

WHICH WOLF DO YOU FEED?

As motorcyclists, my biker buddies and I each have preferences on what we ride, who we ride with, and where we ride. For me, my ride preference is a black, sport-touring bike. Although I enjoy riding with my biker buddies, my over-the-top preference is a solitary, single-bike ride across the rolling Tennessee and North Alabama countryside with my lovely wife, who is also my very best friend. It's rewarding to me as we make memories by logging miles on the quiet country back roads, as we traverse the twisties and across the scenic hills and hollows. To top it off, then maybe we find that one-of-kind restaurant to cool it a bit, satisfy our hunger and talk about the ride and future plans together.

It is not unusual for us to log well over 15,000 miles a year on my bike; either as part of our service and ministry with our biker friends, or just out on our own. We have fun together and enjoy spending some of that time enjoying God's creation on my iron horse. With such mileage, it means I need to spend time changing the oil throughout, keeping the tires and brakes in excellent condition, and generally just making sure everything stays in great working order, realizing my neglecting such maintenance can either shorten the life of the bike or can be a safety hazard for us. No thank you, I enjoy my bike and want it to last a long time, be road worthy and look good too (yeah, I spend quite a bit of time cleaning it too).

I've shared in another article that my life (that is, my soul), your life (your soul) as a Christian requires a daily tune-up in His Word, communicating with my Father in prayer, coupled with praise, worship and thanksgiving, and of course fellowship with other believers. It's been a long-time learning process (too long) but I've found when I neglect my spiritual man that I'm of little or no earthly good.

There's an old Cherokee life story ... One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, the battle is between two wolves inside us all. **One is Evil** – It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego. **The other is God** – It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith." The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "**Which wolf wins?**" The old Cherokee raised an eyebrow, cocked his head a bit and intently looked at his grandson with loving care as he shared, "**The one you feed.**"

I know for sure that I wasted far too much of my life feeding the evil wolf (so to speak), and in so doing I was a weak and ineffective Christian (i.e., once again, of no earthly good). God has had a plan and purpose for my existence (and your existence) here on this earth at this point in history, and that purpose is to fulfill the great commission. Jesus commanded us to: "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." Mark 16:15 (NIV). I'm wasting; we're wasting what little time we have here on earth if we're falling short of why we're really here.

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Just as I believe it's important to keep my bike in perfect working order, it all the more important for me to keep-up the daily, Christian tune-up. Through the infilling of the Holy Spirit in my soul that no longer feast and satisfies my carnal man, I now have spiritual bread to share with others. As a Christian and fellow believer, my prayer over my life and that of my brother and sister in the Lord is that we so hunger and thirst after righteousness that the overflow will positively touch/impact others for Christ. It's all about Him.

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