the SOURCE: Plugged In

Ephesians 4:30 'Don't grieve God. Don't break His heart. His Holy Spirit, moving and breathing in you, is the most intimate part of your life, making you fit for Himself. Don't take such a gift for granted.'" (MSG)

Have you ever blown a breaker? Or had a cord yanked from an outlet? I have! One minute, cooking away, cleaning away, working away, and all at once, zap! Nothing! I jiggle the cord, jostle the switch on my equipment. Sometimes, even touching the cable in a certain spot causes it to roar to life.
Once I was so mystified when my stovetop suddenly went dead. I tried every knob, and then wandered to the garage where I found the breaker was indeed tripped (one of the terms used for blowing a breaker). I triggered it, hoping I would return to the kitchen and be able to light the stove with no issue. No go! I got the manual and read through it; I tried every *Troubleshooting* tip it provided. Still, no go. Eventually, I began attempting other big and small appliances along the same wall, even though I knew the stove needed its own dedicated source of power. I had hoped something might help me figure it out. And at once, after unplugging an aging appliance, I was able to light the stove. I then plugged that piece of equipment back in and the stove died immediately. Sure enough, every time I plugged the faulty unit in, the breaker blew, and upon unplugging it and toggling the breaker, my stovetop suddenly would again operate correctly. It was as if whatever was bad and failing in the one unit influenced everything around it.

I got to thinking about it, as I thought about the Holy Spirit's power in my life. When I am plugged in to Him, everything works properly. Heck, I even work properly! But when I unplug from the Holy Spirit (or become unplugged), nothing behaves suitably, even me. What a powerful force to remind my soul of. Unplug and perish; plug in and prosper! Because we all desire success, wellness, wholesomeness and ***worth***, right? It can be so easily achieved when we surrender our own control to the power of the Holy Spirit.

What, you say, does that look like? Well, learn to hear His voice—above all other voices, including your own. He will not yell at you, but He will correct you and rebuke you when you are plugged in to Him and when you know Him and He knows you. He requires however that you make Him a dedicated source of power for your life. He won't share His power with that of the world's, nor does He want us influenced by any other power than what He has to offer. He will give you a measure (which increases the longer you allow Him to speak) of discernment and instruction, wisdom and understanding. He will nudge you and He will prompt you. The world calls it instinct or your 'gut', but it truly is precept and urging and infallibility from the Holy Spirit. And once again, the very Spirit of God Himself is at work in you and in me when we allow His Spirit to come, when we invite Him and welcome Him.

Just like a breaker, we can trip—or grieve—the Holy Spirit. Our actions and choices can cause Him to grow silent. And He will not dwell in a filthy place. He simply ceases advocating on my behalf if I silence Him or if I turn up the volume on the influence of the world in my life. He won't come where He isn't wanted or invited. And He won't do a thing in my soul if I am not plugged in. Just like a cord, unplugged from an outlet, there will be no power, and therefore, no life. But, watch out! if you let Him, He will hover over you. He will renovate your entire world, breathing His very breath into your soul, causing life to spring up out of the empty dark void that once you inhabited, prompting everything brilliant and new inside of you.