It is not unusual to take your car to the shop before taking a long journey. In fact, even if everything seems to be in good shape, it is wise to have the fluid levels checked, the oil checked, and the air pressure checked. Before you begin on this mission we would like to check your water, oil and air to make sure you are ready for the road ahead.

**WATER**

Before you take your car for a long road trip it is wise to check the water in the battery, the water in the radiator, and the windshield wiper solutions. Water in wet cell batteries acts as a conduit for electricity to pass, without it positive and negative charges cannot be passed. Water or coolant solution in your car radiator prevents your car from overheating. Wiper cleaning solution helps keep your windshield clean.

Before you proceed to fulfill the mission before you, the enemy will do all he can do to block the power flow between you and God. He will attempt to have you “run hot” and clog your faith valve. The enemy will put all manner of dust and debris on your windshield to prevent you from being able to see clearly. Thank goodness that in the spirit realm only one liquid is needed to solve all three of these challenges. That liquid is the water, the regenerating waters of baptism.

**For the believer water** signifies birth and life. From a faith perspective, it represents the cleansing and life-giving action of the Holy Spirit at Baptism. *(Matthew 3:11; John 3:5)* As "by one Spirit we were all baptized," so we are also "made to drink of one Spirit." *(1 Cor 12:13)* Thus the Spirit is also personally the living water welling up from Christ crucified *(Jn 19:34; 1 Jn 5:8)* as its source and welling up in us to eternal life. *(Jn 4:10-14; 7:38; Ex 17:1-6; Isa 55:1; Zech 14:8; 1 Cor 10:4; Rev 21:6; 22:17)*

The regenerating waters of baptism serve as an outward sign of an inward spiritual cleansing. It restores us into right relationship with God by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. The cooling waters cleanse us and circulate, keeping us cool from the heat of sin, death and hell. The cleansing waters of baptism also help us to see clearly, as the Word, water and Holy Spirit provides for us clarity of spiritual vision.

Pick up a marshmallow as a representation of your sin. Throw it on back on the table. Pretty easy, isn’t it? When we recognize our sin and let go of it early, it is much easier to let go off. Now pick your marshmallow (sin) again. This time work with it. Knead it between your fingers according to the number of years you have lived. Now throw it back onto the table. Not so easy this time. The longer you walk with sin the harder it is to let it go. However, when you confess your sin, God who is faithful and just, forgives you of your sin and cleanses you from all unrighteousness. Baptism cleanses us of our sin. Wash your hands in the bowl of water provided. Let it remind you of your baptism and the fact that, through Jesus, all of your sins have been washed away. Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Hallelujah!

Make sure you take the time to check your oil.