

Life: Beyond Cruise Control

By Shari Miller

I learned a new word the other day. My daughter was driving our car on an extended trip and entering onto the interstate. She sped up to the allowed 75 mile-per-hour speed limit, set the cruise control, and nestled into her seat prepared for the long trip. She breathed a deep, relaxing sigh and said, “Well, now I’m **velocitized!**”



That’s my new word: **velocitized**. She learned the word in her driver’s education class. I searched down her old class book to find the meaning of the word (since it wasn’t even in the dictionary). Here it is!

Hours of driving can fool you into thinking your vehicle is traveling slower than it really is. This condition, called velocitation, can be especially hazardous when you exit an expressway. If you are “velocitized,” you might continue to drive on local roadways at expressway speeds after making your exit.

My new word led me to ponder the questions: Do I get **velocitized** in my daily life and routines? Do I get going so fast that I don’t even know I’m going that fast and then fail to see the “road signs” that God has placed along the road for me to see?

My life has taken many twists and turns in the last couple of years. Our home has suddenly become an “empty-nest” home; our parents require more attention than

before; I find my life going in different directions than I even dreamed. Have I set my life on cruise control and focused so much on the “road” — become so **velocitized** — that I forget to slow down and really remember that God is right there with me, navigating me through life, and giving me His daily grace and mercy through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Savior and Lord?

Have you become **velocitized**, too? If so, listen to what God says in His Word:

*The LORD your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will **quiet** you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing (Zephaniah 3:17).*

Be still, and know that I am God... (Psalm 46:10).



I believe God is encouraging me to **de-velocitize** during the transitions of life so that I may appreciate His constant presence in my life. He encourages me to read the “road signs” of His abundant gifts (Galatians 5:22-23):

- ◆ **Love** and **faithfulness** are in My Word.
- ◆ My **joy** is all around you.
- ◆ Next exit: **peace!**
- ◆ **Patience** and **gentleness** at this location!
- ◆ For **kindness, goodness, and self-control** — exit to My house.

What is God encouraging you to do? Cruise control?... *Whose* control?



Listen to verses from Psalm 46 set to music! Go to www.lwml.org, find the Quarterly button and click on the link to Psalm 46. (© 2001 RMM Muñoz.)

...**btw**... btw is the acronym for “by the Way (Jesus).” It sets the tone for the current issue.