

The Danger of Speeding

On this day in 1899, Jacob German became the first person ever arrested for speeding. Observers noted that the taxicab driver for the Electric Vehicle Company in New York was driving at the “breakneck” speed of 12 miles per hour. Officers held German in jail but did not take his license: The State of New York did not require a driver’s license or registration until two years later.

Speed has reached epidemic proportions in the United States. Some statistics demonstrate that speed is a factor in more than 30 percent of all fatal auto accidents, and on average, 1,000 Americans die each month in speed-related crashes. Polls indicate that drivers mistakenly believe that speeding is not as serious as other traffic violations and does not pose a serious threat to safety.

We don’t speed just on the highway; sometimes we get in a hurry on our spiritual journey as well. We may get impatient when nothing seems to be happening and try to speed things up and help God out.

A large part of the Christian life is waiting on God to act. We wait for Him to provide guidance in our lives, to fulfill His promises, and to right wrongs. We need help from the Holy Spirit to trust God to come through, rather than taking things into our own hands. After all, God has His own plan and His own timing.

But the danger in spiritual speeding is that we might rush right out of God’s will and into sin. If we don’t voluntarily slow down, He may have to “pull us over.”

Be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for Him to act (Psalm 37:7).

--Beecher Hunter