



November 2007

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This week I had an experience with an engine running hot. I was driving my son Aaron's SUV while my car was being serviced. When I called him about using his car he told me that it had been running hot and that he had continued to add coolant whenever this happened. This was a stop gap measure just until he could find the time to get to the shop with the SUV. So I drove it with the understanding that it might run hot and that I might have to add coolant to the reservoir in order to keep the engine from shutting down on me. Well, sure enough

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PASTOR'S *Perspective*

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while the car was idling in stopped traffic as fate would have it, the engine began to run hot and at the soonest possible moment I had to pull over and add coolant to the reservoir. After I put the coolant in, the engine temperature began to cool down again. I drove the vehicle all day long and twice I had to go through this process. Needless to say, I was very happy to relinquish the SUV and get it back into the hands of its rightful owner after I needed it no more. I was amazed as I thought about how something as simple as coolant added to the engine could reverse the pattern of an engine about to blow!

Have you ever felt that your engine was about to blow? I am not talking about the engine in your car, even though in this case, as my experience proved, that can be very aggravating. Instead, I am talking about the center of your being. I am talking about your temperament and yourself. Sometimes it just seems like with all of the stuff that we have to put up with, with all of the different ways that people sweat us, with all of the little things that people do or cause to have done to us, that our engine or our being is about to blow up! The longer I live, the more I realize that this is a part of living and that we are always challenged like this. But it doesn't have to be so.

The Psalmist says something about this. Psalm 16:8 says "I

keep the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved." When I was driving Aaron's SUV I had a gallon of coolant at my disposal so that I would not have to seek after it. It was right where I could get to it with quick dispatch. This was so because I never knew when the engine would start to overheat so I needed to be ready at a moment's notice to resolve any occurrence of the problem. The Psalmist tells us that he keeps the Lord before him. In other words the Lord is at hand always and can be accessed with quick dispatch. The Lord really is near to us. In fact while the Psalmist says it this way, the New Testament reminds us that the very name of God's manifestation of Himself on earth is Jesus or Emmanuel, which means God with us. God is always near yes, but more than this God is present and at our disposal if we but call upon Him in those times of our boiling over. It is amazing how quickly we cool down and the engine starts to cool off when the presence of Jesus is poured into the mix. Things start to cool down, the spiraling effect of what is about to boil over is suddenly reversed. Where have you placed God in your life? Do you know where He can be found in those times of boiling over? Maybe a check of your coolant level is in order to assure that you aren't about to boil over.