

Remaining Calm During the Storm (Patience; Faith)

"Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows. It empties today of its strength." —Corrie Ten Boom.

Colossians 1:17, And He Himself existed and is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. His is the controlling, cohesive force of the universe.

Matthew 8:23-27 talks about the disciples facing an awful storm. This occurred as the disciples and Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee in a boat.

Unexpectedly, a great storm developed. The disciples became afraid; even though Jesus was with them, they still became worried. These are the men that Jesus picked with His own hands, yet they were concerned. Although this was an actual storm, it was a turbulent time. Didn't Jesus give the disciples standards to follow in times of trouble? So, what happened with their faith when the storm came?

None of us, believers and non-believers, are exempt from the storms of life. Even though I may have great faith, I don't know how I will respond in times of distress. Les Brown, a motivational speaker, said, "Adversity introduces a man to himself." How we react during times of hardship reveals how much faith we have in God.

I already know many things run through my mind that would test my faith. The loss of my wife or one of my children, being displaced from my home, loss of financial support, severe illnesses, etc. Until we have been placed on this path, where the storm is directly in front of us, we have no idea how we will respond until the storm hits. Remember Peter? What damage will have occurred once the storm leaves? The home I once had is now an empty lot. The brand-new car I just purchased is a total wreck. I once had money, I thought I was set for life, but I could be on the sidewalk begging for handouts. These are the natural storms of people, but my response to the storm dictates how God helps us.

There is no shame in feeling fear. But God said if I am afraid, He did not give me that fear. I look at what happens in my life; things can impact me so much that they weaken my faith. God gave me something fabulous to counteract my anxieties at certain moments: a great spirit. This spirit gives me strength, love, and a wise mind.

So, how does one remain calm when a storm is happening? Jesus said He gave us everything we need to have peace during our times of trouble and sorrow, but we must be courageous (John 16:33).

Jesus warned us that we would experience every kind of pressure, not just some pressure, but every kind, from all sides. We are instructed to stay in the fight and not quit because quitting is not an option. We will face persecution as a believer, but we must remember that we knew this before we signed up. And we must remember God is with us (2 Corinthians 4:8-9).

Seasons will change in our lives. We will have sunshine and rain, heat and shade. We will win and lose in this life. We have heard it said many times: either we enter a storm, live in it, or come out of it. No matter where we are, we must seek God because He will deliver us from all our worries.

Prayer: Father of the Universe, sometimes there is so much chaos in our lives that we do not know how to handle the situations. We fret over things we cannot control and are at a loss as to what steps to take to help us. We pray that You calm our spirit during these times and help us realize our trust and confidence are in You. Amen!