

# **“A Bad Spin”**

## **Surviving the Setbacks and Storms Of Life**

**Intro-** for anyone who has ever played the board game “LIFE” you know all too well what it means to have a “bad spin”.

- This might mean that a tornado strikes your house and you have to pay out \$125,000 because you failed to have insurance.
- Maybe it means that you have a car accident and have to pay \$5,000
- Burglar strikes pay \$10,000
- Send kids off to college, pay their tuition
- Or in the modern versions of the game (player so and so) sues you for \$100,000!

All of these things would be considered a “bad spin.” Those are the spins that you wish you never spun.

In our lives today, we all have “bad spins.” Some of them we see coming a mile away, some of them blind side us and leave us feeling empty and weak... so the question for us today is how do I survive?

### **Body-**

#### **1. Accept the reality.**

- a. What we mean by “accept the reality” is that we need to accept the fact, that setbacks, storms WILL come in our life, regardless of our best efforts.

For those of you that have played the game LIFE you know there are different strategies, you can “play it safe” or you can gamble and take risks. Most of the time as I was growing up, I was a risk taker, I wouldn’t go to college, I wouldn’t buy insurance, I wouldn’t do all of the “safe” things, hoping that in the end I would be lucky.. guess what? I was never that lucky.

- b. We must accept the fact, that bad times will come.
  - i. We KNOW this because of some passages found in scripture.
  - ii. James 1:2- Count it all joy, my brothers, **when you meet** trials of various kinds,
  - iii. John 15:18- "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.
  - iv. 1 John 3:13- **Do not be surprised**, brothers, that the world hates you.
  - v. Revelation 2:10- “Do not fear what **you are about to suffer..**”
- c. In each one of these passages Christians are warned. Warned that bad times WILL come!
  - i. Just like in the game, setbacks in life come from a variety of sources.
    - 1. They can come from other people.
    - 2. They can come from our own mistakes.
    - 3. They can come just out of pure chance.

## **2. Prepare for the storm.**

- a. Unfortunately, regardless of how much we may try, hope, and pray, bad times will come to our life. The thing that we are left to do is prepare for it.
- b. How can we prepare for the storms of life?

### 1. Make sure we have the right foundation.

- a. 1 Corinthians 3:11- For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
- b. I want you to let those words really sink in.. there can NOT be another foundation other than Jesus!
- c. We all know the story of the wise man building his house on the rock. When the rains came, and the wind blew... his house would have went splat had it not been founded on the rock (Jesus)
- d. Far too often, we pay lip service to founding our lives on Jesus, but what are we really founding our life on?
  - 1. How often do you go to the Father in prayer?
  - 2. How often do you open His Word and let it penetrate your heart?
  - 3. How often do you skip other events so that you can fellowship with God's people?
- e. What is your life REALLY founded on?

## **3. Lean on Jesus, not your money.**

- a. We can learn a lot from the game of LIFE. However there is one message that is taught by this game that I hate.

And I hate it because, I see it in the lives of so many today.. “Money is all that matters”

- b. As we are playing the game, we spin for high numbers, we go to college to afford better jobs, we use a “share the wealth” card when we feel entitled to someone else’s stuff, we sue each other, just to get a few more dollars. (glad we don’t have this mentality in our world today...) and at the end of the game... who wins? The person with the most money!
- c. Too many think that life is a game. And we are trying to win, have nicer houses, jobs, cars, bank accounts than anyone else, and if we retire with the most money, we are the winner! We could not be more wrong.
- d. While the world cries out “He with the most toys wins..”
  - i. Jesus cries out.. sell your possessions! Deny yourself! (Mark 10:21,Luke 9:23)

I was reading an article recently about “surviving storms” and this particular article was about how to survive a storm while you are at sea. In this article I found something very interesting, they offered some useful advice such as, “try not to get caught in the storm in the first place” duh! But it did get better, they gave all different kinds of scenarios but the one that stood out to me was dealing with a ship that loses its power during a storm. “if your power goes out during the storm, immediately cast your anchor. Rely on it to hold you firm regardless of the waves that are pounding, in fact many times ships that capsize do so because the captain of the ship refuses to rely on an anchor rather than himself.”

- e. Let me ask you, how often are we guilty of not relying on our anchor?
- f. We put too much faith in our money, knowledge, ability, and experience, and far too little in the founder of the world!

g. Hebrews 6:19-20- “We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf..”

**Conclusion-** We enjoy playing games.. we enjoy playing games such as “LIFE” but I want to beg you to not live your life, the same way you play the game!

You will have setbacks and storms in your life, there is no way around it. But, you have a choice to make, you can either prepare for it, or pretend it is not going to happen. What is your choice?