



LIFETIME GUARANTEE!

Four women, each with a broken appliance, are seated at a table.
Props needed: hair dryer, coffee pot, toaster, iron

Woman #1: Just look at this three-month old hair dryer! What do you see?

Woman #2: I see a nice looking hair dryer.

Woman #1: Nice? Hah! It might look nice, but it sure isn't. Why, last week I was hurrying to get ready for work and my hair was wet. There was a cold wind that morning and I wanted to dry my hair. So what happened? The air that came out of the hair dryer was cold enough to frost the tomato plants.

Woman #3: So what did you do?

Woman #1: I drove to work with a wet head and shivered all the way. And just when the car warmed me up, I had to get out and walk into the office! So the next morning, I tried to use this thing again (*holds up dryer*) and one minute it was warm and the next minute it was so hot it burned my scalp. And then, to make matters worse, my husband said, "See, I always told you that you were a hothead!" I'm going to send this back to the manufacturer because it's guaranteed for a year.

Woman #3: Well, I planned to offer all of you a cup of coffee, but my coffee pot isn't working very well. When I plug it in, I have to jiggle the plug and sometimes it works (*shrugs*) and sometimes it doesn't.

Woman #4: Sounds like a bad connection.

Woman #3: I guess so. Pastor Allen likes to get up extra early on Sunday morning and go over his sermon one last time. Last Sunday he wanted to make a pot of coffee, but the coffee pot didn't even get warm. So when I got there and he told me about it, I told him to jiggle the plug. He did – and sparks flew and he got a real electrical jolt. After church that morning Mrs. Jones said, "My, the pastor really preached an electrifying sermon this morning!"

Woman #1: Has the guarantee run out yet?

Woman #3: No, it's still good, so I think I'll send the coffee pot straight back to the manufacturer.

Woman #4: I think appliances today just don't last like they used to. I had a toaster for ten years and it finally wore out. So I bought this new one and guess what? When it was just a few months old it started to burn the toast.

- Woman #1:** Maybe the setting was for dark toast.
- Woman #4:** No, it was set to medium, so I turned it to light and for a while it was all right. Then it began toasting just a little bit, so I turned the setting to dark. Now it burns the bread around the edges and the center isn't toasted at all.
- Woman #2:** Sort of half-baked, isn't it?
- Woman #4:** Are you saying I'm half—oh, you mean the toaster? (*chuckles*)
- Woman #2:** Seems like we are all having appliance problems. My steam iron has really been giving me trouble. My daughter used hard water in it and the steam holes plugged up. Someone told me to clean it out with vinegar.
- Woman #1:** That's supposed to dissolve the hard water buildup, isn't it?
- Woman #2:** Yes, and it did. But now I have another problem.
- Woman #1:** What's that?
- Woman #2:** Now I can't get rid of the vinegar smell. I ironed my husband's white shirts and the steam really rolled out. He wore one of the shirts to church and Mrs. Smith sniffed at him and asked if he was pickled! I can't say the iron isn't working, so I guess I'm stuck with it. But it did start me thinking about guarantees. When an appliance doesn't work, we send it back to the manufacturer. After all, they made it, so they should know how to fix it.
- Woman #3:** You know, this reminds me of something. Jesus said, *In the world, you will have trouble. But be of good courage, I have overcome the world.* (John 16:33) All this stuff is just reminders that life in a fallen world has no guarantees, not really. But life with Christ is assured in our Baptism.
- Woman #4:** You are so right! Isn't it a great source of peace to know that Jesus is with His people no matter how mundane and common troubles may be?
- Woman #1:** It sure is! And He strengthens us through His Word and blessed Holy Supper so that we can endure all these little frustrations and especially the bigger ones. Now **that's** a lifetime guarantee!

All three recite together: Jesus said...*I am with you always, even to the very end of the age.*
(Matthew 28:20b)

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