

Forward

While this is not my first book, I hope it's a valuable part of my life's work. Don't get me wrong, though I am an extrovert that actively seeks new adventures to conquer, I tend to spend more time than I'd like to share analyzing/reflecting on life.

As you will soon see, I have had a very innnteeeressting life.

In my 30+/- years, so far I've had at least 8 dramatic near-death experiences (that I know about) yet I'm still here! I have also been blessed to be used to save two people's lives. While it would be heroic to say I used muscle or wisdom to do it, the facts are that a "cat" and confiscating a bottle of bleach helped me save them. Weird right?

For example, those around me sometimes tend to accuse me of being accident-prone, given my substantial brace/ bandage/ crutch count. I, however, disagree considering the ratio of dangers and situations the Lord saved me from compared to the periodic "consolation" nicks & scratches that occur. I'm learning to see that crutches are not so bad when considered a tool of grace.

A few disclaimers for events that you will read, I've already talked to God about them and therefore, take them as accounts not justifications. His grace is definitely amazing but also not governed by presumption. What you should know is that there are three ideas that are fundamental to my upbringing:

- 1) Do not be limited by the word "can't"
- 2) Being open to adventure is a valuable avenue of learning - not to be replaced by only reading books.
- 3) Prayer changes things, so defer to that when tempted to over-estimate your abilities (*What a blessing to have a mom who is a prayer warrior*).

By Eryn, Y.

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Living a life marked with randomized irony co-mingled with divine blessing, whether I deserved or understood them or not just seems to be what has kept me sane and is my story. For example, despite surviving my 1st Whitewater rafting expedition with only three of a six person minimum, add in a few car accidents one that was headed for sudden death having rolled three times on a busy freeway, being so scared a rabid dog would kill me as a kid that I leaped completely over a 7 ft long car (a 1970-something Nova), interestingly, the 1st time I ever broke a bone was when I fractured my toe by bumping it into the curb while running into the house. Before you point fingers grace works both ways, thankfully. Like the largest scholarship I received in school was one I never applied for... I'll let you be the judge (Just don't forget about the whole "judge" not lest ye be "judged" thing....)

Special Delivery is a sometimes funny, hopeful, thought-provoking, usually ironic journey of a devotional with real-life experiences and key points from sermons that have got me through.

I've even included the testimony of a few loved ones from my "how I got over" village, who have overcome trying circumstances as well.

My hope is that I can help you see that the kind of God who loves me through ALL kinds of stuff will also guide you through whatever mixed bag you are carrying. What I'm coming to learn 30-something years later is that the journey to Him is just as important as the destination, and through it all He has a spot with your name on it!

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