

WHEN THE STORM REVEALS GOD

Sometimes God allows us to go through storms not to destroy our faith, but to deepen our revelation of who He is and to prepare us for the purpose He has for us.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ Have you ever been caught in a storm where the sky becomes dark, the wind begins to howl, and rain starts pouring down? It's likely that fear begins to rise inside of you, and you probably start looking for shelter or a route of escape.
- ❖ Then there's possibly all kinds of thoughts cycling through your mind as you wrestle with the uncertainties related to storms: "How long will it last?"; "Is it going to get worse?"; "Am I going to suffer loss?" When a storm starts raging, you begin to realize how very little control you actually have.
- ❖ Now "storms" are not only about the weather. They are also a metaphor for turbulent times or experiences of uncertainty we navigate on the journey of life—aka, the storms of life.
- ❖ Just like a physical storm, the storms of life can come suddenly—one phone call or conversation, a diagnosis, an unexpected bill, a disappointment, or a closed door.
- ❖ When we experience the storms of life, we may be inclined to ask something similar to the disciples' question from the text in Mark 4: "Lord, do you even care about what I'm experiencing?"
- ❖ But before getting to that point, take note of the instruction Jesus gave His disciples beforehand: "Let us go over to the other side" (v. 35). The disciples were following the words of Jesus. They were in the storm because they obeyed the will of God.
- ❖ Being in the will of God does not mean that we will never experience storms. Sometimes we can be exactly where God told us to be and still encounter something we cannot control.
- ❖ But take note of this critical element in the text: Jesus was in the boat with the disciples (v. 36).
- ❖ As we continue reading, we're told that "a furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped" (v. 37).
- ❖ Now, some of the disciples were professional fishermen. They had most likely sailed in those waters before, so they of all people knew when a storm became too dangerous. In this instance, they knew this storm was beyond their ability to navigate.
- ❖ There are moments when a storm of life brings us to a place where our abilities and resources aren't enough to save us. But did not Jesus say in Matthew 28:20, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age"?
- ❖ In the intensity of the storm, Jesus was still with the disciples in the boat. The storm, waves, and the disciples' fear and inability to control the situation had not removed Him. Jesus was still there.
- ❖ Sometimes, we mistake God's silence for God's absence. However, silence is not absence. Just because we don't see God working doesn't mean He isn't present. **You may not see His hand, but you can trust His presence.**
- ❖ "Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, 'Teacher, don't you care if we drown?'" (Mark 4:38).
- ❖ The situation was deteriorating rapidly. The disciples were in the middle of a crisis, and it appeared that Jesus didn't care. Some of us may have experienced this same dynamic the disciples were

KEY SCRIPTURE: Mark 4:35-41

(all scriptures in text are in NIV unless otherwise noted)

- going through, where it felt like God was sleeping.
- ❖ The crisis the disciples were experiencing wasn't just the physical storm—they also were experiencing a crisis in their perception and understanding of who Jesus was.
 - ❖ **But Jesus was positioning them for a deeper revelation of who He was in order to propel His purpose forward.**
 - ❖ Jesus' His instruction "to over go to the other side" (Mark 4:35) had purpose. On that "other side" in Mark 5, Jesus delivered a demon-possessed man, healed a woman who had suffered from an affliction for many years, and raised a little girl from the dead.
 - ❖ The disciples' understanding of Jesus had grown through His teachings and observation of His mighty acts, but what was ahead required a deeper revelation of who Jesus was.
 - ❖ What they knew about Jesus on the shore was about to be expanded by what they experienced with Him *in* the storm when "He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!'" (v. 39).
 - ❖ In that moment of revelation—when the wind died down and things became calm (v. 39)—the disciples began to understand that Jesus wasn't just another powerful teacher or a prophet of God. They began to understand that Jesus was the divine embodiment of God. This wasn't a lesson the disciples could have learned on the shore. They had to go through the storm.
 - ❖ It is possible that the storms of life we may be experiencing are intended to deepen our revelation of who Jesus really is, and to propel His purpose in our lives forward.
 - ❖ When we encounter an unexpected storm of life, instead of asking, "Lord, why is this happening to me?", we should be asking, "God, what are You revealing about Yourself through this?"
 - ❖ It could be that God is trying to teach us patience or to trust Him. It could be that He is exposing things in our lives that need to change. Or it could be that He's training us and teaching us to depend on His Spirit rather than our own strength.
 - ❖ Sometimes God allows us to go through storms not to destroy our faith, but to deepen our revelation of who He is and prepare us for the purpose He has for us.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. In Mark 4:35-41, even though Jesus was in the boat with the disciples, fear still took hold of them when the sea became turbulent. Why do you think the disciples were afraid, and what did Jesus mean when He asked in verse 40, "Do you still have no faith?"
2. How do we go about cultivating a response of faith rather than one of fear when the storms of life start raging? What Scriptures have helped or can help strengthen your faith during turbulent seasons (i.e., Isaiah 43:2; John 16:33)?

PRAYER TIME

When the storms of life start raging and the billows roll, I'm glad, Lord, You'll keep me safe in Your arms.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2026

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🗨️ (Think about)
! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ➡️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE
WORD

Start-up: When you hear news of a severe storm warning in your area, what do you do to prepare for it? If nothing, why not?

PRAYER FOCUS: Personal spiritual growth

24-hour Prayer: Daily;

Daily Devotions: Monday - Friday @ 6:30 a.m. & 9:00 p.m.;
Departmental Prayer: Every Thursday (please check schedule)

Corporate Prayer: Every Friday @ 7:00 p.m. (and in person every second Friday @ 9:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m.).

Zoom ID: 898 3191 5909 **Phone Access:** 647-374-4685

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to www.faithsanctuary.com/give

For email transfers, please use donate@faithsanctuary.com



MONTHLY LEADERS' MEETING

Sunday, August 23rd, 2026 @ 1:15 p.m. in the Upper Chapel.

WEDNESDAY CORPORATE BIBLE STUDY

Date: Every Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m. on Zoom and in person. Contact Pastor Chris Simpson for further information.

SUMMER SATURDAYS

Do you want to hear something cool? Summer Saturdays are taking place each Saturday until September 12th. Summer Saturdays is where you don't have to plan anything fun for the family—we do that for you. Whether it's men's soccer, ping pong, board games, hiking, or enjoying a cup of tea during book club, we've got you covered! Sign up at the front foyer or see Sis. Tope for further details.



FAITH SANCTUARY WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service @ 11:00 a.m.
(Listen via phone: 1-844-268-4848)

Monday Berean Bible Study @ 6:30 p.m.
(Zoom, Facebook, YouTube)

Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.
(In person and via Zoom)

Friday Evening Service @ 8:00 p.m.
(In person and via Zoom)

Life Group Meetings – individually scheduled
(see ushers for information)

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

AUGUST 23, 2026



Feed Canada to Feed the World



Pastor:
Rev. Adrian W. Peel

*"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."
2 Timothy 1:7(NIV)*

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