

WITHOUT

What are you without?

Imagine, even without, if you are reading this, you are still alive in spite of the lack.

As I write this, I am in my fourth day without electricity due to a hurricane. I am told it will be three or four more days before electricity is restored. Then, what about my cable, my internet?

Going without power for three days is, on one hand, a challenge and, on the other hand, an interesting experience.

I am writing on my laptop with the battery. If I go to my son's house, I have access to the internet. Otherwise, it's just the iPad that keeps me connected to the world of email.

The generator is noisy, but it keeps the food cool enough in the refrigerator and recharges my computer and telephone batteries. Flashlights work to get around the house. The laundry is done elsewhere as well as showers which I take at the local YMCA after my workout.

We think about going without. Our forefathers didn't have. They went without but they never knew what they were missing. They managed with what they had. When we go without, we learn the same lessons. We learn to improvise. We learn what we truly need and what we can do without.

Emailing less often is better. Not having a television is a good thing. Eating out, when we are not cooking on the gas grill, is fun. Sure, being without electricity is inconvenient. We're used to things at our fingertips to make life easier. But, we can live without. We can adjust and adjusting is good for us.

Going without is a teacher. There are lessons to be learned as well as new skills and new ways of doing things. Also, going without teaches us gratitude for what we have. When I get electricity back, I won't take it for granted.

Sure, I moan about no electricity and the inconvenience. But, I'm not without food, shelter, and water. I have the basics to live. There are others that don't have the basics, the things one cannot live long without. Perhaps I should not complain at all.

Now I wonder, should we take things, such as the internet for example, and shut them off for a period of time? Going without will open new doors, new ways of doing things, and new opportunities. Without might just mean with more.

What are you going without? Is it killing you, are you making due without, or have you found an alternative? In 99.9% of the situations there are alternatives. They may not be perfect; but they are workable alternatives.

When needed, we can be resourceful. We can do without that which we thought we couldn't live without. When we have to do it, we just do it.

What lessons in life have you learned by going without? Is there anything you should go without for a while to learn the lesson in going without? Go without, it's not as bad as you imagine.

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