

## Joe and Susan put God First

November 28, 2021

### NARRATION

Joe and Susan decided to put God first despite their fear and uncertainty about the future. What can we learn from their story today that will help us put God first in our own lives?

After a weekend campaign trip, Joe, an IT manager in Silver Spring, Maryland, saw something weird while parking his car at home. He noticed an oil trail going up the street, apparently coming from his Isuzu Trooper SUV.

Joe called his friend Eric asking for help. When his friend arrived, he found the oil had spewed from the oil filter's rubber gasket and warned that the engine had probably sustained significant damage. He estimated that repairs could cost more than US\$3000.

Joe was recently married to his wife, Susan. The couple had about \$3000 in the bank. Facing the prospect of having to use all their money for an unforeseen accident was not easy. Besides that, Joe was worried because the couple had fallen behind in returning their tithe, owing approximately \$1500 for the past three months.

They talked to each other, and Susan saw no room for discussion. She was convinced that returning tithe was their priority. They prayed, and together decided to put God first by returning the tithe rather than repairing the SUV.

After making this decision, Eric, Joe's friend, called him and advised him to reach out to the gas station that had changed his oil shortly before the camping trip. The gas station sent a mechanic to Joe's house, and to their surprise, after doing an inspection, the mechanic took responsibility for the damaged engine. The gas station's insurance paid them \$3000. Once he had finished the repairs, the mechanic sent them a bill of \$1500. They were amazed that the Lord had blessed them with the financial resources to repair the SUV and also returned their tithes.

The second miracle happened later when they decided to sell their SUV. Joe was approached by Wayne, the purchasing director at the Adventist Church Headquarters. Wayne said that a missionary was asking for an SUV Isuzu Trooper, the exact model of Joe's car.

"Are you willing to sell it?" said Wayne. He gave Joe a fair price and had the vehicle shipped to Africa. Seeing Joe's concerns, he promised to keep him posted on what happened to the SUV. The vehicle had 40,000 miles at the time of the sale. After about 18 months had gone by, Wayne shared with Joe that the SUV had done more than 100,000 miles.

### GRAPHICS AND CLIPS

Images related to the text and animation.

## NARRATION

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A few years later, Wayne informed Joe that the SUV had passed 300,000 miles. "It is the Lord who kept it going for this missionary!" Joe said. Now 61 years old, Joe said the experience taught him a crucial lesson about mission and the importance of returning tithe first.

## GRAPHICS AND CLIPS

Images related to the text and animation.

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Joe and Susan put God first. Their faith inspires us today. Jesus gave up everything to redeem us, and His love compels us to put His kingdom first in our own lives. As we return the tithe and our 'Promise' offering, we are challenged to put God first.

Text animation