

Three Things To Remember When Facing Storms

1. God is with us.

"I lift up my eyes to the hills-- where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip-- he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD watches over you-- the LORD is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all harm-- he will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore." Psalm 121:1-8 (NIV)

"And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20 (NIV)

"I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:38-39 (NLT)

Life Application: If God is with us we don't need to be afraid.

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging... The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress."

Psalm 46:1-7 (NIV)

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me..."

Psalm 23:4 (KJV)

2. God is bigger than any storm.

As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross to the other side of the lake." So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water. Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?" When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the water, "Silence! Be still!" Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. Then he asked them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" The disciples were absolutely terrified. "Who is this man?" they asked each other. "Even the wind and waves obey him!" Mark 4:35-41 (NLT)

"For nothing is impossible with God." Luke 1:37 (NLT)

Life Application: If God is bigger than any storm we can bring all of our problems to Him.

"Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you." 1 Peter 5:7 (NLT)

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)

Life Application: We must keep our focus on Jesus NOT the storm.

"...the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!" But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!" Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water." "Yes, come," Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted. Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?" When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. Then the disciples worshiped him. "You really are the Son of God!" they exclaimed." Matthew 14:24-33 (NLT)

"Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." John 16:33 (NLT)

3. God can bring good from storms.

“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.” Romans 8:28 (NLT)

a. Storms can help us trust God more.

“We think you ought to know, dear brothers and sisters, about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it. As it turned out, it was the best thing that could have happened. Instead of trusting in our own strength or wits to get out of it, we were forced to trust God totally—not a bad idea since he’s the God who raises the dead! And he did it, rescued us from certain doom. And he’ll do it again, rescuing us as many times as we need rescuing.” 2 Corinthians 1:8 (NLT), 9-10 (MSG)

b. Storms can strengthen our character.

“We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.” Romans 5:3-4 (NLT)

c. God can receive praise when we help others who have been impacted by storms.

“So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.” 2 Corinthians 9:12 (NLT)

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Discussion Questions

1. Read Mark 4:35-41. What is the most terrifying storm or difficult circumstance you have ever been through? How did you get through it? What did you learn from the experience?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 1:8-10 & Romans 5:3-4. Describe a time in your life where you matured in some important way because of a trial or problem.
3. Spend some time as a group discussing some of the painful and/or difficult situations you are facing right now. Then spend some time praying for each other asking God to give you the strength you need to get through trying circumstances and to help you grow in your faith.
4. What do the following passages reveal to us about God being with us? How do they make you feel?
 - Psalm 23:4
 - Psalm 34:18-19
 - Matthew 28:20
 - Romans 8:34
5. Discuss the following quotations:

"You may readily judge whether you are a child of God or a hypocrite by seeing in what direction your soul turns in seasons of severe trial. The hypocrite flies to the world and finds a sort of comfort there. But the child of God runs to his Father and expects consolation only from the Lord's hand." C.H. Spurgeon

"There are two ways of getting out of a trial. One is simply to try to get rid of the trial, and be thankful when it is over. The other is to recognize the trial as a challenge from God to claim a larger blessing than we have ever had, and to hail it with delight as an opportunity of obtaining a larger measure of divine grace." A. B. Simpson

"Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in His wonderful face, And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace." Helen Lemmel