

8-Cylinders of Life

Vrooom!


In the old days all cars had 8 cylinders – a car ran poorly (or not at all) without all of them. In the same way, we live in eight possible worlds at one time, deciding minute by minute which to devote our time, energy and resources to; we live (whether we believe or acknowledge it), both spiritually and physically, in the past, present, future and eternity.

- Some people, because of good or bad memories, live most of their life in the past – trying to resolve past tragedies and injustices.
- For others, NOW is all they understand and crave – only seeking to satisfy their current drives, urges and five senses.
- Others long for when they can get a car, finish school, get married, when the kids are grown, retirement; always dreaming of the future idyllic days that never live up to what was imagined.
- And some retreat from the world, as much as physically possible, to live monastic lives, so it is imagined, free from now and the world – in other words, they become worthless (and maybe worse, leeches) to the world in an effort to escape before their time here has ended.

Many people are *trying* to run on the 4 physical cylinders of life (ignoring the spiritual), but (unlike 4-cylinder cars) we have not learned to successfully downsize to 4 cylinders in life. As long as we are on earth, we cannot successfully deny the reality and need of the physical, but, likewise, it is a hollow and empty life without considering the even more important spiritual and eternal aspects of life and death.

Life is not easy – the eight possible spheres and cylinders continually compete for our time, energy and resources. No one can possibly live eight lives perfectly at once, but is it impossible to have *The Best of All Worlds*, to be reasonably “well-tuned”? Not with Grace! The *Bible* is realistic about the competing pulls of life and death, the physical and spiritual, the past, present, future and eternal – and it promises *The Best of All Worlds*:

If and When

We understand the reality of the spiritual world	and know it is "longer" and stronger than the physical world - in other words, have a correct perspective and priorities . . .
Believe in	and are saved by, seek to follow, Jesus Christ . . .
Thankful for blessings	(rather than pouting over things we do not have)
Cooperate with God's will	versus resisting Him.
Grow in grace and Knowledge of Jesus Christ	Not being immersed and lusting after the things of the world . . .
Simplify and focus	to defeat the, otherwise, overwhelming complexities that "naturally" occur,
Devote our heart to love, joy, peace . . .	to crush hate, sorrow, turmoil,
Acknowledge our continual need (humility)	rejecting the downward spiral of pride,
Face the realities of life	and seek God's grace to overcome the temptations and trials that EVERYONE faces.
Embrace the benefits of disciplines	And, in the process, becoming a good disciple . . .
Finish the race on all 8 Cylinders 	not stopping before entering the narrow door, walking the narrow road . . . rather than getting lost in the relatively minor issues of life . . .
Aim for perfection	refusing to settle for less than the best – <i>The Best of All Worlds!</i>
What are the benefits, where is the hope, of seeking less than <i>The Best of All Worlds?</i>	

Since life has already (to anyone that gives ANY thought to it)
 proven itself impossible,
 we might as well try Grace – the possible of God!
 And find His balance, only achieved through His disciplines.

So Put the Pedal to the Metal! – The *Best of All Possible Worlds* is waiting!