



"STORMS"

Think of your 2020...on a scale of 1 to 10 ...1 being tranquil 10 being tumultuous. How would you describe it?

While real storms usually whirl in a singular direction, life's storms are more multi-directional and often puzzling. As a result, they create multi-faceted tension physically, emotionally, relationally, financially, and spiritually.

Life's storms can be **self-inflicted** – as result of **bad decisions** we make. Some of life's storms are **self-imposed** because of **hard decisions** that had to be made. Some life storms are **predictable**, while others come as a **sudden surprise**.

Storm clouds on a horizon can have the same effect as a real storm!

Jesus lived anything but a storm free life. He never promised a storm free life to those that would choose to follow Him! To the contrary... Jesus said...**everyone** will experience storms, **everyone** should expect storms, and **everyone** should prepare for storms – Mt 5:45; Ps 34:19; Jn 15:18, 16:33; Mt 7:24-27; Eph 6:13

Jesus uses storms and miracles to **demonstrate** His deity – Jn 6:20; Mt 14:27; Mark 6:50; 2Cor 12:9-10; Phil 4:13

Jesus uses storms and miracles to **develop** His disciples – Jn 6:6; Mark 6:45; Mt 14:22; Jn 6:20; Mt 7:24-27; Jm 1:2-4

IF NOT A STORM FREE LIFE, WHAT DID GOD/JESUS PROMISE THOSE WHO BELIEVED IN HIM?

Storms have a **purpose** and Jesus has a **plan** to use every storm for your good, His Glory, and the good of others – Jn 6:6b, 6:15; Ex 50:20; Rom 8:28-29; Jer 29:11; Prov 3:5-6

God uses storms to **purify** us - 1Jn 1:9; Jn 3:16; Prov 24:16; Phil 1:6; 2Cor 5:17

God wants you to experience His **presence** in ways that only happen in the midst of a storm! Duet 31:6; Rom 8:39

God wants you to see His **power** at work amidst the storm- Mt 11:30; 2Cor 12:9

God is using storms to **prepare** you for greater things - Eph 2:10; Jn 14:12

Jesus is aware of the storms but often waits to be invited in your storm- Jn 6:21; Rev 3:20

Some people **cannot see** God in their Storm- Jn 6:1; Matt 14:26

Some would never have **cried out** to God had there not been a storm -Mt 14:26; Mark 6:49; Ps 40:1; Mt 7:7-12

Some people never will cry out until they hear one of your many storm stories!

Sometimes God speaks to the storm.

Sometimes God speaks to us in or through the storm.

He says to the storm ...Be still, I am!

To you He says...be still and know... I am your God!

Growing Notes

-Looking back at the storms you have endured in 2020, how has God demonstrated His deity and developed your faith

-Every follower of Christ has at least some spiritual equity - memories of God's past faithfulness that can fuel them through future storms. What verses do you hold on to and draw strength from in the midst of a storm?

- 1) How do most non-believers and many believers handle the storms of life apart from God?
- 2) Was there a time in any storm in which you wondered... where is Jesus?
- 3) List at least 3 verses from today's lesson or scriptures you know that describe exactly where Jesus is, what He is doing or wanting to do?
- 4) How often do you find yourself rowing against the wind and waves on your own strength?
- 5) List at least 3 scriptures that offer, wisdom or insight as to why this is futility.
- 6) List at least 3 scriptures that offer, wisdom or insight as to what you should do differently.
- 7) Knowing what we know about our God, how should we view the storms of life?