

**BOTTOM LINE WITH GOD’S WORD  
FOR MEN #20**

**Theme: When It Rains it Pours! Faith is our umbrella!**

**Scripture: Psalm 27:1 (KJV)**

*“The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid.”*

**A Thought: I’m sipping a cup of decaf at a neighborhood Starbucks. Forty sets of eyes are fixated on their respective computers while their fingers are dancing on the consoles with rapid-fire intensity. The morning is gray as the coastal marine layer hovers over the South Bay. August gloom to be sure. Without God my spirit would be similar as today’s weather. I mentioned in a previous BL my missionary son and his family spent a few days with the grandparents and the extended family. Good cheer, fine food, fun activities, great conversation was had by all. In one word - joyous! Two days before the final get-together with plans for our traditional rib barbecue tragedy whacks the family. Our son-in-law very nearly chopped his finger off due to a power-saw mishap, and my daughter while assisting her seriously ill-son slipped on his “vomit” and broke her arm in two places. I am writing this piece while both patients are in operating rooms in two different hospitals. The finest Kansas City ribs cannot match the calmness and comfort we receive when we turned to the Lord. As devout Christians we should never question His faithfulness, His healing power, and His wisdom...sadly, we do. He listens to us more than we listen to Him You can count on it. Intellectually we know this to be true. Yet, as humans our minds and our spirit battle the truth. We frequently lose sight of who is in charge and it is difficult to muster our faith during these tense chaotic moments of despair. Yes, the Lord is in charge! Something special unfolded during this time...the tragic experience bonded the family together. Prayer, love, and hope took front stage...and the common thread is our faith in God.**

**Now...what are your thoughts? Write them down.**

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**Talk to yourself:**

- **What would be your state of mind if you experienced the above? Would it be a “why me”?**
- **How important is prayer in a similar circumstance?**
- **Do such incidents bring you closer to God? Only incidents?**
- **Things unseen....the preamble to Faith. Do you agree?**

**Scriptures to read:**

- **Psalm 91:14-15; Isaiah 41:10; Proverbs 17:17; Psalm 55:22; Psalm 27:1;**
- **James 1:1-27; Ephesians 6:13; Job 23:10; Jeremiah 30:17; Luke 4:40**

**Quote: Louis L'Amour, Author**

*“A man shares his days with hunger, thirst, and cold, with the good times and the bad, and the first part of being a man is to understand that.”*

**Bottom Line:**

**The vacation sojourn with my children included great conversations; laughter; beach outings; restaurant and family dinners; miniature golf; Kart races and many other activities. All was well at the family household. To be truthful I don't believe God was in the forefront of our thoughts. Oh, we said grace at our meals and that was the extent of it. When times are good we sometimes forget the King of Kings. When troubles and suffering occur...lo and behold, God takes center stage. This adversity brought our family closer together. Proverbs 17:17 (NIV) *“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”* Faith should not be negotiable and I know that God speaks to us in many ways. Psalm 85:8 (a) (NIV) *“I will listen to what God the Lord will say; he promises peace to his people, his saints...”***

**NOW.....THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE.**

**Spiritual Dabbler,**

**Your bro, Ray**