

WHEN LIFE FEELS OUT OF CONTROL

The man was ***angrily yelling at me*** while threatening me with a metal thermos. I don't know about you, but I have never had anything like that happen to me in my entire life. And no, we were not talking about politics!

As they say on TV, 10 minutes earlier . . . I had finished grocery shopping and was driving to exit onto the main road. There was a man about 40 years old who was walking his bike down the middle of the road. He did not walk on the side so I could go around him and kept looking back like he knew he was making me wait for him. I tried to be patient but since there were no cars coming down the other lane, I decided I would simply drive around him. As soon as I did, he ran his bike over in front of me and began his tirade.

I tried to calmly talk to him and share my Christian faith with him, but he seemed oblivious to reality. Later, I realized he was probably ***paranoid schizophrenic*** and not in touch with reality. I always figured I could talk myself out of a threatening situation, but in this instance I realized using my eloquent, persuasive, gentle words was not going to be helpful. So I ran him over . . . just kidding. I patiently waited for him to end his tirade and he finally left, allowing a huge line of cars to finally pass by.

I had one other major time when I thought I would be able to “save” myself from a life-threatening situation. But in that instance it also turned out that I literally had no control over the situation. That was the time the paramedics gave me ***48 hours to live*** after my near life-ending car accident, which I have shared about in a previous article (see the Articles link at Larrybubb.com for WRECKED INTO A BEAUTIFUL LETDOWN). I thought I could have handled any situation like that with my quick reflexes and athletic physical ability to protect myself.

God's sovereignty does not mean that God determines everything; it means that God can do anything. – Pastor Ryan Paulson, Emmanuel Faith Community Church

I have never publicly shared this part of the story. You see, I am the Grand Master Champion of ***Whac-A-Mole!*** God blessed me with extremely quick reflexes and, on top of that, I have never drunk any type of alcohol my entire life, which means I have more brain cells than many other people. I also grew up driving many years on narrow, curvy back roads in all types of weather in KY. Those factors, combined with my talents in various sports throughout my life, led me to mistakenly believe that if I was in some sort of close-call, I would be able to navigate my way out of it.

After I had recovered, I surveyed the scene of the accident and realized I could not have done anything differently than what I did as I ran into a tree at about 55 MPH. The man in the vehicle ahead of me was trying to make a U-turn in the middle of a 2-lane highway just as I was beginning to attempt to pass him. He was blocking both lanes. There were rock-layered cliffs to my right so that was not an option. I could have smashed into his car, ***probably killing his 2 kids*** in the backseat and possibly him and his wife. Or

. . . my only other option was to jerk the wheel to the left and ***smash into the tree at 55 mph***. When I later discovered this, I realized no amount of skilled driving on my part could have prevented it.

I realized I am alive today because of nothing but the grace of God. It seems to me, as life often feels more and more out of control, we, on the other hand, seem to think we are more and more self-sufficient. In this modern technological age, we think we should be in control. Programming satellites should be at our fingertips using our **smart phones!** And then we are programmed to get upset when things don't go as we think they should. Perhaps Covid was a reminder that there are times when life is out of control for us . . . and we need to fall on our knees before the sovereign God of the universe realizing our ultimate hope and trust needs to be in Him . . . and not ourselves or our circumstances.

So the challenge is to constantly remind ourselves we need to be more dependent on God, trusting Him in ALL things, and less reliant on our own skills and thinking . . . and smart phones. I now remember that I used to always **know what you were thinking** . . . like how you are now thinking of Proverbs 3:5-6, which reminds us to trust in the Lord with all our hearts and not lean on our own understanding . . . and then He will direct our paths. So I do humbly thank God for keeping me alive and for taking control during those situations that are totally out of our control.