



Life's Passing Storms

Some storms we create, some God creates, and some we are simply involved in.

Does God exist in the storm?

Psalm 107:23-32 KJV

[23] They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; [24] These see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep. [25] For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof. [26] They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble. [27] They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end. [28] Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. [29] He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. [30] Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven. [31] Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! [32] Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders.

THREE TYPES OF STORMS:

1. NATURAL STORMS

Storms that happen in our life seemingly unconnected to any particular issue we're going through at the time but add an extra burden; a loved one has been taken to the hospital, you just lost your job, the transmission went out on the car and there's no money for repair... These storms can range from momentary pain to life-altering permanency and often come unexpectedly.

2. EMOTIONAL STORMS

Emotional storms are best characterized as damage we feel from a storm; the betrayal we might feel from a divorce, the guilt over long time family argument, the helplessness over watching a loved one go through a tough issue... Coping with the aftermath is the struggle of an emotional storm.

3. SPIRITUAL STORMS

The storms we create for ourselves by a willful disobedience towards God and grow turbulent because we are now operating outside of the will of God. We have a chance to turn back, repent, and get back in the will of God before it's too late, but if we don't alter course, the storm can ultimately destroy us.

2 Samuel 11:1 KJV

[1] And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.

7 REASONS GOD SENDS STORMS OUR WAY:

1. CHASTISEMENT

Sometimes God will bring a storm in our life to chastise us. He sees our thoughts and knows our heart; he may send a storm to get our attention.

2. REPENTENCE

Sometimes he sends a storm to get us to repent. Jonah is an example of attempting to run from God, having a bad attitude about the assignment God gave him, and feeling pity for himself for being chosen by God for the task.

3. SURRENDER

Sometimes God sends a storm in our life to get us to surrender to him. God asked Abraham to sacrifice his own son as a test of his obedience. Unflinching obedience shows true surrender, Abraham did not hesitate to fulfill God's request; he "rose early in the morning" and made necessary preparations for the sacrifice of his son.

4. PREPAREDNESS

Sometimes God sends a storm to equip us. Storms toughen us up. Joseph was sent through many storms to ready him for his position of authority under Pharaoh and to prepare Egypt for the coming famine which would save the Egyptian people as well as those of neighboring lands including the Israelites.

5. SHOW HIS POWER

Sometimes he sends a storm to get us to repent. Jonah is an example of attempting to run from God, having a bad attitude about the assignment God gave him, and feeling pity for himself for being asked by God.

6. SHOW HIS LOVE

Sometimes God sends a storm to show us how much he loves us. Jesus is the perfect example of this. When he died on the cross, his disciples and followers thought it was over, but three days later he was resurrected to show his death, burial, and resurrection was required for the forgiveness of our sins.

7. SHOW WHO IS IN CONTROL

Sometimes God sends a storm our way to remind us who is really in control. King Nebuchadnezzar is an example when he boasted of his power after looking over his kingdom of Babylon. God reduced him to eating grass in the field like an animal for a set period of time. Afterwards, God restored his mind and he humbled himself by acknowledging God is sovereign.

Isaiah 55:8-11 KJV

[8] For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. [9] For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. [10] For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: [11] So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.