

How Convenient Are Our Conveniences? Wednesday Word: June 08, 2016

Convenience definitions:

**The state of being able to proceed with something with little effort or difficulty*

**The quality of being useful, easy, or suitable for someone*

**A thing that contributes to an easy and effortless way of life*

Origin:

Late Middle English: from Latin convenientia, from convenient- 'assembling, agreeing', from the verb convenire (see convene)

[source:

http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/us/definition/american_english/convenience]

In today's world there are many things we consider conveniences to our way of life. These things in and of themselves are not necessarily a bad thing and they are certainly not evil. However, they can be used as distractions (as anything can). I have gathered some information for us to review so we can allow Holy Spirit to work with us on what has become a distraction to us. This is my personal list so something that Holy Spirit shows you may not be on this list such as money, people, intelligence/worldly knowledge, and others of the like.

- 1) **Electricity** (without this the rest of the list would not exist): Many names are associated with the discovery of electricity and its modern day use from Benjamin Franklin to Nikola Tesla; from 1752 and on. [source: <http://www.universetoday.com/82402/who-discovered-electricity/>]
- 2) **Telephone** (commonly attributed to Alexander Graham Bell in 1876 but many others contributed) [source: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invention_of_the_telephone]
- 3) **Radio** came into existence, the way my generation views it before television, in the 1920s and 1930s (hey-I was born in 1978 so give me some slack-hahahahaHahahaha). The actual discoveries that brought "the radio" started long before. The discoveries made to bring us the telegraph and the telephone are attributed to bringing us radio. [sources:
a) <http://www.knowitall.org/kidswork/etv/history/radio/>
b) https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invention_of_radio

4) **Television** (my personal favorite and something I truly struggle with but love so much because, again, I was born in 1978 and it truly was like my babysitter, my educator, my source of expanding my imagination and much more) I can only give you the information because to pin-point an exact date is a bit of a chore. [source: <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Television>]

5) **Mobile phones**: Can any of us truly remember what life was like before cell phones? I remember going to my home town annual Apple Blossom festival every year before cell phones. We always had to have a watch or some source to track time to meet up with whomever at a specific spot at a specific time. If someone didn't show up one person had to go and find them while everyone else stayed in that exact spot until everyone was accounted for. Now we don't have to do that. We just have to make sure that so-and-so has their phone, that their phone is on or not on silent, can hear their phone, and that their phone is charged. You all know exactly what I'm saying. [source: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mobile_phone]

6) **Internet**: Oh the joys and issues of the Internet. Who else remembers that annoying dial-up sound when first logging on to the World Wide Web? Along with the Internet we have "Wikipedia" (which is where almost all this information is coming from to you today), social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and all the others that are far beyond me), and the ever inclusive-can't live without it "Google" which is how I am finding all these "Wikipedia" sources. Good stuff indeed but also a source to collect all kinds of data about who you are (don't fear it because it's already done and the Lord is our defender and protector) [source: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Internet]

7) **Automobiles**: Some of you may find it strange that I list Automobiles last. If one has a cell phone, mobile tablet, telephone, television and/or radio they can easily find information and access to a transportation source. I dare to say that we can live without a car but currently cannot live without some source of communication or entertainment. [source: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_automobile]

"One by one and bit by bit, the distractions will fall to make more room for our gifts"-**Alicia R. Shipe**