



March 14, 2010

A Flash Of Insight

A few weeks ago, as we were getting ready to settle in for the night, I heard my daughter yelling for me. “Papa, come quick, we have a little fire.” those are words that no one wants to hear at any time and coming from my little girl emphasized the need to act quickly. What I found was that a charging cord for an electronic device had flashed, burned and smoked when plugged into the wall outlet. Luckily there were no papers close enough to the device to catch the sparks that were thrown off as the unit fried. The room was filled with the aroma of toasted electronics. Once more there was the opportunity for a valuable lesson. The device was intended as a “quick charger” for a popular music player. It was not from the OEM (original equipment manufacturer) and so that raised questions right there. It’s application was also not seemingly in line with the manufacturer’s design as well. I disassembled the unit and saw that the construction internally was lacking. To very fine wires connected to the wall outlet, relayed power to a small circuit board that was not much bigger than two quarters sitting side by side. There were three small resistors and a rather large, for its size, capacitor. It is exactly at this point that the unit appears to have overheated and burned. The charger was intended to recharge the batteries in the music player in half the time of the actual charger that came with the player. The device had been purchased as part of a discount bundle and was less than a dollar in combination with the other items. It could have cost us a house. In the spiritual realm there are some who will buy the discount version of the quick charger. Impatience may lead some to take the word of others in spiritual things and never question what they are told. Paul told Timothy that he should study (**2 Tim 2.15**) and I believe that understanding God’s word is one of the ways in which we work out our own salvation with fear and trembling (**Phil 2.12**). Some will look for a church to meet their emotional, social and psychological needs but never consider the content of what is taught and may never understand there is a need to do that. The quick charger was not from the original manufacturer and did not perform to the specifications needed for the device. Solomon tells us to buy the truth and sell it not (**Prov 23.23**). That of course implies that we find out what the truth is. That goes back to the need to go back to the source, not a spiritual aftermarket. Christ warned that there would be many who would seek to deceive others (**Matt 24.24**) and Paul states that even Satan appears as an angel of light (**2 Cor 11.14**). The quick charger was not up to the task, hence the disastrous malfunction. In the same manner, deceptive doctrines will not be able to lead others to God (**2 Pet 2.1-3**). The unauthorized quick charger, with the promise of reduced wait time, and acceptable results, failed and burned up. John the baptizer stated that deceivers that do not bring forth good fruit will be gathered up and thrown into the fire as he prepared the way for the appearance of Christ (**Matt 3.10-12**). There are similar units on the market that have been approved by the manufacturer and are made by more reputable companies. The same is true in spiritual things as well. There are those, as indicated above, who teach what is not correct, but there are others who do teach the word. These are dedicated to the word of God and realize that we are charged to be good stewards of the word (**1 Cor 4.1-2**). This is done by speaking only what God wants taught (**1 Pet 4.11**) and abstaining from adding personal opinions and elements that God has not authorized. James warns those who will teach (**Jas 3.1**) and reinforces the idea of faithfulness and the need to maintain the integrity of the word. This charge is not taken lightly. Christians realize that God has entrusted this word to us as containers, or, as Paul states, earthen vessels (**2 Cor 4.7**) and as such have a solemn duty and privilege. Cutting corners isn’t new but in spiritual things, the flash of fire might be eternal

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