



Steps to Calming a Storm

We will all at some point in our lives encounter a storm. However, we must prepare to deal with it and overcome it. Hard times will come but we must prepare to counter them.

Success during a hard time or storm does not just come suddenly. **There must be preparation before the storm to endure and overcome the storm.**

Remember storms respect no one and come to everyone. Believe it or not, like it or not. Be prepared.

Do not wait for the storm to get to your door. It might be a little too late.

I went through a difficult time in my life and the Lord spoke to me, If I had been making deposits into my spiritual account, I could not have survived the storm. I had been depositing the Word of God in my heart over the years. During that difficult season, I was able to make withdraws. You have to make deposits before you make withdraws.

Text: Mark 4:35-39 And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side. 36 And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships. 37 And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. 38 And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? 39 And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

1) Plant the Word into your heart ahead of time.

Before the storm began, Jesus had taught/planted the Word into the disciples. I believe He knew what was about to happen and prepared His disciples by giving them the Word. In the same way, we need a Word from the Lord to endure difficult times.

a) There is no success without God's word. Your success and victory will be proportional to the Word in you.

- b) The Word of God is surer than brick and mortar.
- c) A harvest is determined by the seed planted. Prayer is not seed. It is water. We need to plant seed. We harvest from seed planted, not prayers prayed.

Jesus had given them the word (Mark 4:30-34). He had been teaching them and finally gave them another positive word of assurance **"Let us pass over unto the other side."** He did not say let us go and drown or die in the storm.

This was their Word for the moment about to happen, **"Let us pass over unto the other side."**

Prayer alone is not sufficient to carry you through a storm. You need the WORD of God planted in your heart.

2) Revelation of God's love for you

1 John 4:19 *"We love him, because he first loved us."* 1 John 4:10,18-19 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. [18] There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. [19] We love him, because he first loved us.

John 17: 23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

- a) Disciples asked Jesus a question that is very telling of their revelation of His love for them. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?
- b) This question speaks volumes of where they were in their love walk with the Lord. They did not know and have a good revelation of how He loves and loved them.
 - i) The questions we ask during a storm reveal where we are and what we believe. We need to make sure we do not ask God questions of unbelief and doubt or questioning His love for us.
- c) During a storm, one of the most critical things to arm yourself with is the revelation of God's love. Knowing how much He loves you will keep you believing and trusting Him even in the most difficult time of your life.

- d) One of the things that I'm grounded in and continue to be is the love of God for me. No one can convince me otherwise. Even if I lost all I have. I came close to that and I did not move from that.

Jesus is in the boat of your life. He wants to see the best for you.

Romans 5:6-10 "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life."

- a) How do you know Jesus loves you? He died for you. He took the bullet for you/us.

- 3) Let not your heart be troubled. Fear not!

Matthew 8:26 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. (Emphasis mine).

- a) Matthew reveals that they were fearful. Which reveals that their heart was troubled.
- b) John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me."

One of the main reasons we cannot calm the storm is because **we are troubled**.

- a) Jesus was not troubled by this storm. He was not panicking.
- b) We do not have to let our hearts be troubled. We have the power to stop our hearts from being troubled regardless of any situation we encounter.
- c) Do not panic. Be calm. Jesus is aware and is not panicking. He is in the boat of your life.
 - i) And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?
 - ii) Some storms you need to sleep through them.

No matter what your situation is, you can live through any situation and not let your heart be troubled.

- 4) Be at peace.

Matthew 8:26 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. (Emphasis mine).

- a) Matthew reveals that they were **fearful**. Which reveals that their heart was **not at peace**.
- b) Notice that Jesus did not only rebuke the storm but also commanded peace. **If you are not at peace, you cannot rebuke the storm**.
- c) Grace and peace go together. If you do not have peace, you have left grace. In other words, you are in self-effort and performance. You have to keep your eyes on Jesus and what He has done for you by grace. This will release peace in your life.
- d) Notice that Jesus was in the boat, soaked in water sleeping through the storm that was killing other. If we are at peace in such conditions, we can as well sleep through any storm.
 - i) Jesus slept in this storm because He was at peace on the inside. I have met and seen people who sleep through the storm. What is killing them is not killing the other.

If we do not let the storm get on the inside of us, we can calm the storm.

- 5) Rebuke the wind and the sea.

Mark 4:39 And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

- a) Take your authority, speak to your problem. One of the reasons we have not seen victory in many parts of our lives is because we have not taken our authority.
 - i) Notice that Jesus **"said unto the sea"** not unto God. He exercised His authority and changed the entire situation.
 - ii) The disciples could have done the same. We have been given the authority to calm any storm in our lives. There was no need to tell Jesus to do something because they too could.
- b) After you are at peace, rebuke the wind.
- c) Notice: Jesus did not rebuke the storm but rather the wind and the sea. There is a difference. Jesus went to the very root cause. The wind troubled the sea hence causing the storm, so the best way to stop the storm is to rebuke it very cause—the wind.

Conclusion: Storms will come. Be prepared to overcome.

- 1) Plant the word into your heart
- 2) Revelation of God's love
- 3) Let not your heart be troubled
- 4) Be at peace
- 5) Rebuke the wind.

Additional Notes:

Matthew 8:23-27 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!

These men were shocked by the authority Jesus displayed over the winds and the sea to the point that they obeyed Him. The same authority and power displayed by Jesus, He has given us (Ephesians 1:19-21).