

2 Kings 5:15-27, 20-27

This is an actual exchange between a Microsoft technician and a customer:

Ridge Hall Computer Assistant. May I help you?

Yes, I'm having trouble with WordPerfect.

Well, what sort of trouble?

Well, I was just typing along and all of a sudden the words went away.

Went away?

They disappeared.

Hmmm. So what does your screen look right now?

Nothing.

Nothing?

It's blank. It won't accept anything when I type.

Are you still in WordPerfect or did you get out?

How do I tell?

Can you see the C-prompt on the screen?

What's a C-prompt?

Never mind. Can you move the cursor around on the screen?

There isn't any cursor. I told you it won't accept anything I type!

Does your monitor have a power indicator?

What's a monitor?

It's the thing with a screen on it that looks like a TV. Does it have a little light that tells you when it's on?

I don't know.

Well then, look on the back of the monitor and find where the power cord goes into it. Can you see that?

Yes. I think so.

Great! Follow the cord to the plug and tell me if it's plugged into the wall.

Yeah, it is.

When you were behind the monitor, did you notice there were two cables plugged into the back of it, not just one?

Well, no.

Well, there are. I need you to look back there again and find the other cable.

OK. Here it is.

Follow it for me and tell me if it's plugged securely into the back of your computer.

I can't reach it.

Hmmm.

Well, can you see if it is plugged in?

No.

Even if you maybe put your knees on something and leaned way over?

Oh, it's not because I don't have the right angle. It's because it's dark.

Dark?

Yeah, the office light is off and the only light I have is coming in from the window.

Well turn the office light on then!

I can't.

No? Why not?

Because of the power outage.

A power outage. Ah. OK, we got it licked now.

Do you still have the boxes, manuals and packing stuff that your computer came in?

Well yes, I keep them in the closet.

Good. Go get them, unplug your system, and pack it up just like it was when you bought it and take it back to the store you bought it from.

Really? Is it that bad?

Yeah, I'm afraid it is.

Well, all right then, I suppose. What do I tell them?

Tell them you're too stupid to own a computer.

We hear that story and we say, "How stupid!"

How could anyone fail to understand that a computer will not function during a power failure?

But I submit to you that many times we are just as lacking in common sense.

Allow me to suggest some ways.

The Bible says, "A soft answer turns away wrath..."

He that meddleth with strife is not wise.

The Bible says we should stay away from touchy situations or we may get involved in a fight.

It says we should answer softly when someone is angry.

It is so easy for us to do the opposite.

...To shout, raise our voice, call the other person names, to point out how stupid he/she is—

It's so easy to meddle in a quarrel which isn't any of our business. When we do either of these we get in trouble. Usually loud words accelerate an argument/or fight.

Usually we get physical when we get involved in a quarrel. How stupid of us to do these things. Just like the computer user, we don't seem to read the directions in God's book. We don't heed them.

**A second way** we can lack good sense is when we fail to heed the Bible's warnings about temptation. We know where our areas of temptation are. You can bet your bottom dollar Satan also knows.

Yet, so often we pray, "Lord, keep me from temptation please," and then we walk right into that tempting situation. Maybe it's an addiction.

Maybe it's sexual sin— God tells us sex is to be only for the marriage relationship. We don't want to hear that today. We are far too sophisticated for that, but God's Word says that. Sometimes we want to obey, but we allow ourselves to get into situations where it is easy to disobey God.

Maybe it's bragging, boasting, gossiping, stretching the truth or outright lying. God tells us these things are sin. Yet stupidly, we indulge in them when we have an audience.

A third way we show our stupidity is by beating up on ourselves. We know that certain consequences will follow certain choices.

But we do these things anyway. We know that alcohol will make us stupid/it will make us smell like we were doing what we were doing. It will give us away.

It will give us a headache—

It will rot our lives—

It will amputate our families.

Yet we do it.

We know if we do the same thing, the same way, we will get the same bad result— But we do it.

We know if we don't take care of ourselves we will become sick.

Yet we don't eat right.

We don't exercise.

We don't get enough rest.

We live in ways which will shorten our lives.

We are like the man who didn't realize his power was out.

We neglect our physical bodies and we suffer for it.

America is full of middle-aged men in old men's bodies.

A fourth way we show our ignorance is by neglecting our spiritual lives.

We know we must feed our physical bodies at least 3x a day.

We know we will starve if we don't eat.

But did you realize that your spiritual lives need regular feedings in order to be strong and vigorous?

How would you do on one meal a week?

That's all some of us feed our souls— I submit to you that that is pretty stupid.

How we need to nourish and feed our souls with regular Bible reading, prayer, and fellowship with God and godly people.

**A fifth way** is when we lie or tell the untruth. God's Word tells us to be truthful. If we think about it, we realize that it's always better for us to tell the truth and take our punishment than to lie and suffer the consequences of that.

We will have to deal with guilt.

We will have to deal with fear.

We will have to try frantically to remember who we told what so we don't get our stories crossed.

I worked with a man once who said, "Dan, none of us has a good enough memory to be liars!"

Yet I can't tell you how many times I have been minding my own business when I get a buzz about one of the guys drinking or stealing.

I call the man into my office. The alcohol is reeking, but he says, "No, I haven't been drinking."

One evening I came in to check on a man who I suspected was drinking. I brought him to the office and asked him, "Were you drinking?"

He looked right at me, didn't blink, and said, "No, I was here all evening." By that time I could smell it! I knew he had been drinking. I asked him to blow into the Breathalyzer, and it went beep, beep, beep. He had been drinking. But he still denied it! He had to leave.

Guy with stolen cigarettes.

**A final way** we display our stupidity is in the area of our eternal salvation.

Mankind is built to want to do something to deserve his salvation.

It goes against our nature to accept salvation as a free gift.

God provides salvation to us.

1. All sinned.
2. Price/Death
3. Jesus paid
4. Accept by faith.

It's very simple, as simple as knowing the computer won't work without power.

But so many men and women say, "Not now. Maybe later."

"Let me get myself ready first." You can never make yourself ready for salvation. You can only accept it as a gift. Jesus asks us to come as we are.

Just as I am, without one plea,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Let's not be stupid today. Let's follow God's rulebook, the Bible, in the areas we have looked at today.

ARM                    5-00  
York Mission        5-00