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## LAW #3: The Law of BENDING

*(If you don't want your happiness dependent on what happens; here's how)*

(SERIES: THE 4 Laws Of Water-Skiing: 03 of 04)  
by Dr. David Foster

**"DO NOT BE WISE IN YOUR OWN EYES. . . "** (Prov 3:7 NIV)

"Woe to those who are WISE IN THEIR OWN EYES and clever in their own sight." (Isa 5:21 NIV)

"Pride goes before destruction, a **haughty spirit before a fall.**"  
(Proverbs 16:18; NIV)

LAW #1: Everyone wears a lifejacket. No exceptions!

LAW #2: Hold onto the rope, lean back, let the boat do the lifting.

LAW #3: **Keep your knees bent; the water gets rough without warning.**

### The Water Gets Rough Without Warning

#### There are storms of **perfection.**

"Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. **FOR WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN I AM STRONG.**" (2 Corinthians 12:8-10; NIV)

#### There are storms of **correction.**

"In this all-out match against sin, others have suffered far worse than you, to say nothing of what Jesus went through—all that bloodshed! So don't feel sorry for yourselves. Or have you forgotten how good parents treat children, and that God regards you as his children? My dear child, don't shrug off God's discipline, but don't be crushed by it either. **IT'S THE CHILD HE LOVES THAT HE DISCIPLINES; THE CHILD HE EMBRACES, HE ALSO CORRECTS.** God is educating you; that's why you must never drop out. He's treating you as dear children. **This trouble you're in isn't punishment; it's training,** the normal experience of children. Only irresponsible parents leave children to fend for themselves. Would you prefer an irresponsible God? We respect our own parents for training and not spoiling us, so why not embrace God's training so we can truly live? While we were children, our parents did what seemed best to them. But God is doing what is best for us, training us to live God's holy best. At the time, discipline isn't much fun. It always feels like it's going against the grain. Later, of course, it pays off handsomely, for **it's the well-trained who find themselves mature in their relationship with God.**" (Hebrews 12:4-11; The MSG)

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## 4 Reasons Smart People Fall

### We flirt with the flame & get **burned by the fire.**

"Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?" (Proverbs 6:27; KJV)

### We want immediate relief, a **quick fix, or a short cut.**

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death."  
(Proverbs 16:25; NIV)

"Mark well that God doesn't miss a move you make; he's aware of every step you take. **The shadow of your sin will overtake you;** you'll find yourself stumbling all over yourself in the dark. **DEATH IS THE REWARD OF AN UNDISCIPLINED LIFE;** your foolish decisions trap you in a dead end." (Proverbs 5:21-23; The MSG)

### We get **blindsided** because we get caught **flatfooted.**

"Keep a cool head. Stay alert. The Devil is poised to pounce, and would like nothing better than to **CATCH YOU NAPPING.** Keep your guard up. . . . So keep a firm grip on the faith. The suffering won't last forever. It won't be long before this generous God who has great plans for us in Christ—eternal and glorious plans they are!—will have you put together and on your feet for good. He gets the last word; yes, he does." (1 Peter 5:8-11; The MSG)

### We **assume way too much.**

"Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.' Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.' As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil." (James 4:13-16 NIV)

## The ABC's of flexibility

### **Accept the new reality.**

### **Believe that God is at work.**

### **Confess your part.**

"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will." (Romans 8:26-28NIV)

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