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FINDING GOD IN THE STORM

"But understand this, that in the last days dangerous times of great stress and trouble will come; difficult days that will be hard to bear."

2 Timothy 3:1-3 AMP

We live in an age of global crisis, confusion and unrest. People are fearful about the future and many have given up hope for a better tomorrow. People are desperate for answers. As believers we can focus on the truth in God's Word and the promises made by our Saviour, Jesus Christ. When he walked the earth, he taught his disciples about crisis situations and how to trust God even in the toughest times.

PREPARE FOR THE STORM

Jesus taught his disciples about preparing their lives for the storm. "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash." (Matthew 7:24-27 TLB) Notice in the above passage that the storm came to both the foolish and the wise person. In other words, crisis situations will come to us all! However, Jesus was teaching that we need to prepare for the storm before it hits. The wise person both listens to and follows the

teachings of Jesus. The book of James exhorts us to "be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (James 1:22) We need to take time to build our faith and put God's Word into practice. When the storms of life come, we can know our faith life won't collapse because our belief system is established on God's truth!

WHAT JESUS DID IN THE STORM

Jesus also gave us a life lesson about handling storms. One evening Jesus told his disciples to get into the boat so they could "pass over to the other side" of the lake. Mark records the following for us: "But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water. Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, 'Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?' When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Silence! Be still!' Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. Then he asked them, 'Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?' (Mark 4:37-40 NLT) There are many vital lessons we can learn from this passage. First of all, even though you have Jesus in your boat, a storm can still try to throw you off course! Jesus also demonstrated that you can have perfect peace in the midst of a storm. While the disciples were panicking, Jesus was enjoying a restful sleep! Also, despite how the circumstances look in our lives, we must hang on to the promise of God. Jesus told the disciples that they were going to "pass over to the other

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side.” Despite the storm, God doesn’t alter his promises! Finally, we can use our faith in the storm. When Jesus woke, he rebuked the wind and waves and he wondered why the disciples hadn’t done it already. We can use our God-given authority to speak to adverse circumstances in our lives. We don’t have to allow the storms of life to destroy us!

EXPERIENCE PEACE IN THE STORM

Just as Jesus slept through the storm, we can also have peace in the midst of any storm. In John 6:33 Jesus said, “I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace. In the world you have tribulation and distress and suffering, but be courageous [be confident, be undaunted, be filled with joy]; I have overcome the world.” (AMP) Remember, you can only experience peace in Jesus.

You will not find it in the world, which only offers tribulation, distress and suffering. Paul says “your life is hidden in Christ.” (Col.3:3) In Christ you will find supernatural peace to sustain you through any crisis in life.

Let’s face the storms in our lives with confidence. We can prepare for trouble ahead by learning and practicing God’s word. Know that He never promised us a “trouble-free” life, but He did promise to grant us peace and strength to go through any storm. When we stay in Christ, the storms of life won’t shipwreck us and we can overcome any trouble that comes our way!

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