

LAWS OF LIFE

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My grandfather was the best teacher I will ever have in my life. His “classroom” was an old fishing boat on a calm, blue lake from the time that I was a very little boy. All the life lessons that I learned from him while fishing on those sunny afternoons, I have used in my everyday life. Sometimes, when I am unsure what the right decision might be, I remember his voice, smile, and our conversations. I would like to share some of the valuable lessons that I have learned from him which helps me know how to live my life.

Patience is a law of life and fishing. In life, you need to have patience. When fishing, you never know how long it will take to catch a fish. But, if you are patient, a big fish will usually come your way and you’ll walk away happy. Similarly, in life, good things will happen if you are willing to work hard and wait. More importantly, you will be happy and be able to make people in your life happy, too.

Having strength is a law of life and fishing. You need to have strength in life because things happen each day that you will have to overcome. Your character has to be strong. When fishing, if you miss the big fish, you have to keep on fishing and forget it. You know that the next time you cast, there is a new opportunity to catch another fish just as each new day is an opportunity to start again.

Being smart is a law of life and fishing. In both instances, you have to make wise decisions. To get the fish that you want, you have to be smart enough to know what kind of bait the fish will like so you can have a great catch. You sometimes have to outsmart the fish by using fancy lures that look just like their favorite worm. Consequently, in life, all decisions depend on being able to think through your actions to decide if this is the path that you want your life to take. Furthermore, every fisherman has to know which fish to keep and which to throw back, the same as knowing which friends to keep in your life and those that you need to “throw back”.

Lastly, the most important law of life is to enjoy simple things like fishing. Life is full of so many great things, but, before my grandfather died, he told me that he thought that the best things in life are always the simple things. My grandfather enjoyed *every* single day of his life, however, I would like to believe that his *best* days were on that old boat teaching me the laws of life while fishing.