only way we can hear God speak to us again is to get closer to Him. The good part is that, while it may take a great deal of traveling time to get closer to a radio station, it only takes a moment to get closer to God. All we need to do is to call on Him, ask Him to forgive our sins, change our direction and He does the rest. He draws us close to Him so that we can again hear His voice.

Examine your own life and ask yourself what the loudest voice is that you hear. If it is any voice other than God's get close to Him so that you can be in tune with the best voice.

Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in Church on Sunday.