

Chapter 5: Road Trips

Life can be a struggle. There are going to be times when you feel like you are fighting with both hands tied behind your back. Stay in the fight! There are multitudinous stories of people who stayed in the fight and won against all odds. You're not alone. We have all been at a place in life where we've felt broken. Have you ever had an item break, but you knew it was still under warranty? A warranty gives peace of mind in knowing you are covered because the warranty guarantees the item will be fixed. I have been in a place where I lost my peace of mind in the middle of a struggle. I didn't realize my life is covered. If you are covered, why worry? We often forget that we are covered. Sometimes it is just a matter of activating your purpose within His promise.

One evening I searched my glove compartment hoping to find my car warranty. Unsuccessful at locating the original hardcopy, I pulled the coverage up online. A message scrolled across my computer screen in large font that read: "Although Pontiac vehicles are no longer being made, each one remains backed by the confidence of our outstanding warranty coverage, combined with roadside assistance and courtesy transportation programs." That was great news, except my warranty coverage was limited to 36,000 miles or 3 years. My 2008 G6 has taken countless road trips. That threw me into panic mode because I was unemployed. So much for my peace. Here is the fight: I don't have what it will take to get this fixed. How many times have you said, "I can't do this," or "I can't take it anymore"?

I decided to find the least expensive neighborhood mechanic. Don't laugh because at some point in life you too wanted to find a shortcut on something. Before I was able to schedule an appointment, I received a letter in the mail instructing me to bring my vehicle in for complimentary repairs. Pontiac was aware of a need and although my warranty was expired, I was covered. While I was thinking, This is the most inconvenient time to need a car repair, someone else had already planned on covering the cost. If the manufacturer will protect its product and pay a price beyond the life of the warranty, how much more would a living God do for human beings created in His image?

You can learn a lot about life on a road trip. Notice the signs starting from the moment you sit in the driver's seat. The steering wheel and gear shift provide control of the car. You can put it in park, reverse, neutral or drive. Here is what I learned about life's shifts:

P - panic places your life in park, so pray through it.

R - regret places your life in reverse, so release it.

N - neutral does nothing to move you; that's why now is the time for change.

D - drive and determination will take you the distance, just don't give up!

Pray, release, now drive.

Think back to the first time you sat in the driver's seat of a car.