



FAVOUR IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM

Bishop (Dr.) Prophet Izonbarakumo Zige, Ph.D



FAVOUR **IN THE MIDST** **OF THE STORM**

Bishop (Dr.) Prophet Izoubarakumo Zige, Ph.D

FAVOUR IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM

Copyright © by

Bishop (Dr.) Prophet Izonbarakumo Zige, Ph.D

ISBN: 978-978-771-949-7

@ 2024 - First Edition

All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieved system, or transmitted by any means - electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or any other without the prior written permission of the author.

Published by **Zilies Prints & Publishing**

No. 25 Imgbi Road

Amarata Yenagoa,

Bayelsa State,

Nigeria

+234-7083741065

Ziliesent1@gmail.com

FAVOUR IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM

Bishop (Dr.) Prophet Izonbarakumo Zige, Ph.D



ABOUT THE BOOK

This is an irresistible book called “**FAVOUR IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM**” is a book loaded with divine revelation and inspirational wisdom. Key and or principles that were put in place to better the life and destiny of whosoever that may lay hold of this book and read through.

The book contains nine (9) powerful chapters thoroughly written with simple language with the aim to make everybody in the entire community of readers across the globe to have a clear picture of what is being written and for easy application. This is a must read book.

Note: we are commanded to overcome the storms of life.

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the entire members of Corresponding Grace Ministries and all the believers of the gospel of Jesus Christ around the globe.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I wish to sincerely render my most profound gratitude to God Almighty, who gave me the strength, inspiration, knowledge, vision, foresight, wisdom, revelation and the zeal to put this work into reality with the intention of advancing His Kingdom.

I want to sincerely appreciate my beloved wife Dr. Apostle Happiness Zige, who stood by me through thick and thin. Thanks a million times, you are the jewel of inestimable value.

Many thanks, to my children for their understanding while I embarked on this project. You are all Godly children. I love you Emmanuel Zige and Victory Zige.

I want to also thank my beloved father, Mr. Zige of blessed memory and my mother who till date is standing firm by me. I won't forget your fatherly advice and motherly care you gave me which I have kept till date.

To all the members of corresponding Grace Ministry, I say a very big thank you for being such dependable. May the almighty God richly bless you all in Jesus Christ name, Amen!

Let me also extend my appreciation to those whom I have worked with over time and have inspired me to write this book. They are as follows:

1. Zige Ebitemebofa
2. Philip God-gift
3. Dr. Tudou Perewarifagha (Ph.D.)
4. Past. Amos korutimi
5. Mr. Aputu Boxy
6. Past. James Ogbara
7. Past. Favor David
8. Elder Kereotu
9. Barr. Past. Obio Fear-God
10. Past. Mrs. Fostina Goin

FOREWORD

Many questions do arise when a work is put for the view of the general public. But then, this is an exceptionally researched book written out of love, passion and with great concern for the wellbeing of every believer of Jesus Christ. FAVOR IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM is a MUST READ for everybody around the globe.

The author, Bishop Prophet Izonbarakumo Zige (PhD) an erudite scholar, an infallible preacher and teacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ, is a wonderful, inspirational and motivational teacher, who has taken the time to research and put this work with the intention of growing believers in the deep things of the word of God. From the wealth of experience acquired by the author over the years, he decided to bring standardized information and secrets to boost the growth of the members of Corresponding Grace Ministry and the entire populace of believer around the globe to aid clear understanding on the word of God in this respect.

Again, the author conveyed the message in this book with a simple, readable and understandable language that all the readers will read and comprehend so as to put in practice and apply the key principles and steps appropriately. As such the book will be of interest to the general populace of readers around the globe.

More so, the book FAVOR IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM contains NINE chapters loaded with wealth of knowledge, experience and wisdom which is capable of activating the GLORY of God upon your life which will in turn produce uncommon blessings in all spheres of your life endeavor.

Conclusively, I commend the author Bishop Prophet (Dr.) Izonbarakumo Zige (PhD) for the brilliant efforts put together in bringing his wealth of experience into reality to salvage the children of God out of bondage and mediocrity. Therefore, without any hesitation, I recommend this book, FAVOUR IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM for your constant and regular studying.

Pastor Dr. Engr. Tudou Perewarifagha, Ph.D

TABLE OF CONTENT

ABOUT THE AUTHOR	iii
DEDICATION.....	iv
ACKNOWLEDGMENT.....	v
FOREWORD	vii
Chapter One	
God's favor in the Midst of the storm.....	1
Chapter Two	
Answer in the Midst of the Storm.....	12
Chapter Three	
Power in the Midst of the Storm.....	27
Chapter Four	
What to Do in the Midst of a Storm.....	30
Chapter Five	
The Israelites Alike.....	34
Chapter Six	
Peace In The Midst Of The Storm.....	37

Chapter Seven

Storms Out of your Control is Not Out of God's Control.....50

Chapter Eight

God is in the Midst of the Storm With You.....63

Chapter Nine

What to Do When Life Gets Stormy.....67

CHAPTER ONE

**Getting Jesus' Attention:
In The Midst of Your Storm**



**GOD'S FAVOUR
IN THE STORM**

1. *Once safely on shore, we found out that the island was called Malta.*
2. *The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold.*
3. *Paul gathered a pile of brushwood and, as he put it on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand.*
4. *When the islanders saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said to each other, "This man must be a murderer; for though he escaped from the sea, the goddess Justice has not allowed him to live."*
5. *But Paul shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no ill effects.*
6. *The people expected him to swell up or suddenly fall dead; but after waiting a long time and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and said he was a god.*
7. *There was an estate nearby that belonged to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us to his home and showed us generous hospitality for three days. 8. His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him.*

9. *When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured.*
10. *They honored us in many ways; and when we were ready to sail, they furnished us with the supplies we needed.*
11. *After three months we put out to sea in a ship that had wintered in the island—it was an Alexandrian ship with the figurehead of the twin gods Castor and Pollux.*
12. *We put in at Syracuse and stayed there three days.*
13. *From there we set sail and arrived at Rhegium. The next day the south wind came up, and on the following day we reached Puteoli.*
14. *There we found some brothers and sisters who invited us to spend a week with them. And so we came to Rome.*
15. *The brothers and sisters there had heard that we were coming, and they traveled as far as the Forum of Appius and the Three Taverns to meet us. At the sight of these people Paul thanked God and was encouraged.*
16. *When we got to Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself, with a soldier to guard him.*
17. *Three days later he called together the local Jewish leaders. When they had assembled, Paul*

said to them: “My brothers, although I have done nothing against our people or against the customs of our ancestors, I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans.

- 18. They examined me and wanted to release me, because I was not guilty of any crime deserving death.*
- 19. The Jews objected, so I was compelled to make an appeal to Caesar. I certainly did not intend to bring any charge against my own people.*
- 20. For this reason I have asked to see you and talk with you. It is because of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain.”*
- 21. They replied, “We have not received any letters from Judea concerning you, and none of our people who have come from there has reported or said anything bad about you.*
- 22. But we want to hear what your views are, for we know that people everywhere are talking against this sect.”*
- 23. They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. He witnessed to them from morning till evening, explaining about the kingdom of God, and from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets he tried to persuade them about Jesus.*

24. *Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe.*

The favor of God is a beautiful part of our relationship to Him. But **what does it mean? What does God's favor look like?** For some people, it means that God always gives them a parking place near the entrance. Again, if their lane of traffic is the fastest one; or when they get a SALARY increase or a promotion at work.

But here's what many people missed. God's hand of blessing and favor often comes to those who suffer greatly. David was anointed the future king of Israel. That was God's favor on his life, and that was also when the difficulties began. It was when David was willing to take on that Philistine giant called Goliath that he again saw the favor of God on his life.

Daniel was one of the greatest prophets of the Old Testament. He was given the gift of interpreting dreams. That was God's favor on his life. He was given a position of stature and authority in the Babylonian kingdom. That was God's favor on his life. But others plotted against him and when he stood faithful in God, he was thrown into a den of lions. That was when the favor of God was once again seen in his life.

Do you know where the church is growing the fastest and strongest? It is in Iran. The church there is heavily persecuted and it's there that the favor of God is

powerfully seen.

Paul was given the privilege to be one of the greatest apostles of the New Testament. More of the New Testament books were written by Paul than any other apostle. Yet he suffered greatly. Five times he received from the Jews 39 lashes. Three times he was beaten with rods. Once he was stoned and left for dead. Three times he was shipwrecked and a night and a day he spent in the deep sea. **Yet, the favor of God was on his life.**

This world is filled with difficulties and troubles. I will advise you to be rather in the will of God and have His favor than anything else in your life.

The story of Paul in acts 28 is a story of the favor of God even in the midst of suffering. There are so many principles for us to follow in these verses.

Paul said, *“keep up your courage, men, for I believe God that it will turn exactly I have been told. But first we must run aground on a certain island.”*

Storms come in everyone's life, but storms don't have to shipwreck your faith. You can trust God through every stormy gale. In fact, it's often in the stormy gale that God's favor will be seen in your life.

What do you do when your ship is broken, and you have come to the end of yourself?

First, thank God for what you have, and then, begin to rebuild your life on the foundation of God's heart for you. God is not finished with you. Press on knowing that His favor is still on your life, even if there are shipwrecks and storms. He is the one who brings beauty out of ashes; He will rebuild your life on this sure foundation.

RESPOND WITH FAITH WHEN TROUBLE COMES

How you respond to trouble has a lot to do with your faith. It has to do with your perspective, how do you see this thing that is happening?

There are a lot of people that would respond with exasperation to yet another peril.

“All right, Lord, I've had just about enough. I've had all I can take. Here I am, serving You, and I get attacked by a crowd, there's a plot to kill me, I sit in prison for two years in Caesarea, I go through a raging storm for two weeks, I get shipwrecked on this island, and now this, I get bitten by a viper? How much can a man take?”

That's not Paul's response. He gets bitten by the viper and he calmly shakes it off into the fire. When you've been through as many storms as Paul, it begins to change your perspective. But that's the point; it's about changing your perspective.

Paul was told that he was going to stand before Caesar, and he trusts God to keep His word. This is where the troubles of life actually strengthen faith. When you've been through many troubles and have seen God's favor in the midst of them, you come to learn that both things are true. Troubles will come in life, but so will God's favor. In fact, that's when you will see God's favor the most.

Troubles and favor; troubles and favor, troubles and favor. It changes your perspective. It strengthens your faith. **The more troubles you've been through and the more you've seen God's favored in the midst of the trouble, the greater the problems and troubles you can face.**

There's an old saying that the *“measure of a man is the size of the problems he can face.”*

When the storm raged against the ship, they set down the sea anchor. This is an underwater sail that keeps the ship steady and it keeps the bow of the ship facing the waves and wind. It's a great point. *“Don't run from troubles face them straight on.”*

Psalms 138:3, 7-8:

“You made me bold with strength in my soul. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you will revive me; and your right hand will save me. The Lord will accomplish what concerns me; your loving kindness, O Lord, is everlasting.”

DON'T SEPARATE FROM GOD'S LOVE

That is the foundation of Paul's faith, he knows that God's love is everlasting and that nothing can separate him from God's love.

Romans 8:35, 37-39:

“Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? In all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”⁴

What a powerful perspective; no matter what tribulation, or distress or peril Paul is going through, he has every assurance that he is in God's love and therefore, God's favor.

What's the worst that can happen? That you can lose your life? That's the worst? You need a different view of this thing. Death is not the end, it's a glorious beginning. It's graduation day.

The favor of God is seen even as Paul is going through these storms and troubles. There's beauty out of ashes.

The people on this island had never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ, and God gave attesting miracles as Paul was kept from harm from the viper and many people are healed. Also imagine what's going on in the heart of the centurion, Julius. Keep looking for God's favor and trust completely in God's love over your life, no matter what trouble you're going through.

When Israel entered the land God promised them, at first there was a great victory at Jericho, but then a shocking defeat when they came up against just the small village of Ai. But there were some who had turned their back on God and brought trouble on Israel. Later, they called it the valley of Achor, or the **“Valley of Trouble.”**

But again, the grace of God over them was made manifest still.

Hosea 2:15:

“I will give the valley of Achor as a door of hope; and she will sing there as in the days of her youth.”

I have seen the grace of God and the favor of God over my life through the troubles and trials and even over some of the troubles that came from my own laxity.

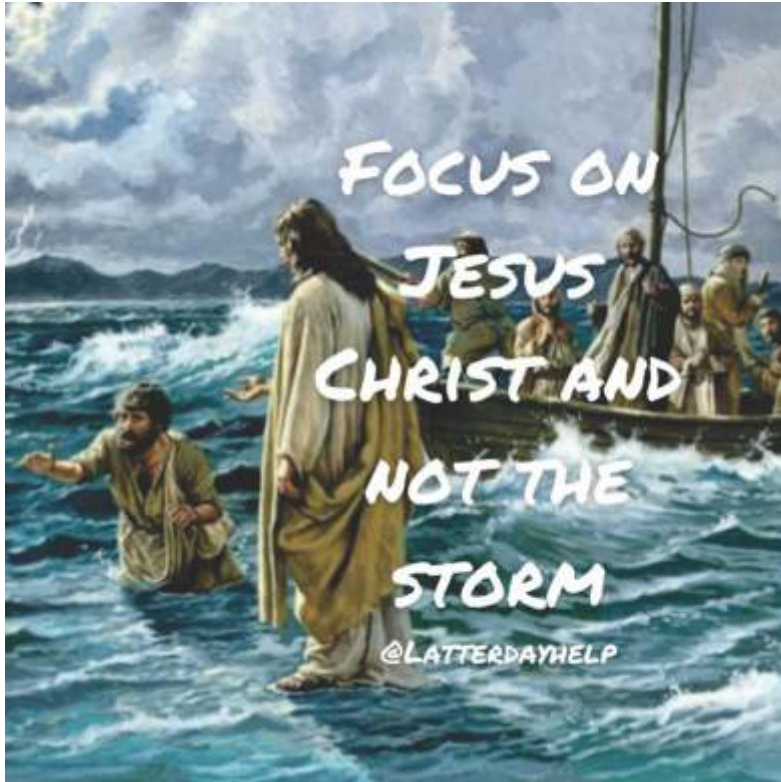
In a similar way, God wrote His word to us and it's personal, God wants us to take hold of it and be transformed by understanding His love for us. That is why it says in the book of **Isaiah 43:1-5:**

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! When you pass through the waters, I will be with you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. You are precious in my sight; you are honored, and I love you. Do not fear, for I am with you.”

I think about these Roman soldiers that were chained to Paul and wonder how many of them came to faith in Jesus Christ. No doubt they listened as Paul spoke about Jesus Christ to everyone who came to visit, but I'm sure there were many times Paul would speak to them individually. Can you imagine being chained to Paul all day long?

But who was chained to whom? As far as Paul was concerned, Rome was chained to him and couldn't get away. In the same way, destinies are tied to your glory, and until you are free from the bondage of the enemy, those tied to you, will also be set free. Therefore, don't allow the storms of life to derail you from the pathway of God ordained glory.

CHAPTER TWO



ANSWER IN THE MIDST OF A STORM

Some years past, I dreamed a dream, and in my dream I saw a very serious tempest and I was affrighted by it because things were destroyed greatly by the so called storm. I was with a colleague of my in the office. We looked through the window and saw the destructive nature of the storm. But as I stepped outside from the office, everywhere was bright and there was a great calm and it was the brightness of the sun all around.

One of my favorite Bible stories growing up was about Jonah. Jonah was an eighth-century Prophet to the northern kingdom of Israel.

God directed Jonah to Nineveh where he was to preach repentance to the Assyrians who were going astray from Him. The Assyrians were evil, cruel, heartless, evil and idolatrous, and yes, I did say evil twice.

Jonah didn't want to preach repentance to the Assyrians. He wanted them wiped off the face of the earth. He wanted the people of Nineveh to have a Sodom and Gomorrah experience.

Needless to say, Jonah wasn't too happy about them having the opportunity to miss hell. The scripture really doesn't say why Jonah hated the Assyrians so, but he did.

Jonah was a Prophet, but he missed the message placed before him, when it came to foretelling what was in his future.

His hatred must have been intense because he refused the assignment to Nineveh and caught the first boat out of town.

Once again, what kind of Prophet Thinks you can refuse to do what God says or that you can run away where He won't find you?

Jonah bought passage on the Royal Caribbean cruise ship to Tarshish.

Jonah 1:3 in the Amplified Bible says:

“But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from being in the presence of the Lord [as His prophet] and went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish [the most remote of the Phoenician trading places then known]. So he paid the appointed fare and went down into the ship to go with them to Tarshish from being in the presence of the Lord (as His servant and minister).”

No doubt Jonah was enjoying his cruise. The activities on the Lidio deck and the midnight buffet. But things began to change pretty quickly.

Jonah 1:4 in the Amplified Bible says:

“But the Lord sent out a great wind upon the sea, and there was a violent tempest on the sea so that the ship was about to be broken.”

When the storms of life come up, those who may have been previously kind to you change as quickly as the wind. Jonah 1:5 in the Amplified Bible says:

“Then the mariners were afraid, and each man cried to his god; and they cast the goods that were in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep.”

Jonah 3:6-9 says:

“So the captain went down after him. “How can you sleep at a time like this?” he shouted. “Get up and pray to your god! Maybe he will pay attention to us and spare our lives.”

7 “Then the crew cast lots to see which of them had offended the gods and caused the terrible storm. When they did this, the lots identified Jonah as the culprit.”

8 “Why has this awful storm come down on us?” they demanded. “Who are you? What is your line of work? What country are you from? What is your nationality?”

9 “Jonah answered, “I am a Hebrew, and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land.”

When facing adversity, sometimes we get so caught up in the trials, that, we forget to look for answer that can and will solve our problems.

When dealing with the storms of life, you need to hear from the One who made it all happen.

Here are some keys to finding God's answers in every adversity.

➤ **Look to God for answers first**

Jonah 1:10 says:

“Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, what is this that you have done? For the men knew that he fled from being in the presence of the Lord (as His prophet and servant), because he had told them.”

Never look to a man or woman for an answer to a question that God should and can answer for you.

We were created in God's image and after His likeness, so it stands to reason that if there's a problem, we need to check the manufacturer's instruction manual first.

When we look to God, He gives us peace in the midst of every storm, no matter how intense the storm may appear.

Philippians 4:7 in the New Living Translation says:

“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.”

Isaiah 26:3 in the Amplified Bible says:

“You will guard him and keep him in perfect and constant peace whose mind [both its inclination and its character] is stayed on you, because he commits himself to you, leans on you, and hopes confidently in you.”

The key to finding peace and protection in every situation is to always put God first.

➤ **Be honest about your situation**

Did you contribute either intentionally or unintentionally to the situation you're facing?

Jonah 1:11-12 in the New Living Translation says:

“And since the storm was getting worse all the time, they asked him, “What should we do to you to stop this storm?” “Throw me into the sea,” Jonah said, “and it will become calm again. I know that this terrible storm is all my fault.”

When we mess up, we must fess up, so we can get up and move on.

In 1 John 1:7, 9 from the Amplified Bible version. It highlights the word thus says:

“But if we (really) are living and walking in the Light, as He [Himself] is in the Light, we have [true, unbroken] fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses (removes) us from all sin and guilt [keeps us cleansed from sin in all its forms and manifestations].

9 “If we [freely] admit that we have sinned and confess our sins, He is faithful and just (true to His own nature and promises) and will forgive our sins [dismiss our lawlessness] and [continuously] cleanse us from all unrighteousness [everything not in conformity to His will in purpose, thought, and action].”

Repentance is the first step toward healing.

➤ **Refrain from trying to take charge.**

When the sea got rough, the crew of the ship, tried to solve the problem using their natural abilities. They didn't think of to seek for a spiritual solution, so they tried taking matters in their own hands.

Jonah 1:13 in the Amplified Bible says:

“Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring the ship to the land, but they could not, for the sea became more and more violent against them.”

When we try to solve our own problems, when we take matters into our own hands, things just seem to get worse.

The technological advances of our time have made us a power up, power down generation and if things don't work the way they're supposed to, then we feel helpless and soon aggravated.

Jonah 1:14 in the Living Bible says:

“Then they shouted out a prayer to Jehovah, Jonah's God. “O Jehovah,” they pleaded, “don't make us die for this man's sin, and don't hold us responsible for his death, for it is not our fault—you have sent this storm upon him for your own good reasons.”

The crew of the ship knew things were beyond their control, so they prayed to “Jonah's God.”

When we recognize that God has everything under control, our answer is already on the way.

In the midst of life's storms, we need to trust God.

➤ **Trust God's Timing.**

Jonah 1:15 in the New Living Translation says:

“Then the sailors picked Jonah up and threw him into the raging sea, and the storm stopped at once.”

The raging storm stopped at once. While it seems we're being buffeted about, we have to trust God and His timing. Sometimes, we need to be reminded of the old saying that it is darkest before the dawn.

When we rely on God and His timing, things turnaround quickly.

Psalm 30:5 in the Amplified Bible says:

“For His anger is but for a moment, but His favor is for a lifetime or in His favor is life. Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.”

➤ **Be Careful About Your Vows**

Jonah 1:16 in the Amplified Bible says:

“Then the men [reverently and worshipfully] feared the Lord exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.”

The crew of the ship, in recognizing what happened, did the most spiritual thing they knew to do, they gave an offering. In difficult situations, many people sometimes make what in war they call **“foxhole promises”** where soldiers vow by saying, Lord, if you get me out of this, I will never do that again.

Just a brief story about a wealthy man who was on a plane once, which experienced, engine trouble. When the second engine went out, the wealthy man was heard praying.

He said, **“Lord, if you get me safely on the ground, I’ll give you half of everything I own.”**

Immediately, both engines fired back up, the plane leveled off, and was able to make a normal landing.

As the people disembarked from the plane, a minister of God ran up to the man and said: **“My good man, I heard what you prayed on the plane about giving the Lord half of what you owned if the plane landed safely. I’m here to help you fulfill your vow.”**

The man said: **“Father, I don’t need your help. I made a better deal.”**

The confused priest inquired, **“You made a better deal, what was that?”**

The man said, **“I told the Lord that if I ever got on another airplane, I’d give him everything I own.”**

God takes vows very seriously, but He is also ever ready to help us out of every adversity.

Proverbs 3:5-6 in the Amplified Bible says:

“Lean on, trust in, and be confident in the Lord with all your heart and mind and do not rely on your own insight or understanding. In all your ways know, recognize, and acknowledge Him, and He will direct and make straight and plain your paths.”

➤ **Answers are not always obvious**

If you've ever been on a cruise, you know there are always side trips to exotic cities or islands. Without question, Jonah took the most interesting side trip anybody has ever had.

Jonah 1:17 says:

“Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.”

If you've ever wondered if a great fish (whale or whatever) could swallow a man alive, the answer is absolutely. If the Bible says Jonah was swallowed by a great fish, he was.

I love the story of the little girl who was talking to her teacher about whales.

The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though they were a very large mammal their throat was very small.

The little girl stated Jonah was swallowed by a whale. The teacher reiterated a whale could not swallow a human; it was impossible.

The little girl said, **“When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah.”**

The teacher asked, **“What if Jonah went to hell?”**

The little girl replied, **“Then you ask him.”**

Matthew 12:40 in the Amplified Bible says:

“For even as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

I will confess that the belly of a whale is probably one of the most unusual places for a church service, but it worked.

Someone once said:

“Jonah’s relief at being delivered from the whale can hardly have been any greater than the whale’s at being delivered from Jonah.”

Bottom line, it was a miracle.

Job 9:10 in the New International Version says:

“He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted.”

God is still working miracles and that's what He wants to do in each of our lives, believe it or not.

➤ **God will solve the problem.**

After Jonah came from his personal revival in that sanctified submarine he repented of his attitude and did what he was asked to do in the first place.

Thomas Edison once said:

“When down in the mouth, remember Jonah. He came out all right.”

Jonah 2:10 says:

“And the Lord Spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.”

The scripture says the Lord spoke to the fish, just like He spoke to Balaam's donkey. If God spoke to a whale and a donkey, don't you think He will speak to you?

When you're facing a storm, feel like you've been swallowed up in your circumstances here are three suggestions for your ride on a spiritual Titanic.

First, trust God's Word which is terrific, timely, timeless and to be treasured for the special gift that it is.

Second, keep walking by faith not by sight.

And just for the record, God can't navigate us out of troubled waters until we give him the helm, control of our ship.

2 John 1:6 in the Amplified Bible says:

“And what this love consists in is this: that we live and walk in accordance with and guided by His commandments (His orders, ordinances, precepts, teaching). This is the commandment, as you have heard from the beginning that you continue to walk in love (guided by it and following it).”

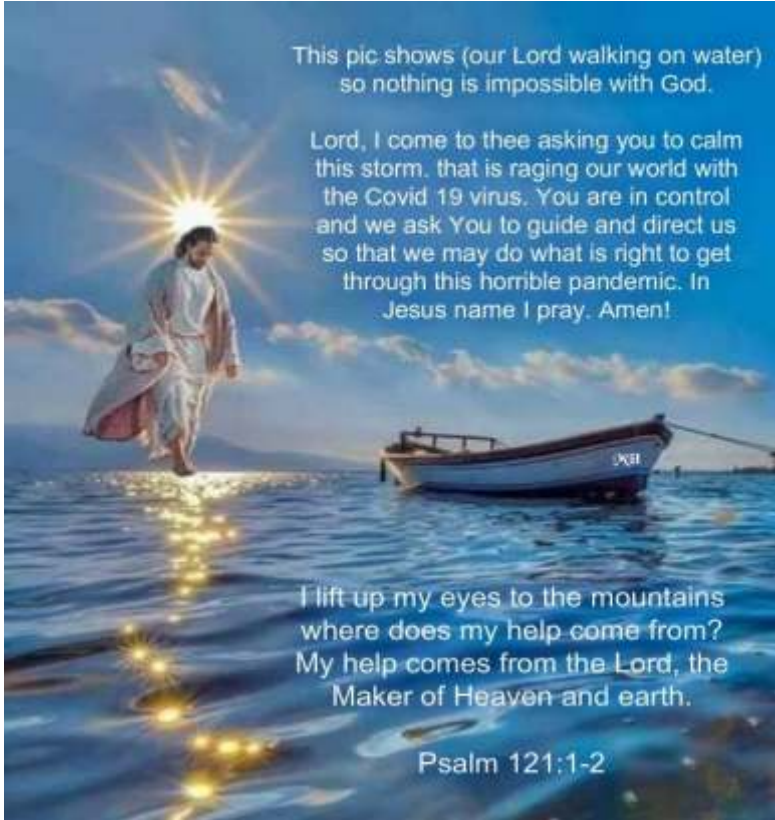
Third, never give in, give up, back up, back down, quit or walk away from the promises of God. No matter what your circumstances look like.

1 Peter 4:19 says:

“Therefore, those who are ill-treated and suffer in accordance with God's will must do right and commit their souls [in charge as a deposit] to the One Who created [them] and will never fail (them).”

If you feel like you're in the belly of a whale where you can't see a way out, enjoy the ride, your deliverance is at hand.

CHAPTER THREE



This pic shows (our Lord walking on water)
so nothing is impossible with God.

Lord, I come to thee asking you to calm
this storm. that is raging our world with
the Covid 19 virus. You are in control
and we ask You to guide and direct us
so that we may do what is right to get
through this horrible pandemic. In
Jesus name I pray. Amen!

I lift up my eyes to the mountains
where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord, the
Maker of Heaven and earth.

Psalm 121:1-2

POWER IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM

Luke 10:19:

“I have given you the power to trample on snakes and scorpions and to defeat the power of your enemy Satan. Nothing can harm you.”

Wait, did you read that correctly? Yes it said Nothing, will harm you. God gave us the power to quiet our storms, He has promised to fight our biggest battles for us, if we humble ourselves and call on Him.

Don't allow the enemy to deceive you. The enemy is very deceitful and tricky.

But the power of God is demonstrated by his ability to accomplish his will in every situation, both real and potential, through any means He chooses in order to glorify Himself. God's power is centered on His will and glory. We just need to know where to look for His transformative power.

2 Timothy 1:7-8 says:

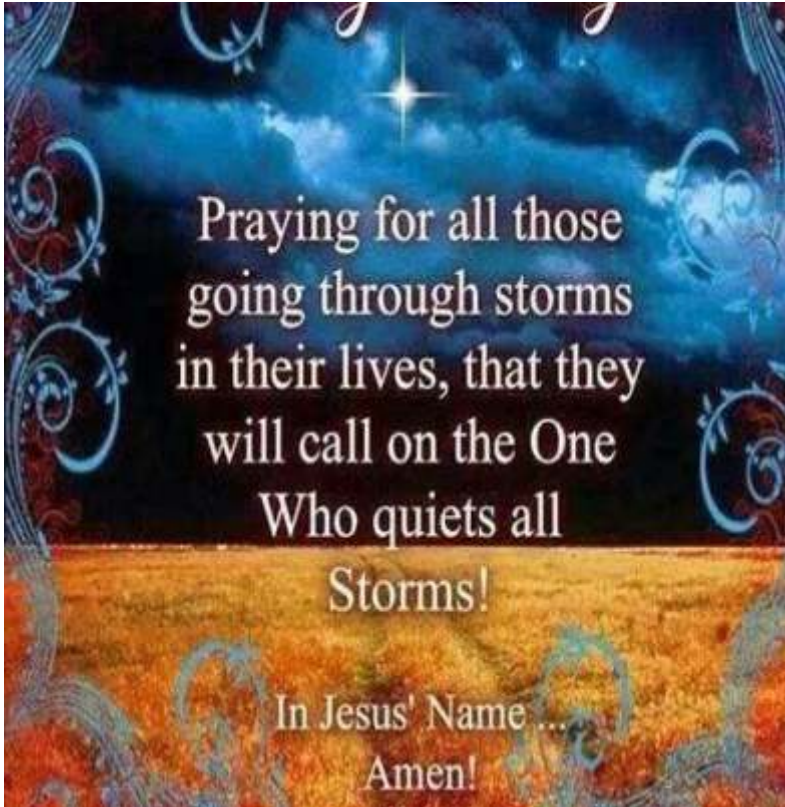
“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner; but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God.”

God's powers are made manifest in different key ways, such as:

- Authority
- Miracles
- Energy
- Dominion
- Strength

If you have experienced God and yet wonder why His power feels distant from your life, it may be that confusion about the nature of his power is preventing you from a greater intimacy with the Holy Spirit. Don't give up. Through a better understanding of the working of the Holy Spirit in your life, and the unique nature of the power of God, you will be embedded with the Holy Spirit to overcome every storms of life.

CHAPTER FOUR



WHAT TO DO IN THE MIDST OF A STORM

“When thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee” (Isaiah 43:2).

Storms or challenges are real to life. Kenneth E. Hagin said “you can only escape them when you die.” The question is not when will challenges stop in your life but what do you do in the midst of a storm? In this chapter, it is given on what to do in such situations. Taking a case study of the patriarch Abraham (Romans 4:17-22), who didn't have a child for many years; we can learn what to do when faced with any challenge:

➤ **Believe in yourself and the hope of God**
For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion – Ecclesiastes 9:4. You must have hope that joy will surely come in the morning. A hopeless person sees no future or better tomorrow. Hope is simply a choice to take action. Make that choice NOW.

➤ **Have faith in yourself and God**
Have faith in you and in your maker (God) that you will overcome the storm (John 14:1). Faith enables you to see what to do next in the midst of a storm. You must believe that God will do what He said He would do (Isaiah

46:11). The bible stated to us what God will do in any situation of our lives.

➤ **Don't place your mind on the storm**

Place your thoughts and focus on the solution and not the challenge. When Peter stopped looking at Jesus (his solution to walking on water) and looked at the storm, he started sinking (Matthew 14:28-30). Focusing on the challenge magnifies it the more, but when you focus on the solution in the midst of a storm, the challenge eventually disappears.

➤ **Always be Grateful**

An important aspect of what to do when faced with a challenge is to be thankful. There is always the temptation to forget what is working and focus on what is not working. A thankful and praise-full heart will always overcome challenges faster. When you thank God for what are working around you, you build up your faith in God for Him to solve the challenge. Also a heart of gratitude provokes God's intervention and perfection (Luke 17:15-19)

➤ **Hold on and be patient**

“For you have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise” Hebrews

10:36 (KJV).

You need to hold on to your faith and patiently walk into your answer. Don't stagger with unbelief. Furthermore, you need to be fully persuaded that God will certainly calm the storm and give you victory as He had said.

Now, Abraham received his son Isaac 25 years after the promise was made. He acted on the above what to do steps and eventually received his heart desire. What I love about Abraham's victory is that he lived long enough to enjoy his victory. He lived to see Isaac married at least. Furthermore, his victory is still speaking today; many people are receiving their victories too by holding unto Abraham's testimony. May you live long to see and experience a victorious life even as Abraham lived in Jesus' name.

Challenges truly are inevitable. This is not to scare you but to make you prepare to face and overcome them. The good news is that God knows you can handle it, that's why He allowed it in your life in the first place (1 Corinthians 10:13). Therefore, wipe your tears in the midst of the storm, brace up, act on the above steps and walk into your victory today in the mighty name of Jesus Christ.

CHAPTER FIVE



THE ISRAELITES ALIKE

The Israelites were in a tight spot. In front of them the impenetrable barrier of the Red Sea, behind them the advancing Egyptian army. They were caught in a trap, with nowhere to go — and they were panicking.

“What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt?” They cried out to the Lord. “It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness”
(Exodus 14:11-12) ESV.

These were the very people who had witnessed, first hand, the power and protection of God in their escape from slavery. The same people who were experiencing His presence and provision on a daily basis in their journey to the Promised Land. Yet with every advancing step of the Egyptian army, their faith and trust in God's plans and promises crumbled. From lips that once praised Him now came accusations and blame. How quickly the tide had turned.

And yet don't we do the same? When you are facing life's situation, which appear hopeless, fraught with hardship, suffering and pain. When we are called to fight uphill battles with insurmountable odds, we respond with panic. Panic, which erodes our trust and weakens our

defenses. Panic that leads us to lash out in fear against those that love us the most, and doubt the truth of what we know – Who God is, and what He has already done in our lives, and hearts to bring us this far. Panic that causes us to turn from Him and search for another way, an easier road than the one He has called us to walk.

Yet this is not the life He has planned for us. Instead of running, blaming and accusing, we are called to stand up and fight. Fight your storm with peace.

“And Moses said to the people, 'Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent'” (Exodus 14:13-14) ESV

CHAPTER SIX



PEACE IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM

Pace in the midst of the storm, calm in the face of chaos. This is the response of God and His calling towards us. This is the antidote to our fear. For God will never lead us to battle, and then abandons us when the going gets tough and tough. He promises to fight for us, fight with us, through every battle big or small. And we, in return, are called simply to trust. To trust that the God who split the Red Sea and led the Israelites to safety once more, will do the same for us – every single time.

When fear creeps in and panic prevails, we can trust God, and declare with confidence:

***“The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?”*** (Psalms
118:6).

And there, in the midst of the storm, you can find peace.

What is the one thing that you need as a child of God? Think of this question. The answer that is expected to come to your mind should be that “You need peace.” I asked the above question simply because Man has always had difficulty finding peace. The disciples of Jesus did as well. In John 13, Jesus has just identified Judas as the one who will betray Him. In addition, He has predicted that Peter, considered to be the leader of the

twelve (12); that he will deny Jesus three times. He has also let them know once again that a time will come very soon when He will be leaving. The disciples have built their entire lives around Jesus for over three years. They left jobs and family and other commitments behind to follow him and now he is going away. The last thing the disciples felt was peace.

Jesus knew this of course so as He began to speak, the disciples listened to what He had to say. And Jesus said, ***“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*** One word Jesus used, was the Greek word ‘**Eirene**’ which means to join together or to be tied together as a whole. In other words peace often involves taking something that is broken, disconnected, fractured, shattered and putting all the pieces back together. Peace can be about putting pieces together. But it also means something even deeper. And that is what we find in the scripture book of Mark 4:35-41.

Now the Sea of Galilee is only 7 miles wide and 13 miles long but it has a very unique history involving storms. Fact is, it is 700 feet below sea level, so deep in the basin where it fits that cold air and warm air often come together and the result is a huge storm. Jesus had just

finished speaking and this was exactly what happened.

Jesus had just finished a long day of ministry. He had been confronted by some of the leaders of the day; the crowds were constantly with him, He was teaching them and by now he was likely exhausted. So Jesus took a boat to cross the lake and did what most of us would do. He went to sleep. That was when it seemed that out of nowhere a terrible storm begins. Matthew uses the word *seismos*, which means earthquake, to describe the storm. This storm was more like a tempest. Luke tells us it was so bad that the ship was full of water. The waves covered the ship and unless something was to change they were headed for the bottom of the sea. One of the main points of this story is that storms can happen when you least expect them.

Sometimes they happen because we sin. Sometimes they happen because we do something that is just plain dumb. Sometimes they happen because of the actions of someone else. Sometimes they seem to happen for no reason at all. Write this truth down please. You can be in the absolute center of God's will and still experience a storm. The disciples were. They were physically in the boat with Jesus. Just a few feet away and the storm began. When they started out, Jesus had a plan. The plan was to go to the other side of the lake. But what the disciples

failed to understand was that this storm came by divine appointment and it came for a purpose. To teach them about the power of God. Jesus reminds us that when we face trials, storms, tribulations, that the storms have a purpose. James tells us that, the purpose is for us to learn endurance. Endurance produces maturity. Think about it. How have you grown as a person? How have you learned anything about life?

The answer is through experience. It would be great if we could simply learn from the mistakes and trials of other people. It would be great if our teenagers would let us describe the mistakes we made as teenagers and they would listen. But know this; that would be too easy. We think we're bulletproof. Our kids think they are bulletproof. Just because 100 other people did something it turned out bad for them, we think it will turn out different for us. **Here is a fact. If we don't learn from the storms of life, we will sink. They will simply swallow us up.**

Psalm 46:

“God is our Refuge and Strength [mighty and impenetrable to temptation], a very present and well-proved help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change and though the mountains be shaken into the

midst of the seas, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling and tumult. Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]! There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the Most High. God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God will help her right early [at the dawn of the morning]. The nations raged, the kingdoms tottered and were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our Refuge (our Fortress and High Tower). Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]! Come, behold the works of the Lord, Who has wrought desolations and wonders in the earth. He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow into pieces and snaps the spear in two; He burns the chariots in the fire. Let be and be still, and know (recognize and understand) that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations! I will be exalted in the earth! The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our Refuge (our High Tower and Stronghold). Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]!” (AMPC)

As an artist, one of the things I can't wait to try is *painting*. In fact, years ago a major art gallery sponsored a competition for painters. They were offering prizes for the best painting on the subject of "Peace". As the attendance browsed through the entries, most had decided that one certain painting was almost sure to win. It portrayed this lush green pasture under a vivid blue sky, with the cows grazing lazily and a little boy walking through the grass with his fishing pole over his shoulder. It really made you feel peaceful. But believe it or not, it came in second. The painting that won was a big surprise! The scene was the ocean in a violent storm! The sky was ominous, the lightning was cutting across the sky, and the waves were crashing into the rock walls of the cliffs by the shore! Not so peaceful of a scene in my look! But then again, you had to look twice to understand what was really going on! There, about halfway up the cliff was a birds' nest, tucked into a tiny hollow in the rock. A mother bird was sitting on that nest with her little babies, tucked underneath her, sleeping soundly. Now, that was what you call peace.

And what was the title of the prize-winning painting – "Peace in the midst of the storm", and rightly so, because peace is not just the absence of a storm. *It's peace* in the middle of the storm! The kind of peace many of us could use right now in fact; the kind of peace maybe you could

have right now if you're resting where you ought to be!

That word 'midst' is simply defined as 'in the middle of'. And for many of us, that describes us to the letter! We're right in the middle of a storm on every side. Reminds you a bit of Paul when he said: ***“We are hedged in (pressed) ON EVERY SIDE [troubled and oppressed IN EVERY WAY], but not cramped or crushed; we suffer embarrassments and are perplexed and unable to find a way out, but not driven to despair; we are pursued (persecuted and hard driven), but not deserted [to stand alone]; we are struck down to the ground, but never struck out and destroyed.” (2 Corinthians 4:8-9 AMPC)***

For many of us, that is just how life feels at the moment. We're experiencing troubles On Every Side, and In Every Way! But thank God that's not the end to our story.

And as our headlines have become more dominated with new dangers, as so many hearts have been struggling with new anxieties and new fears, I think we're ready for the incredible peace offered in **Psalm 46**. I like to call it **“Good News for Bad Times“**. And maybe there's a good reason this news is landing on your doorstep today.

Verse 1 of Psalms 45 says ***“God is our Refuge and Strength, a very present help in trouble” (KJV).***

The word 'refuge' is defined as 'a place or state of safety from danger or trouble.' It is derived from the Latin Origin 'refugium', or from 'fugere' literally means 'flee.' And that's the first thing the psalmist wants us to know. God Himself is the place and state of safety from danger and trouble that we are to flee to. Sadly, it's not often the first place or person we go to. We want to talk to mom or dad, a best friend, a pastor, a prayer warrior, coworker, sibling, spouse, and nothing is wrong with any of these people, but that's not the First Person we need to seek when in danger and trouble. God Is. And He's not only our refuge (or covering) but He's also our Strength. And can we be honest? When we're facing hard and harsh times, it has a tendency to weaken us. When we're battling the storms of marriage, parenthood, work, church, family, health, finances, etc. Our places of strength, become the places we become most vulnerable to weakness. We don't attend church, prayer, bible study, we don't dive into the Word of God, we don't sing the songs of Zion, we don't walk by faith, we lose hope and trust, and at that very moment is when fear arrives with all of its baggage to pay us an extended, unwelcomed visit.

But when we go to God First, He protects us as a Refuge, and He becomes the Strength we need to make it out of this particular storm in life. Paul once again encourages us with these words: ***“But He said to me, my grace (My***

favor and loving-kindness and mercy) is enough for you [sufficient against any danger and enables you to bear the trouble manfully]; for my strength and power are made perfect (fulfilled and completed) and show themselves most effective in [your] weakness. Therefore, I will all the more gladly glory in my weaknesses and infirmities, that the strength and power of Christ (the Messiah) may rest (yes, may pitch a tent over and dwell) upon me!” (2 Corinthians 12:9 AMPC)

Yet again, God proves Himself to be our Refuge and Strength, even in the times of our dangers, troubles and weakness. So, doesn't it make even more sense now to go to God First? After all, he ends it with, “a very present and WELL-PROVED HELP in trouble.” So, we're not hoping this thing with God works out, this isn't about trial and error, or wishful thinking. He is already Well-Proven. The word '**proved**' is defined as '**to demonstrate by evidence or argument the truth or existence of; to show genuine and established validity; a testing process.**' From the Old French, it is called 'prover', from Latin 'probare' which literally means '**tested, demonstrated, approved.**' We are not hoping this goes well, God has already proven His strength is Valid. His help and presence are guaranteed. People on the other hand cannot offer you the same security. And even when they make faulty attempts at promises, presence and

help, it will never compare to that of God.

The more troubled things are, the more present God makes Himself. The psalmist then says,

“Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change and though the mountains be shaken into the midst of the seas, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling and tumult. (Verses 2-3 of Psalms 46 AMPC).

In other words, everything's collapsing here – things that have always been there for us. But no fear. Why? “God is our Refuge and Strength.” So it doesn't matter how the mountains shake, or how bad the rivers roar, nothing can hinder God's help for us. Which *is* why the psalmist admonishes us: “Selah [pause, and calmly think of that.” Sometimes all we need to do is find somewhere quiet to sit still and have a Selah moment. A time to remember who God was, is and will always be. A time to remember what God has done for you in the past. A time to remember His name, His blood, His Word, His Will, His Work, His Plan, His Son. A time to remember the healing, the saving, the deliverance. A time to remember the last time you thought you wouldn't make it through, make it

over or make it out of, and then there was a 'But God' Encounter.

Today, let this be the day that you start to Selah, in the middle of the Storm.

Don't let the elements cause you to forget who made them and who controls them.

Ways to be at peace in the midst of the storm

What does it mean to have peace in the storm? Yet inherent in the meaning of the word is completeness, wholeness, health, prosperity, fullness, rest and harmony. Thus peace is the wholeness that the entire human race seeks and desire during storms. However great your struggles are, you are not outside Jesus' field of vision or the scope of His interest. Haven said that, there are so many ways in which a child of God can be at peace even in the midst of the storm. Some of which include:

- We should not allow the storms we are going through determine the level of peace we have. Meaning, no matter what enters our lives, we should not allow it to take away our peace, but instead, have faith that you will see it through, as long as you continue to have faith.

Favour in the Midst of the Storm

- When we stop long enough to remind ourselves that we should put our unwavering trust in the fact that “God is who He says He is, and that He will do what He said He would do”
- Rest deep inside your heart and see His love for you. Right in the middle of the boat, deep in the midst of the storm, Jesus was resting, sleeping in the arms of His father, knowing He was not alone, and understanding that His Father's strength would calm the storms.
- We give thanks and worship Him for who he is; we lean into God through his word and we stand on His promises to us as His beloved and we come to the Lord in prayer.

CHAPTER SEVEN



**STORMS OUT OF YOUR CONTROL
IS NOT OUT OF GOD'S CONTROL**

Job 38 says: “*And now, finally, God ANSWERED JOB FROM THE EYE OF A VIOLENT STORM. He said: “Why do you confuse the issue? Why do you talk without knowing what you're talking about? Pull yourself together, Job! Up on your feet! Stand tall! I have some questions for you, and I want some straight answers. Where were you when I CREATED THE EARTH? Tell me, since you know so much! Who decided on its SIZE? Certainly you'll know that! Who came up with the BLUEPRINTS and MEASUREMENTS? How was its FOUNDATION poured, and who set the CORNERSTONE, while the MORNING STARS sang in chorus and all the angels shouted praise? And who took charge of the OCEAN when it gushed forth like a baby from the womb? THAT WAS ME! I wrapped it in soft CLOUDS, and tucked it in safely at night. THEN I MADE A PLAYPEN FOR IT, A STRONG PLAYPEN SO IT COULDN'T RUN LOOSE, AND SAID, 'STAY HERE, THIS IS YOUR PLACE. YOUR WILD TANTRUMS ARE CONFINED TO THIS PLACE.'* “*And have you ever ordered MORNING, 'GET UP!' told DAWN, 'GET TO WORK!' So you could seize EARTH like a blanket and shake out the wicked like cockroaches? As the SUN brings everything to light, brings out all the colors and shapes, the cover of darkness is snatched from the wicked-they're caught in the very act! “Have you ever*

gotten to the true bottom of things, explored the labyrinthine caves of DEEP OCEAN? Do you know the first thing about EARTH? Do you have one clue regarding death's dark mysteries? And do you have any idea how large this EARTH is? Speak up if you have even the beginning of an answer. "Do you know where LIGHT comes from and where DARKNESS lives so you can take them by the hand and lead them home when they get lost? Why, of course you know that. You've known them all your life, grown up in the same neighborhood with them! "Have you ever traveled to where SNOW IS MADE, seen the vault where HAIL is stockpiled, the arsenals of hail and snow that I KEEP IN READINESS for times of trouble and battle and war? Can you find your way to where LIGHTENING is launched, or to the place from which the WIND blows? Who do you suppose CARVES CANYONS for the downpours of RAIN, and charts the route of THUNDERSTORMS That bring WATER to unvisited fields, DESERTS no one ever lays eyes on, Drenching the useless WASTELANDS so they're CARPETED WITH WILDFLOWERS AND GRASS? And who do you think is the FATHER OF RAIN AND DEW, the MOTHER OF ICE AND FROST? You don't for a minute imagine these marvels of WEATHER just happen, do you? "Can you catch the eye of the beautiful PLEIADES sisters, or distract ORION from his hunt?

Can you get VENUS to look your way, or get the GREAT BEAR and her cubs to come out and play? Do you know the first thing about the SKY'S CONSTELLATIONS and how they affect things on EARTH? "Can you get the attention of the CLOUDS, and commission a shower of RAIN? Can you take charge of the LIGHTNING BOLTS AND HAVE THEM REPORT TO YOU FOR ORDERS? What Do You Have to Say for Yourself? "Who do you think gave weather-wisdom to the IBIS, and storm-savvy to the ROOSTER? Does anyone know enough to NUMBER ALL THE CLOUDS or TIP OVER THE RAIN? BARRELS OF HEAVEN When the earth is cracked and dry, the ground baked hard as a brick? "Can you teach the LIONESS to stalk her prey and satisfy the appetite of her cubs as they crouch in their den, waiting hungrily in their cave? And who sets out food for the RAVENS when their young cry to God, fluttering about because they have no food?" (MSG).

Child of God, are you getting this picture with a clear understanding? When God Himself Made and Still Maintains ALL of the Elements of the Earth, Above and Beneath It, Who Else Would You Call On to Speak On Your Behalf When These Elements Are Affecting You? And If God Can Create and Control ALL of This, Why Would You Take Your Storm to Anyone Else?

Re-read Job 38 as often as you need to in order to remind yourself that anything out of Your Control, is NEVER out of God's Control

Just because you can't handle it, doesn't mean His Hands Can't.

Then the psalmist continues:

“There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the Most High” (Psalms 46:4).

That spoke of a place where God's presence lived. And where does God live today? Well, it's in those who belong to Him through faith in Jesus His Son. Which means, believers, this encouragement is talking about you!

“God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God will help her right early [at the dawn of the morning]” (verse 5 of Psalms 46).

Just when you thought you were about to go down in the midst of your storm, God steps in to remind you that He is in the midst of you while you're in the midst of your storm, therefore, you will not Sink, you will Survive and come out of it.

Matthew 14:24-33,

“Meanwhile, the boat was far out to sea when the wind came up against them and they were battered by the waves. At about four o'clock in the morning, Jesus came toward them walking on the water. They were scared out of their wits. “A ghost!” they said, crying out in terror. But Jesus was quick to comfort them. “Courage, it's me. Don't be afraid.” Peter, suddenly bold, said, “Master, if it's really you, call me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come ahead.” Jumping out of the boat, Peter walked on the water to Jesus. But when he looked down at the waves churning beneath his feet, he lost his nerve and started to sink. He cried, “Master, save me!” Jesus didn't hesitate. He reached down and grabbed his hand. Then he said, “Faint-heart, what got into you?” The two of them climbed into the boat, and the wind died down. The disciples in the boat, having watched the whole thing, worshiped Jesus, saying, “This is it! You are God's Son for sure!” (MSG)

I Reiterate, You My Friend Will Survive, Even if You Sink First. God is Amazing and will bring you up again.

Then the Psalmist continues,

***“The nations raged, the kingdoms tottered and were His voice, the earth melted.”
(Verse 6 of Psalms 46).***

Who is fighting for you? The One who is powerful enough to speak and His voice Melts the Earth. It didn't matter what the nations and kingdoms were doing, God reminds you that all I have to do is speak and the Earth will melt. That's the best advocate you'll ever receive! When God speaks on your behalf you need no further defense.

“The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our Refuge (our Fortress and High Tower)”

(verse 7). Does it really matter if a whole host is against us, when the Lord of host is for us? Surely Not.

Psalm 27:1-6,

“The Lord is my Light and my Salvation—WHO SHALL I FEAR OR DREAD? The Lord is the REFUGE AND STRONGHOLD OF MY LIFE—OF

WHOM SHALL I BE AFRAID? When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. THOUGH A HOST ENCAMP AGAINST ME, MY HEART SHALL NOT FEAR; THOUGH WAR ARISE AGAINST ME, [EVEN THEN] IN THIS WILL I BE CONFIDENT. One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek, inquire for, and [insistently] require: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord [in His presence] all the days of my life, to behold and gaze upon the beauty [the sweet attractiveness and the delightful loveliness] of the Lord and to meditate, consider, and inquire in His temple. FOR IN THE DAY OF TROUBLE HE WILL HIDE ME IN HIS SHELTER; IN THE SECRET PLACE OF HIS TENT WILL HE HIDE ME; HE WILL SET ME HIGH UPON A ROCK. And now shall my head be lifted up above my enemies round about me; in His tent I will offer sacrifices and shouting of joy; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord.” (AMPC)

I reiterate, With God as Your Refuge, Strength, Fortress and High Tower.

What and Who Shall You Ever Fear?

The Psalmist continues:

“Come, behold the works of the Lord, Who has wrought desolations and wonders in the earth. He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow into pieces and snaps the spear in two; He burns the chariots in the fire.” (Verses 8-9 of psalms 46).

Why should you ever fear, when your attackers are stripped of their weapons by the God you serve? So, the next time you're in a violent storm, just do as the psalmist did, invite your storm to, “Come, Behold the works of the Lord”

And then as everything seems to be melting down, God says this,

“Let be and be still, and know (recognize and understand) that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth” (verse 10).

This is why you can sit so peacefully in the midst of storms, because no matter what or who encamps against you, your God will always be exalted, above the nations

and above the earth. You need not fear what or who is against you, when you know who is FOR you. So once again, allow this to be your Selah moment. Sit peacefully in the presence of God and know and recognize and understand that He Is Still God. Therefore, turn off the news, and tune out all those other voices, and get where you can just be with God. And realize that as long as you're in His hand there's no such thing as anything in your life being out of control. He is still God and you are going to pass through any storm, because you belong to the One who can give you peace in the middle of the storm.

Matthew 11:28-30,

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep Company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.” (MSG)

Then the psalmist closes with these words reiterated once again to bring our hearts joy and reassurance, ***“The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our Refuge (our***

High Tower and Stronghold). Selah, [pause, and calmly think of that]!” (vs. 11)

Now, is all of this easy? The answer is No. Life is a heavy-weight champion that never takes its' gloves off or ever exits the ring. But when you belong to the Creator of All Life, you realize that the fight is always fixed in your favor. So, today, my heart's desire is that you take away one small, yet powerful word rest on the Lord. It is God's pillow for you to rest your head on so you can do as He has done. When the storm rages, our Lord went to sleep. And that was easy for Him to do, because He created and calms the seas. So, when your storm rages, you need to rest in Him knowing that He's still the creator of the seas, and that He still calms them.

Mark 4:37-39,

“And a furious storm of wind [of hurricane proportions] arose, and the waves kept beating into the boat, so that it was already becoming filled. But He [Himself] was in the stern [of the boat], asleep on the [leather] cushion; and they awoke Him and said to Him, Master, do you not care that we are perishing? And He arose and rebuked the wind and said to the seas, Hush now! Be

still (muzzled)! And the wind ceased (sank to rest as if exhausted by its beating) and there was [immediately a great calm (a perfect peacefulness)]”(AMPC).

He's still doing that for you. Trust Him to do it for you again and again.

Isaiah 26:3:

“You will guard him and keep him in perfect and constant peace whose mind [both its inclination and its character] is stayed on you, because he commits himself to you, leans on you, and hopes confidently in you.”(AMPC);

Psalm 107:29,

“He hushes the storm to a calm and to a gentle whisper, so that the waves of the sea are still”(AMPC).

Jeremiah 1:8,

“Do not be afraid of them. For I am with you to take you out of trouble”(NLV).

Isaiah 43:2,

“When you pass through the waters, I will be there with you, and through the rivers, they will not overwhelm you. When you

walk through the fire, you will not be burned or scorched, nor will the flame kindle upon you” (AMPC).

Proverbs 10:25,

“When the storm is over, there's nothing left of the wicked; good people, firm on their rock foundation, aren't even fazed.”
(MSG).

Hebrews 6:19,

“(Now) we have this [hope] as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul [it cannot slip and it cannot break down under whoever steps out upon it – a hope] that reaches farther and enters into [the very certainty of the Presence] within the veil” (AMPC).

“You can't calm the storm. So stop trying. What you can do is calm yourself. The storm will pass.” (Timber Hawkeye)

“There are some things you learn best in calm, and some in storm.” (Willa Cather)

“In the middle of the storm, God gives us His grace to stand it, His grace to bear it, His grace to overcome it.”
(Elizabeth Livingston)

CHAPTER EIGHT



**GOD IS IN THE MIDST
OF THE STORM WITH YOU**

Peter knew he was in trouble. The winds roar down onto the Sea of Galilee like a hawk on a rat. Lightning zigzags across the black sky. The clouds vibrate with thunder. The rain taps, then pops, then slaps against the deck of the boat until everyone aboard is soaked and shaking. Ten-foot waves pick them up and slam them down again with bone jarring force.

These drenched men don't look like a team of apostles who are only a decade away from changing the world. And you can be sure of one thing. The one with the widest eyes is the one with the biggest biceps, Peter. He's seen these storms before. He's seen the wreckage and bloated bodies float to shore. He knows what the fury of wind and wave can do. And he knows that times like this are not times to make a name for yourself; they're times to get some help.

That is why, when he sees Jesus walking on the water toward the boat, he is the first to say,

“Lord, if it's you, tell me to come to you on the water”? (Matthew 14:28)

He is aware of two facts: He's going down, and Jesus is staying up. And it doesn't take him too long to decide where he would rather be.

Perhaps a better interpretation of his request would be, "***Jesus. If that is you, then get me out of here***"

"Come on" is the invitation.

And Peter doesn't have to be told twice. It's not every day that you walk on water through waves that are taller than you are. But when faced with the alternative of sure death or possible life, Peter knows which one he wants.

The first few steps go well. But a few strides out onto the water, and he forgets to look to the One who got him there in the first place, and down he plunges.

Peter's response may lack class – it probably wouldn't get him on the cover of Sports Illustrated, but it gets him out of some deep water: "***Help me!***"

And since Peter would rather swallow pride than water, a hand comes through the rain and pulls him up.

The message is clear. ***“As long as Jesus is one of many options, he is no option. As long as you can carry your burdens alone, you don't need a burden bearer. As long as your situation brings you no grief, you will receive no comfort. And as long as you can take him or leave him, you might as well leave him, because he won't be taken half-heartedly.”***

But when you mourn, when you get to the point of sorrow for your sins, when you admit that you have no other option but to cast all your cares on him, and when there is truly no other name that you can call, then cast all your cares on him, for he is waiting in the midst of the storm.

CHAPTER NINE



WHAT TO DO WHEN LIFE GETS STORMY

Storms aren't fun, either at sea or in real life. Yet we learn lessons through storms that we never would learn if life were always calm. The Christian faith is not just to get us to heaven when we die. It teaches us how to live in the here and now, especially when life gets stormy. Luke 8:22-25 relates the miracle of Jesus calming the storm at sea as the first of a series of miracles that culminate in Peter's confession (9:20). These miracles have much to teach us (as they taught the disciples) about who Jesus is and what that means to us in the trials of life. This miracle shows us that.

Since Jesus is Lord over all, we must trust Him in the storms of life.

At the end of this brief story, the disciples remarked with awe, “Who then is this that He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey Him?” That is the question Luke wants us to consider: “Who then is this?” The clear answer is,

➤ **Jesus is Lord over all**

In the beginning, Jesus spoke and created the universe. Thus it was no big deal for Him to speak to the wind and waves of His creation and have them obey Him. Yet for the disciples, who were still growing in their awareness of who Jesus is, it was an amazing miracle. We all know

that Jesus is Lord and we can repeat the phrase easily. But we often do not really know Him as Lord in the practical, daily situations we encounter. So the Lord often does for us what He did for the disciples.

THE LORD LED THEM INTO THIS STORM

Jesus said, *“Let us go over to the other side of the lake.”* Did He know what He was getting them into? Surely He did. He knows all things and so He knew they would encounter this storm. Although the disciples were veteran fishermen who knew this lake, they probably didn't anticipate the storm. The Sea of Galilee is about 13 miles long and 7 miles wide. It sits in a depression that is almost 700 feet below sea level, surrounded by mountains that rise to about 2,000 feet above sea level on the eastern side. When winds funnel down those hills, it can create sudden, violent storms. It was one of those unexpected storms that hit that evening—unexpected to the disciples, but not to the Lord Jesus. It must have been quite a storm, because even these seasoned fishermen feared for their lives. But even though it was so terrible, the sovereign Lord led them directly into it!

When serious trials hit, I often hear people say, “The Lord didn't cause this trial; He only allowed it.” Somehow they

think that they are getting God off the hook. Sometimes they will even say, “Satan, not God, caused this tragedy.” They think that by blaming Satan or by saying that God only allowed it, they preserve His love. But they do so at the expense of His sovereignty.

But the Bible clearly affirms that God is both loving and sovereign. You will not derive any comfort in trials by denying God's sovereignty. True, God may use Satan to bring trials, as He did in the case of Job. But God clearly states, “I am the Lord, and there is no other, the One forming light and creating darkness, causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the Lord who does all these” (Isa 45:6b-7).

You will find comfort in trials only if you affirm both God's absolute sovereignty and His unfailing love.

FEATURES/CHARACTERISTICS OF LIFE'S STORM

➤ Storms hit suddenly and without warning.

When we lived in California, we woke up to a news station. Sometimes their morning traffic report would

mention a fatal accident and I would think, ***“That guy left home this morning to go to work, never thinking that he had just minutes to live. His family perhaps said a perfunctory good-bye, never imagining that they would never talk to him again.”*** Life's storms are like that: Right now everything is smooth sailing. In a matter of hours, without warning, you're in the middle of a crisis. Such a storm not only tests and develops your character; it reveals it. Hudson Taylor, founder of the China Inland Mission, was talking to a young missionary who was about to start work in China. “Look at this,” he said. He pounded his fist on the table. The tea cups jumped, and the tea spilled. While the startled young man was wondering what was going on, Taylor said, “When you begin your work, you will be buffeted in numerous ways. The trials will be like blows. Remember, these blows will bring out only what is in you.”

So the time to develop resources to face the sudden storms that inevitably will strike is before they hit. If you don't spend time with the Lord in the calm of life, you won't know how to trust Him in the storms.

➤ **Storms hit believers.**

This storm hit those with Christ in their boat as well as those without Christ in their boat. Mark 4:36 records that other boats were with them. If this were a fairy tale, we might read that when the storm arose, the other boats were swamped, but the boat with Christ in it sailed as smooth as glass. The fact is, Christians are not magically exempted from the storms of life. Just because you're in Jesus' boat doesn't mean that it's going to be smooth sailing. Christians are not exempt from trials.

Some think, “Yes, that's true. But I'm *servicing* Christ.” They think that being committed earns them special protection from storms. But observe:

➤ **Storms hit obedient believers who are serving Christ.**

In fact, this storm did not hit the disciples because they had been disobedient but, rather, because they had been obedient! Jesus said, “Let's go over to the other side” (8:22). These men, who had committed their lives to serve Christ, obeyed. And He led them straight into a storm! Being obedient to the word of God can sometime place us into the test of the storm. But the grace of God

will always bring us out of the storm and will also position us in a better understanding of life.

THE LORD CHECKED OUT AND SEEMED TO LEAVE THEM ALONE IN THE STORM

This is the only incident in the Bible that mentions Jesus sleeping, and what a time to fall asleep! It would be one thing if Jesus had said, “Men, a storm is coming. Peter, you stay on the helm! John, make sure that sail is secure! James, get that gear tied down!” If Jesus had been actively involved, giving orders, telling them, “Hang in there, guys, we're going to make it,” the storm would have been difficult,

but bearable. But just when they needed Jesus' calm leadership and assurance, where was He? Sacked out in the back of the boat, oblivious to their dire need!

Have you ever felt like that in the midst of a trial? You get into it and it seems as if the Lord checked out and left you all alone! You're bailing like crazy, but the waves are winning. You're about to go under, and you wonder, where is the Lord?

THE LORD WAS WITH THEM IN THE STORM

He's always there, even though sometimes it seems as if He's not. But often He waits until we are at our wit's end so that we sense how great our need really is. But even before the disciples called on Him, Jesus was there with them in the boat, going through the storm with them. He has promised, ***“I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you”*** (Heb. 13:5). As Paul triumphantly affirms, no trial can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 8:38-39).

I love the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who obeyed the Lord and found themselves in a storm of a different sort, thrown into Nebuchadnezzar's fiery furnace. As he peered into the flames, Nebuchadnezzar was astounded and said to his officials, “Was it not three men we cast bound into the midst of the fire?” They answered, “Certainly, O king.” He replied, “Look! I see four men loosed and walking about in the midst of the fire without harm, and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods” (Dan. 3:24-25). I believe the fourth man was the Lord Jesus. He didn't leave those faithful men alone in their trial, but went and stood with them in the

flames.

Whenever you're in a storm, even though you may think at first that the Lord is not there, He *is* there! The first thing we must do in the storms of life is to affirm that Jesus is Lord, even over the storms. Then,

WE MUST TRUST JESUS THE LORD IN THE STORMS OF LIFE

This lesson comes through with Jesus' question, "Where is your faith?" (8:25). If there is ever a time when it seems as if panic would be legitimate, it's when you're in a major storm and your boat is being swamped. And yet Jesus rebuked not only the storm, but also the disciples' lack of faith! The fact is,

STORMS OFTEN EXPOSE HOW WE ARE NOT TRUSTING IN THE LORD

We all can fake it in calm waters. We can impress others with how together we seem to be. And, the disciples could cope with normal storms quite well. They had been in storms on this lake many other times. They were experts at handling their boat in rough waters. At first they probably thought, "No problem, we can handle it."

But this storm brought them to the end of themselves and showed them how they were trusting in themselves. Often, a crisis shows us a side of ourselves we were blind to. The Lord uses it to reveal new areas where we need to learn to trust Him. We all must come to know our weakness so that we will rely on the Lord's strength. Storms often show us things that we don't see in calmer times.

➤ **Storms reveal our distorted view of the problem**

The disciples excitedly cried, “Master, Master, we are perishing” They thought they all were going to drown. But wait a minute! Who was on board with them? God's promised Messiah! To think that God's long-awaited Messianic kingdom could sink to the bottom of the Sea of Galilee was absurd! But in their panic, the disciples had a distorted view of the problem.

Not all fear is wrong, but Jesus rebuked the disciples because their fear was excessive. Some fear is useful because it leads us to take prudent caution for our safety. Sometimes fear makes us spring into immediate action to

save our own lives or the life of a loved one who is in danger. But fear is excessive and wrong when it causes us to panic so that we are not thinking carefully in light of God's promises. If we're so focused on the problem that we cannot see God's control over it, then we're not trusting Him.

➤ **Storms reveal our distorted view of ourselves.**

“Master, Master, *we* are perishing!” That “we” probably included Jesus, but I'm not sure that He was their uppermost concern. They weren't saying, “**Hey, guys, if we don't get out of this storm, the Messiah will die**” First and foremost they were AFRAID of their own lives. They were seeking for the well-being of their selves and not the well-being of the Messiah.

Storms have a way of exposing our self-focus. We can put on a front of caring about others until we realize that it's going to cost us. Suddenly, it's every man for himself. Self-pity is another sure sign that we have a distorted view of ourselves. Any time we're feeling sorry for ourselves, we're too focused on ourselves. We need to stop and get the big picture of what God is doing.

➤ **Storms reveal our distorted view of the Lord Jesus.**

The disciples ask in awe, **“Who then is this?”** (8:25). That was their problem, they really didn't realize who Jesus is. If they had known, they would not have been so amazed at what happened. They underestimated His power. We do the same thing when we panic in a crisis. We try to solve our problem by figuring everything into the equation, except the supernatural power of Christ. Our distorted view of the problem and of ourselves clouds our vision so that we fail to see the marvelous person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Although Luke does not mention it, Mark's account tells us that the disciples (I would guess, Peter) also said, ***“Lord, don't you care that we're perishing?”***

In a time of severe trial, it's easy to doubt the Lord's loving care for us. That's why, by faith, we must always affirm two things in our trials: God's sovereignty and His love (1 Pet. 5:6-7). Thus we often think that we're trusting in the Lord until a storm hits. It reveals to us how we're not really trusting Him.

STORMS SHOULD DRIVE US TO TRUST IN THE LORD OF THE STORM.

The disciples may have protested, “We were trusting in the Lord. We called to Him for help.” But they were not really calling to Jesus in faith or He wouldn't have rebuked them by asking, “Where is your faith?” What they needed most in this dire situation was to trust in the living God.

That's also what we need most in our trials. Sad to say, trusting God has fallen on hard times. Many “Christian” psychologists scoff at pastors who tell people that they need to trust God, as if that is worthless advice. But trusting God in a crisis is not useless advice! It is what has sustained the saints in many horrible trials down through the centuries. If you don't know how to trust God in the storms of life, you need to learn because we are commanded to walk by faith and to be built up in faith (Col.2:6-7).

The better we know the Lord, the better we can trust Him.

“Who then is this?” is the crucial question. Clearly, this Jesus is fully human. He had a body that got so exhausted

that He could sleep in the midst of the storm. The full humanity of Jesus Christ should be of tremendous comfort to us when we are suffering from the limitations of our bodies.

“We do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin” (Heb. 4:15).

But not only is our Lord fully human, He is also fully divine. He merely had to speak the word and the howling winds ceased and the surging waves were instantly as smooth as glass. Just as Jesus' full humanity encourages us because He understands, so His full deity should encourage us because He is powerful to act on our behalf. Nothing is too difficult for the living God. Not a breath of wind or a drop of water can defy His sovereign will. The better we know Him, the better we can trust Him in our trials.

➤ **The bigger the storm, the more the Lord will be glorified when we trust Him**

We need always to keep in mind that the chief end of man is not to use God for our own happiness, but to glorify

God no matter what happens to us. This storm revealed the glory of Christ in a way that would have been hidden had it not happened. The disciples got a glimpse of His majestic power that **“He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey Him.”** The bigger the problem, the more our almighty Lord will be glorified when we trust Him.

After I authored the Game Changer, people often came up to me and said, “Bishop Zige, my, what a great faith you have.” I would smile and respond, “No, it's what a great God I have.” Our faith in trials should point people toward our great God.

➤ **The more you trust Him in this storm, the more you will know Him and be able to trust Him in the next storm**

The winds and the water obey Jesus without question, but we always have a choice. Sadly, we often fail to obey and trust Him. But notice that first the disciples feared the storm; then, they feared the Lord. Their fear of the storm was due to their lack of faith. Their fear of the Lord stemmed from their new awareness of His awesome

power.

Faith in the Lord is not an automatic thing. It is something that we must choose to exercise, often in the face of overwhelming circumstances that seem to scream at us. Faith sometimes must go back to previous situations where God has shown Himself faithful and say, "I rest there." Often we have to go back to the history recorded in Scripture, where we read of God's faithfulness to His people in horribly difficult situations. If you actively trust the Lord Jesus in your current trial, your faith will be strengthened to trust Him in the next storm.

TRUST AND GO UNDER WITH JESUS

I've heard Bible teachers say, "*With Christ in the boat, you can smile at the storm.*" Certainly there is a sense in which that's true. But I don't want to give you an overly rosy picture. We need to face squarely the fact that sometimes Jesus doesn't calm the storm. Sometimes the boat does sink, even if we're trusting in Jesus. John the Baptist wasn't delivered from prison; he lost his head. Peter was miraculously delivered from prison, but James was put to death (Acts 12:1-17). So what should we do if

we trust in the Lord, but the boat sinks? The miracle doesn't come?

The answer is, **“We trust in the Lord Jesus as we go under. We go down singing the doxology.”** Trust Him daily in the small problems you face. Then, whether He instantly calms the storm or whether your boat sinks, you will know peace that the world can't know, the peace that comes from trusting in Jesus, the Lord over all of life's storms.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Bishop (Dr.) Prophet Izonbarakumo Zige, Ph.D, also known as the five (5) star General, is the president and founder of Corresponding Grace Ministry International, whose headquarters is located in Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State of Nigeria. He is a great and anointed man of God, called with a liberation mandate to set the captives free, to deliver men from marine forces and from the covenant of evil foundations and releasing them

into the blessings and inheritance of Jesus Christ.

He is one of the few voices in Bayelsa State that is making an extraordinary impact round the globe. His ministry has been a source of great blessing to so many people and surrounded by numerous testimonies of great miracles and proven proofs.

Undoubtedly, **Bishop (Dr.) Prophet Zige Izonbarakumo** is one of the most revered authorities in prophetic Ministry and he is a great teacher and preacher of the word of God which great revelation and unfathomable insight. He is happily married to **Apostle (Dr.) Happiness Ebisuodei Zige Izonbarakumo** and are blessed with two children **Emmanuel Izonbarakumo Zige** and **Victory Izonbarakumo Zige**.

Conclusively, he is a wonderful scholar and writer of many books. Some of such include: CGM SUNDAY SCHOOL OF WISDOM MANUAL, OVERCOMING THE STORMS OF LIFE, COMMANDING THE ATMOSPHERE TO YOUR FAVOUR, THE GAME CHANGER, FLOURISHING LIKE THE PALM TREE, FAVOUR IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM etcetera.

He possesses **B.Ed. (Hons)** in “**Fine and Applied Art.**” He has also a **master** degree in **theology** and a holder of **Ph.D.** degree in **theology**. He is an **honorary Doctor of Divinity (D.D)** awardee. He is also a Senior Civil Servant in the Bayelsa State Civil Service Commission. His hobbies are drawing/painting, reading and writing inspirational books, singing and dancing and amongst others. For prayers and counseling, call: **+2348035463218**.

ISBN 9789787719497



9 789787 719497