Four Lessons From A Fall

Introduction:

On September 6, 2021 Hope, Regena, and I decided to go to Bernheim Forrest to see some giants. After our walk we had lunch, on the way to the car Regena fell. The results were a fractured left foot, and a shattered right shoulder, resulting in surgery. Our lives have not been the same since that day. This got me to thinking about some spiritual application to falling physically with falling spiritually.

I) Falls Are Unexpected

- A) Regena's fall was unexpected
 - 1. We already had plans for the rest of the day.
 - 2. We had plans for a vacation in another week, and none of our plans included going to the hospital.
- B) Spiritually falling, tends to be unexpected.
 - 1 Corinthians 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. 13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.
 - 1. Did David start out the day thinking about committing adultery, deceiving others, and murder?
 - 2 Samuel 11:2 Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold.
 - 2. The list of Christians who have done similar things is long.
 - a. Man starts studying with a woman at work, they have lunch together, start flirting, eventually commit adultery.

b. A young Christian starts running with the wrong crowd and eventually commits a crime.

11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. Hebrews 4:11

3. The warnings of the Bible such as "take heed", "be alert", etc. are all given for a reason.

James 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

II) Time Stands Still When You Are in Pain

- A) Regena was in pain and had to wait about an hour for EMS to arrive.
 - 1. We were all watching our watches for them to show up.
 - 2. After my foot surgery, recovery took a number of months, they were long months.
 - 3. Have you ever been some where you don't want to be time stands still.
- B) The Bible speaks of hell as a place of eternal torment.

Mark 9:44 "where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.' 45 "And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched-- 46 "where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.' 47 "And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire-- 48 "where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.'

Matthew 25:46 "And these will go away into <u>everlasting</u> punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

- 1. In hell there will be no clocks, timeouts, or vacations.
- 2. Just as heaven is eternal so is hell for eternity. We are not used to intense pain.

III) When in Pain We Want Relief

- A) Regena wanted something to stop the pain.
 - 1. During the examination, x-rays, there was intense pain.
 - 2. We tend to not want to think about pain, and take our modern pain relief for granted.
 - 3. In earlier times there was very little pain relief, grim and bear it.
- B) The rich man in Luke 16 wanted pain relief.

Luke 16:22 "So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 "And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'

- 1. The rich man was not comforted by seeing someone in Abraham's bosom, he was not comforted by the thought of seeing his brothers later on.
 - Luke 16:27 "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, 28 'for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' 29 "Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.'
- 2. The relief he sought was temporary and unavailable.

Luke 16:25 "But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. 26 'And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'

IV) Spiritually - Mankind Needed and Received help.

- A) There was an abundance of help offered.
 - Medical professions- doctor, nurses, APRN and her husband helped until EMS arrived.
 - 2. Physically water, umbrella for shade, people at the hospital, nurses.
 - 3. Emotional aide words of support and comfort, nurse who spent time explaining the process.

B) Spiritually help has been given

Romans 5:6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

1. Spiritually man was unable to deal with sin, God offered us a Savior.

Ephesians 4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes

growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

- 2. The preaching of the Gospel, the church, Bible Classes, teachers, elders, etc. all for our benefit.
- 3. Christians are to help each other.

Galatians 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Conclusion:

Falls are hard and to be avoided if possible but they occur. When one falls occurs and you are injured you realize what it means to be helpless. Fortunately, we have help from our heavenly Father.