

God Is "4" Us

About 15 years ago I went through the hardest time of my entire life. Without going into the gory details, I was really hurting and my whole world was crumbling around me. Then, some strange things started happening. Every time I turned around, it seemed, the car in front of me would have a dealer car tag.—I'd be at a stop light and the car in front of me would have a dealers tag. I'd be nice and let someone pull in front of me and they'd have a dealers tag on their car. This happened time after time after time. I'm not superstitious, but I began asking God whether this was coincidence, or whether He was trying to tell me something.

As I prayed it seems as though God was telling me that whenever I saw a dealers tag it was to be a reminder that I am "dealing" with eternal issues. In other words, I was to maintain an eternal perspective on life; that the trials of this life are only temporary (II Corinthians 4:16-18).

Then another phenomenon happened. I started seeing the number 444 time after time after time. Some car would have the license plate 444. I'd wake up in the middle of the night and the digital clock would read 444. I'd glance at my digital wrist watch and it would read 444. Again I began praying, "Lord are you trying to tell me something?" As I prayed immediately Romans 8:31 came to mind which says, "...if God is for us, who can be against us?" Since there are three Persons within the Godhead (the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), and since they are each "4" me, 444 was to be a reminder of that truth.

On one of the very worst days of my life, I was on my way to see an attorney about a legal problem that was breaking my heart. It was a cold, drizzly, November day. I was trying to remain strong in my faith but I was fighting depression and discouragement—until a little white car passed me on the highway with the license plate "D-444!"

All of a sudden I felt God's peace come over me. I felt like He'd spoken to me, "Bart, keep an eternal perspective, and I want you to know that I'm for you." And He was. Against all odds things turned out OK. Years later I saw the attorney I had visited that day and he asked how things came out. When I told him he said, "Do you realize that only about one out of 100 people who go through what you did come out as well as you did?"—I thought, "Thank you Lord for being for (444) me."

If you are going through some trials, remember that they will not last forever (the trials of this earth are not eternal), and God is for you.