

"TO KNOW HIM IS TO LOVE HIM"

4. Storms: The Canvas for His Faithfulness

Our study on God's Faithfulness revealed that His Faithfulness is most noticeable (and most appreciated) when we are going through a storm (trial). We know that He only allows us to experience storms that we are capable of handling. He will never leave us, nor will He forsake us.

**"Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind,
and said:"**

(NKJV, Job 38:1)

No matter what the specifics are of a particular storm or trial, one thing is certain: The Lord is trying to tell us something with and through the storm. The Bible depicts four types of storms.

STORMS OF CORRECTION. The LORD told Jonah to go to Nineveh and call for them to repent, but Jonah refused and went in the opposite direction to Tarshish. While he was trying to "escape", the Lord caused the ship he was on to encounter a storm. He was thrown overboard and swallowed by a great fish.

(NKJV, Jonah 1:10), "Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, 'Why have you done this?' For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them."

When we are disobedient or in rebellion, the Lord will allow a storm to get us back on the track He wants us on. I sometimes refer to this as "*a divine 2-by-4 upside the head*".

STORMS OF PERFECTION. After Jesus fed the five thousand, He sent His disciples across the Sea of Galilee.

(NKJV, Mat 14:22), "Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away."

Midway through their journey, a storm arose around them. Why? It can't be for correction because they were doing what Jesus told them to. This storm was for

perfection; to help them grow and prepare them for the greater work to come that would require greater faith. Whenever we encounter a trial while doing what the Lord has for us, we can be confident that it is a storm of perfection.

STORMS OF PROTECTION. Although the world was wicked, God saw that Noah was a just man.

(NKJV, Gen 6:5,8), "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. [8] But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD."

Noah and his family were not only saved FROM the flood, they were saved BY the flood! The flood saved Noah and his family from the wickedness that was so great. Sometimes the storms in our lives protect us from greater dangers and larger storms.

STORMS OF DIRECTION. While Paul was on his way to Rome (Acts 27) a storm developed, the ship was blown off course, and Paul was thrown overboard. He swam ashore of Malta. We then find out the reason for it all.

(NKJV, Act 28:8-9), "And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him. [9] So when this was done, the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came and were healed."

God had a "divine appointment" for Paul. What initially appeared to be a detour turned out to be exactly where the Lord wanted Paul to go. When a storm takes us in a different direction and ends up blessing someone who otherwise wouldn't have been blessed, it is a good probability that it was a storm of direction.

Group Discussion

- Why do we immediately assume that a storm that we are in is a storm of correction?
- How can we determine what type of storm we are in?