

PEACE IN THE STORM

Psalms 107:28-30 Then they cry out to the Lord in their trouble, and He brings them out of their distresses. He calms the storm, so that the waves are still. Then they are glad because they are quiet; so He guides them to their desired haven.

Do you find yourself facing a tempest today? Are winds of doubt and uncertainty blowing and threatening you with thoughts of despair? If this is what you are facing, take heart. If you belong to God and Jesus is Lord of your life, you have nothing to fear. He is your Shepherd and the One who will bring you direction. By His Spirit He will lead you safely through the storm.

One day Jesus got into a boat and used it as a pulpit to teach the multitudes many things by parables. We read of this in Mark chapter 4. At the end of the day, He said to His disciples, "Let us cross over to the other side." (v. 35). They left the shore, and in obedience did as Jesus had said.

Before long a windstorm arose. The waves beat into the boat so that it began to fill with water. Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. What a picture of peace in the midst of the storm! By contrast, the disciples were filled with fear. They woke Jesus and said, "Teacher, do You not care we are perishing?"

Jesus rose up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace be still!" The wind ceased and there was a great calm. (v37-39) Jesus asked His disciples, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"

I'm sure Jesus knew the answer, but He wanted the disciples to understand the reason why fear had dominated their hearts, when faith should have triumphed. They, like we so often do, were looking at their circumstances solely through natural eyes instead looking at them through eyes of faith. Instead of trusting in Jesus, in their mind's eye the disciples saw themselves perishing.

If you find yourself in the midst of a storm, shift your focus from what you observe through your senses, fix your gaze on Jesus and call on His name. He is your answer. Do not be afraid but believe His Word, and faith will arise in your heart. You will go through the storm in victory. As you obey the Master, He will take you safely to the other side.

I see the difficulties you face that seem so unrelenting, and your heart that is overwhelmed. It is in the midst of your challenges that I desire to show you My faithfulness and impart to you My strength. My love for you is constant and unchanging and I reach out to you with open arms to gather you close to Myself. Take my hand and I will hold you tight. You will not sink but rise above the storm. Allow your heart to dwell on my love for you, and you will become aware of My presence. As you listen to My voice, your heart be filled with peace and your faith will grow strong. Instead of being intimidated by your circumstances you will be bold and confident in Me and My power will be released to bring the change that you desire.