

FINDING PEACE IN THE STORM

November 24, 2024

Mark 4:35,37-41 NIV Jesus Calms the Storm

³⁵ That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side."

³⁷ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸ Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!"

Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

⁴¹ They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

We are not exempt from storms. Jesus helps us deal with storms. When Jesus says, "let's go to the other side", it's as good as done!

John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Revelations 3:20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

With Jesus Christ in our life, the pain, hurt, and heartache may go away instantly, but oftentimes not. Sure, we gain our salvation, but we are still being molded into a new creation, and that can hurt too. Sometimes we need to separate ourselves from harmful situations or people. This is not easy, but it is necessary to grow in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Isaiah 64:8 Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

God shapes us and molds us when we submit to Him. We SHOULD give him complete control over our lives so He can form us into what he wants us to be, and direct us in the way we should go. This is a process we often fight. We are created with Free Will and when we get ahead of what the Father's will is for us in our lives, we get into trouble.

We are like Sarah in that we think we know the will of the Father, and that we should help Him. As if the God of all creation needs our help! And we take action when we should wait for His direction or command. Abraham is just as guilty. He had the power to say no!

Why do we insist on doing things our way? We end up creating our own drama, pain, heartache, chaos, all which could have been avoided if we exercised a little patience and waited on the Lord and His perfect timing. Sometimes it's not even our fault when things happen to us. People break promises and let us down. Or like the Butterfly effect, one person's action affects another person.

Psalms 71:20-21 You have allowed me to suffer much hardship, but you will restore me to life again and lift me up from the depths of the earth. ²¹ You will restore me to even greater honor and comfort me once again.

Don't let struggle consume you. Instead, give God the time and space to work in your life. Keep your eyes on Jesus, and trust that His method will produce a righteous outcome.

Romans 5:3-5 We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. ⁴ And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. ⁵ And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

Heartache and pain can cause us to become immobile or dormant. That's okay for a season. The Lord will wrap His arms around us and comfort us. But having a relationship with Christ revitalizes our spirit and renews us. The Holy Spirit of God will encourage and strengthen our spirit to get moving again.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 NLT That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. ¹⁷ For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! ¹⁸ So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

God is near to us when we suffer from depression and despair.

Psalm 34:18 The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed

Isaiah 41:10 "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

"Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him;
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.

¹⁵ He will call on me, and I will answer him;

I will be with him in trouble,

I will deliver him and honor him.

¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."

Psalm 91:14-16