

Choosing the right gear

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# Surviving Life's Storms



Matthew 8:18-27 KJV

[18] Now when Jesus saw great multitudes about him, he gave commandment to depart unto the other side. [19] And a certain scribe came, and said unto him, Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. [20] And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. [21] And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. [22] But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead. [23] And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. [24] And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. [25] And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. [26] And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. [27] But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

# Storms in our life are inevitable

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When the storm first hits, what is our immediate response?  
Do we turn to God or do we become bitter and angry.

## STORMS COME FROM ONE OF FOUR SOURCES:

Understanding the source of the storm is key to overcoming it.

### 1. They originate from our own actions.

Jonah disobeyed God's command to go to Ninevah preach against their wickedness. Instead, he boarded a ship and tried to flee from the presence of the Lord.

Jonah 1:1-4 KJV

[1] Now the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, [2] Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me. [3] But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. [4] But the Lord sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken.

### 2. Others create storms in our life that we don't control.

Joseph's brothers were jealous of him because he was their father's favorite son. When Joseph told his brothers of a dream he had that one day they would bow down before him, their jealousy overtook them and they conspired against him.

Genesis 37:18-27 KJV

[18] And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him. [19] And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh. [20] Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams. [21] And Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him. [22] And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again. [23] And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him; [24] And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it. [25] And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt. [26] And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood? [27] Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content.

*No storm comes apart from God's will and there is always a benefit from His will in our life. Be mindful during the storm of the message God intends for you; it would be a waste of pain and sorrow to go through a storm and gain nothing from it afterwards.*

### 3. Satan creates storms

Satan questions Job's faithfulness to God. He accuses Job of only being faithful because of the abundance God has given him. And if all his possessions were taken away, Job would curse God like other sinful men he preferred earthly things over God. God allows Satan to take away Job's possessions.

Job 1:7-12 KJV

[7] And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. [8] And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? [9] Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? [10] Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. [11] But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. [12] And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.

### 4. Sometimes God creates storms in our life

Solomon points out man's foolishness in rebelling against God's instruction and refusing to acknowledge his righteousness and sovereignty.

Proverbs 1:24-30 KJV

[24] Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; [25] But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: [26] I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; [27] When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. [28] Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: [29] For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord : [30] They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.



# Our anchor in the time of storm

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God's word is our anchor, it contains the answer to how we can overcome adversity in life.

## WHY DOES GOD ALLOW STORMS IN OUR LIFE?

1. To get our attention. We have to be careful about the conclusion we arrive at as to why a storm has hit. It might be from God and not the fault of someone else's.
2. To bring us to repentance. Repeated storms can come from issues not dealt with in our life that God wants us to deal with.
3. To get us to surrender our will to him. God can use a storm to show us we're heading down a wrong path.
4. To bring us to a point of brokenness. A point where we say, not my will, Lord, but your will. A life that's willing to trust God completely.
5. A storm can equip us to deal with it. An easy life can actually make us soft, so that when trouble comes we find ourselves unprepared. A storm toughens us up and reminds us who's in control.

## STORMS AFFECT PEOPLE DIFFERENTLY

1. It can wipe someone out spiritually.
2. It can make people give up.
3. It can draw a person closer to God.

## WHAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE, HOW DO WE RESPOND?

1. Our view of God.
2. Do I understand God's purpose in this storm?
3. Do we remember his promises? We should "know" God more than we "feel" God.

Isaiah 41:10 KJV

[10] Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

James 1:6 KJV

[6] But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

*During the storm our responsibility is obedience, not understanding.  
How we view him will determine how we respond to him during turmoil.*