Introduction: A week ago, very few people knew the name Damar Hamlin. A young man who played football at the University of Pittsburgh, drafted in the sixth round by the Buffalo Bills, he was living his dream of playing in the NFL. At the age of 24 he was starting for one of the best teams in the league playing in one of the most important games of the season. That changed with a play which ended with 5:58 left in the 1st quarter. Apass was completed by the Bengals to a wide receiver (Tee Higgins) in which Damar tackled him. Nothing extradentary about the play, but after getting up, he immediately collapsed. Players immediately responded as did the referees, and medical personal on hand. He had stopped breathing, CPR was given, he was taken by ambulance to a local hospital and is listed in critical but stable condition. The game was suspended and later canceled. In many ways the events in the stadium, with the announcers, and many outside of the sports world points us to the Bible.

**I) The Fragile Nature of Life**

**A) Damar was an elite athlete.**

1. At 6 feet tall, weighing 200 LBS. he possessed great speed, enough to cover a likewise gifted athlete.

2. One hit in his chest at the wrong time in the wrong place stopped his heart.

**B) One hit stopped his heart, afterward:**

1. Will he live?

2. Will he recover to play again?

3. Life is brief and fragile

**13 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; 14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. 15 Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” 16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.**

**17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin. James 4:13-17**

4. Our challenge is to live understanding our fragile nature without be paralyzed by that face.

**II) Priorities and Perspective**

**A) Before the play**

1. Game of the season, game to determine the seeding for the playoffs.

2.Phrased often used at these times “ready to go to war”, “fight to the death”.

3. The crowd was there to cheer on their team.

**B) Afterward**

1. Life is more than football.

2. The term “first world problems” applies to a lot of our concerns- where do I eat, what to put on.

3. Our priorities can be missed placed.

**25 “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? Matthew 6:25-27**

4. We can be the “foolish farmer” Luke 12.15.

**16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. 17 And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ 18 So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.” ’ 20 But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’**

**21 “So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” Luke 12:16-21**

5. The crowd was silent and left. Why? Their perspective changed.

**III) Personal Reliance**

**A) Before this play**

1. The field was covered with alpha males.

2. Strong men who are willing to play one of the most violent sports. A game where injury is expected.

**B) Afterward**

1. Grown men crying, huddled together, broken down.

2. No body blamed them or ridiculed them.

3. Our strength is in the Lord.

**10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:10**

**IV) Prayer**

**A) Before the hit**

1. Some sporting events begin with prayer; individuals are often seen praying.

2. Tim Tebow received a lot of criticism for kneeing in prayer after touchdowns.

3. Some have ridiculed the phrase “thoughts and prayers” .

**B) Afterward**

1, Both teams seen in prayer.

2. ESPN announcer stopped and “lead” his audience in prayer.

3. We are reminded to “pray without ceasing” 1 Thess. 5.17

4. Unfortunately we can view prayer as an emergency only activity. Pray when a love one is near death, pray when we are facing troubled waters, pray when we don’t know what to do, etc.

**36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”
Luke 21:36**

5. Remember to pray when our love ones are doing well, when the waters are quite, when we are thankful.

**V) How People Respond**

**A) Before**

1. Rivals, enemies, not help each other up.

2.Much like society as it views those who are different as enemies. See this in the first century with Jews and Gentiles.

3. Some sent threats to Tee Higgins

**B) Afterward**

1. People were helping each other, showed up at the hospital to comfort each other.

2. Damar Hamlin fund for disadvantaged youth, before had raised $2,500 but afterward over $7 million.

3. We cannot control out trials but we can control how we respond to those trials.

**My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. James 1:2-6**

Conclusion: The Bible gives us real life answers to real life problems. Be ready for life is fragile, seek first the kingdom of heaven let your strength be in Christ, pray and pray some more, let your trials be for your good, **But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Matthew 6:33**