

Transforming Daily
“... *be ready* ...”
2 Timothy 4:2

As seasons come, we prepare ourselves accordingly. It makes good sense. We pull out heavy clothes for the winter, light clothes for the summer, yard equipment in the spring and harvest equipment for the fall. It's not only good sense; it's good stewardship. But what about unexpected events that occur when you least expect them, and those events that don't come when you do expect them?

Insurance policies exist for that very reason. No one knows when they are going to die. No one knows when a catastrophic event is going to occur. No one knows when a car is going to pull out in front of them, stop short, run a stop sign or red light. For this reason it is important to either be independently wealthy or (for the rest of us) sufficiently insured.

Our daughter was born three months early (humanly speaking), and that was quite unexpected. Our whole life was turned upside down. My wife remained in the hospital longer than usual (toxemia and emergency wound recovery). Our daughter remained in the hospital (ICU) for two and a half months (got out a month early because she did so well, otherwise she would have been in until her due date, December 12). We had to gown-up and scrub from head to toe just to go in and rub her back for a few minutes each day for the first few weeks. Only after a few weeks were we able to hold her (she weighed 2 lbs, 14" long). She was fed by a food tube from birth, then a bottle with 10ccs of formula that took her over an hour to drink (because she would stop breathing every two minutes). My wife and I had to have special training in infant health care (CPR, heart monitor, dispensing some serious heart medication, etc.).

In the mean time, our insurance company told us that our policy might not cover her medical expenses (which ended up being in excess of \$75,000 dollars in 1982). I'm afraid that my first response was not to pray about it. Instead I took on a posture of intimidation toward the insurance agent, and insisted that he would honor the insurance policy or else (whatever "or else" would have been – vain threat, in the flesh). However, they did cover the costs, but not because of my threats, but because it was the right thing to do.

Why did my witness for Christ fail at that moment? I wasn't prepared or expecting the season of my daughter's birth so early. Life is that way. When you least expect it something is bound to happen or what is expected may not happen at all. What is your immediate response when things don't work out the way that you want them to? What happens when you don't get what you prepared for or think you deserve? In season or out, concerning physical events or spiritual opportunities, always be ready.