

After Accident

Dear friends in the Lord Jesus Christ:

I want to thank Antioch for the flowers, visits and, most especially, the prayers. Many medical people have (directly or indirectly) said that I had a “miracle”. Many people have died from less of a crash and most people would have had brain damage. (According to Bobby, that was never a possibility in my case because you have to have a brain before it can get damaged ☺.) Satan really hates it when you respond to his humanistic medical people that you received the miracle because you have a personal relationship with God as His child. It’s really hard for them to deny that God exists and that God changes things in this world when you use their own words to witness to them.

For those who haven’t heard the details, I was traveling East on I696 when the rear wheel of my bike locked up unexpectedly. When the bike was later picked up the clutch and other things worked OK so I have no idea why it locked up and really don’t care why. God allowed it. The bike has been torn apart and is being sold as parts.

When it locked up, I was between groups of cars with lots of free pavement around me. I think I was going 70-75 or whatever was the average speed of I-696. I put the bike into a slide then it flipped and slammed me right into the pavement. Word of advice: don’t pick a fight with the freeway ☺.

When I stopped rolling, all of the traffic had also stopped and I was able to crawl to the side of the freeway. Someone called an ambulance and got my bike out of the way and traffic continued. People kept asking me “Are you OK?” and didn’t seem to believe my answer of “No!!”. I broke 3 ribs, broke a chip off the T-2 bone in my spine, separated my shoulder and received lots of road rash and bruises. I was in the trauma ward for 5 days and in Rehab for 8. I am now at home recovering and still on pain meds. I have been told that the ribs take 6-8 weeks to heal. Well before then I expect to be off the pain meds and functioning as close to normal as possible, but I have no idea how long that will take.

This is the 4th time that I have put a bike down at high speeds (>60 MPH). The first three times, my system speeded up so that it seemed like time slowed down and I could consciously decide the best time to leave the bike, tuck into a ball and roll away. That didn’t happen this time. It’s not that things happened faster but that my system didn’t speed up. I rolled, but couldn’t time when to leave the bike and didn’t tuck into a ball before rolling and didn’t just walk away. I’m not scared to get back on a bike but when God causes that kind of a change in you and slaps you upside the head with a freeway doing 70, only a fool will return to prior behavior without first praying about it.

Some people wonder why God would allow something like this to happen to His children. Can you think of a better way to set-up an unbeliever so that they have to face a truth that they are actively denying? After what Our Lord went through, what’s a little pain on our part if it serves to plant God’s Word in someone’s heart? Understand. When I say “a little pain”, I woke up one night with every nerve on fire. I felt every hair on my body (including the few on the top of my head where everyone thinks there are none). A bald man doesn’t loose any hair. It just migrates to other parts of his body. In addition, I

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was so confused that I didn't remember where I was or why (this is a known side effect of the pain meds I was given). The confusion made the pain much worse. It took me awhile to remember that I was in the hospital because of an accident, but the room looked completely different and the pain was about 10 times more than any time before that. It took some time after that for me to get help and a pain shot. When I prayed about it and asked "Why?", God let me know that what I felt was only a hint of what people will feel for eternity. So an hour, compared to eternity, is "a little pain". An hour, compared to 3 days and 3 nights (Matthew 12:40), is "a little pain". If I remember it and use it to motivate me to obey God's personal order to each and every one of us ("go ye" [Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15]), I will reap greater rewards in Heaven for eternity (1 Corinthians 2:9). Compared to eternal rewards, what's "a little pain" here and now?

I am completely convinced that the prayers of God's people, as soon as they heard, minimized the trauma that I experienced. In addition, all of the medical people kept telling me that I had "an amazing rate of recovery", which I attribute (to a large part) to the ongoing prayers of God's people. Thank you for praying. With the possible exception of some cognitive consequences at the level of multi-tasking multiple complex logical tasks, I am expected to completely recover without any additional therapy. I just need time and continuing what I am doing to recover. All of this is due to the Lord blessing in many ways.

The Lord uses many people, including lost people, to tell us how to avoid consequences of our actions in this world. Some people think avoiding all risks works, but we are promised problems in this life. There are many reasons for that, but hiding from risk only end up with people not enjoying life. Since we can't avoid risk, the best thing to do is to minimize possible consequences of when things go wrong. I'm, not saying that it's OK for everyone to ride motorcycles, but no matter what we do we should seek the wisdom of experienced people to avoid the worst possible consequences. So, even when I lived in a "no helmet" state, I ALWAYS wore a helmet, jacket, gloves, boots, long pants, etc (even when crossing a desert at 115 degrees). I have a chip broken off the "wing" of one of my vertebrae. However, I'm sure that it would have been worse without the spine armor in the jacket that I wore. I have a separated shoulder. What would it have been without shoulder armor in the jacket? My boots were made from stingrays (about 10 times as tough as bull leather). They were destroyed instead of my feet. But mainly, my helmet had at least 12 hits. That surely would have cracked my empty skull (thanks Bobby ☺). I'm saying that the first way that the Lord protects His people is to have wise men give advise on avoiding consequences in this life. The primary source of God's wisdom that we have is our pastor. I don't claim to always listen, but I try to avoid being a complete fool and God honors that type of heart.

God also honors those who give glory to His name so that men can know that there is a vast difference between having a personal relationship with God and having religion. You can believe what you want (our true beliefs are shown by our actions [James 2:14-26]) but I KNOW in my heart of hearts that God loves a big mouth witness and gives miracles to such people that are denied to the merely religious. You have heard me say many times that God inhabits the praises of His people. I am convinced that when circumstances go bad, that's the time to increase praise and not complain like lost or carnal saved people do. One lady who transported me twice remembered me because of

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my “positive attitude” when I was in so much pain that I didn’t remember her. That’s “Christ in” us doing what we can’t when we can’t. He opened the door to her heart so that she would accept a tract later. As pastor says, people listen to our actions more than they listen to words. However, I didn’t do this on my own power or just start doing this. God has been slowly preparing me for this time through years of a personal relationship that includes prayer and personal study of God’s Word. In addition to that, I decided to deliberately remember how God blessed me so that I would always have a praise when pastor asks for praises. When we are in so much pain that our brain isn’t working right, we act like we have trained our subconscious brain to work. When I regularly draw close to God so that Christ can work through me, He will still do that when my brain isn’t working right. I couldn’t have a “positive attitude” in those circumstances, but Christ could and He could show it through me.

There’s a truth that God showed me awhile ago. People show you a glass that is ½ full of water and ask if it is ½ full or ½ empty. The truth is that it is completely full: ½ is water and the other ½ is air. In this illustration, the water represents this physical world and the air represents the spiritual world. The world tells us that we have a positive or a negative view depending upon how we see the water. Pastor has taught us to look for the spiritual in all of life’s events. The “positive attitude” that that lady saw was really a spiritual attitude based upon God making Romans 8:28 real in my heart. If God hadn’t made it real to me personally then I couldn’t have acted like I did.

I hope I’m not coming across as preaching. I just want people to know how I received my miracle and encourage them to try to do the same things because each of us will need personal miracles more than once in this life.

God bless each and every one of you. Thanks for your prayers and encouragement.

Love in the Lord Jesus Christ.

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