

Depth Perception

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The Big Three: Remaining Focused on the Father, Son and Holy spirit

The American auto manufacturers, often referred to as

The Big Three, are **forecast** to have an unprecedented socio-economic impact on North America, and perhaps the world, over the coming months and year. Industry experts spent weeks lobbying either for or against a **financial bailout** of the auto industry.

People are projecting their emotions on *The Big Three* with a level of intensity that mirrors the emotional responses commonly expressed in religious communities. Responses across the emotional spectrum, ranging from hope and trust to fear and anger, are being levied upon the American auto industry. In some ways, the auto industry has assumed an omnipotent persona. This persona has not been sought solely through the industry's own pursuit. The recent financial bailout of the American auto manufacturers has heightened this persona and has polarized people's perspectives. Will the bailout provide the stimulus necessary to save? Will human intervention and our choices lead to even deeper despair? These rhetorical questions have theological overtones.

Our feverish dervish into the American auto industry and its broadening impact is an example of our insatiable desire to control life. Yet, God is in control ultimately. *The Big Three* transforming lives throughout the centuries is the Holy Trinity – not the manufacturers of cars! Our perspective is often short-sighted, rather than eternal. When we invest our time, talents, and prayers with increased intensity on the sustainability of corporations, rather than on the provision of God, we first need to bailout our own spiritual depravity. God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – is capable of leading us out of any despair and offers salvation and hope beyond compare. During these challenging financial times, we need to be in close communion with our Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer. An economic recession does not need to precipitate a recession of our faith.

So, what actions may we pursue that will strengthen our faith, even amid these current financial woes?

- Begin by recognizing that everything in life is a gift from God.
- Place our ultimate hope and trust in God.
- Pray unceasingly for our ability to follow God's direction.
- Recount our many blessings and be thankful.
- Be proactive in developing a Godhonoring personal/family budget.
- Support charitable causes with financial gifts. Giving helps to release us from the bondage of being controlled by money.
- Look for the abundance of God more than the scarcity of our diminished returns.
- Seek the spiritual support of the Church and other Christians.

Let's be bold!

Undoubtedly, today is a challenging economic period across the global community. Yet, we are called to be bold proclaimers of the Good News of the Gospel. If we earnestly pursue these actions, we most likely will achieve a different perspective, increase our decision-making ability, and grow in our faith.

- david s. bell



David S. Bell,

Senior Partner with *Design Group International*™, provides wise counsel in these wild financial times. His article in this issue of *Depth Perception*, is excerpted from his blog, where he regularly posts his well-educated perspective on stewardship, leadership, fundraising, offering prayers, and other helpful resources.

You can read more of his insightful blog entries at:

<http://perspectives.davidsbell.org/>

Design Group International™

is pleased to recommend David as its consultant for all things stewardship. We are happy to help your congregation or ministry organization schedule him for a stewardship consultation or as a plenary speaker for a donor event.

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