

Accidental Grace?

What a way to ring in the New Year! Cold blustery winds sent snow swirling around trees outside my hospital window. From my hospital bed, I looked up at my family and asked, "What happened?" One side of my face was swollen and covered in bandages. I had no recollection of how it occurred. **It was explained to me that I had fallen from a ladder, landed face first on a large boulder and had been rushed in to the emergency in time to save my life.** It seemed unfair. I was a successful contractor and had been checking on a building under construction over the holidays when my ladder slid out from under me on some ice and I had, in the blink of an eye, landed on the verge of death. Fortunately there was a worker on the far side of the building who had heard the crash and he immediately called the air ambulance.

The accident caused some damage to my optical nerve resulting in a loss of some sight in one eye. **My life would be changed forever.** Not because of my eyesight which I quickly adapted to. Rather it was my gradual realization of the closeness that I had come to death and my gratitude to God for giving me a second chance. I had first learned of God's plan of salvation as a young boy. It was a truth that I accepted and that gave me peace through the death of my mother from cancer.

Entering my teen years, I put the gospel aside and led a self seeking life which continued into adulthood as I concentrated on making my general contracting company profitable and building a legacy to myself.

Like the prodigal son in the Bible, I had spent my time and money foolishly and finally came to my senses after realizing that the peace that I had had in Christ as a child had given my life purpose and had given me peace through all of life's problems. I recommitted my life to Christ and determined to focus on the "bigger picture" enrolled in the LEAD class, a ministry preparation course in order to be equipped for serving according to God's will for my life.

How about you? Have you ever thought that you would like to have meaning and purpose in your life?

Credit – Norm Olson