

"LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



FIXING A BIKE

Interaction with a bicycle can be a lot like life. Some journeys feel like it is all "uphill" and there will never be a "downhill". Then those exhilarating rides with no pedalling, legs held wide, shouts of glee as you rush towards the sound barrier – until the "speed wobbles" start and the decision has to be made, "Will I chance regaining control without braking or "chicken out"?"

I recall my old cast-me-down bike had a tool bag strapped under the seat, supposedly with everything needed to conduct running repairs, assuming my brothers had not lost or failed to replace a crucial item. Now, dotted around some towns and cities, we have these "all-in-one" Bike Repair Stands. It reminded me that God is a bit like that, an "all-in-one" Life Repair Stand.

For whatever reason, today, you feel something has pricked life, and some of the joy that keeps life inflated, pumped up, and irons out the daily bumps has "foofed out," and it's all become uphill and hard work. Try stopping momentarily (you can't pump up a tyre while still pedalling), and let God keep his promise to help and strengthen you. **(Isaiah 41:10)**

From memory, one of the hazards of bike riding was when straining and under pressure suddenly the chain breaking or jumping off the sprocket, resulting in a – skun shin. How often do we harm ourselves striving and pushing through life to get to where "I" think "I" should be? In love, God says, "Hey! Trust me. Don't rely only on yourself. Let me direct where your life is going." **(Proverbs 3:4-6)**

If the wheel spokes are not in correct tension, the wheel will not track correctly and can cause wandering. Letting "life balance" get out of control is relatively easy. One part becomes too tight and pulls one way or too loose and pulls another. It is hard to stay on track, and joy falls by the wayside. Try remembering God has a "plan" for us; it's to develop us into mature disciples, people of power and faith. His "place" for us is in his perfect will. **(Hebrews 2:1)**

The bike frame holds everything together and allows us to travel. God's love makes an indestructible frame for life.

The great thing about God as the "life repair stand", is he promises to go with us. He is always there. We might forget him, but he has vowed never to fail us. He very deliberately said, "Call on me in your day of trouble (when you need my help" and I will be there" (always). **(Psalm 50:15)** Try stopping for a time and giving him a chance to make the necessary repairs to your life. He can make the journey a lot more joyful.

Happy pedalling,
Kevin.