

STORMS IN THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN

Joshua 1:2 Fellowship

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PSALMS 107:29

“He caused the storm to be still, so that the waves of the sea were hushed.”



In our walk with God as born-again Christians, we are going to go through rough times somewhere along our journey. But the difference between the lost sinner and the children of God is that He is there to help us. There are three storms that Christians will go through in their walk with Jesus that are found in the Bible.

WHAT ARE THESE THREE STORMS?

THE DISOBEDIENCE STORM

Jonah was the one that cause that storm upon his life. **“Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. All the sailors were afraid, and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship”** (Jonah 1:4-5).

Many Christians are in the middle of a violent storm in their lives because of disobeying the Word of God in their walk. Jonah was disobeying God’s call to preach the Word to the great city of Nineveh. He ran from his calling from God and it almost cost him his life and the lives of all the sailors on that ship. Many believers blame the devil and say that he is attacking them with that violent storm, but it is not the devil, it is God. Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up (Verse 4).

The Bible says that “the Lord sent a great wind” against Jonah. Why? His disobedience to God’s word! The more Jonah refused to repent of his sin of disobedience, the storm became more violent. The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?” Jonah 1:11

“Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before” (Jonah 1:13). It wasn’t until Jonah took responsibility for his disobedience and was thrown into the sea that the storm calmed down. **“Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm”** (Jonah 1:15). Jonah repents in the belly of the Big Fish and finds himself on the shores of Nineveh preaching Jesus and those people get saved. His repentance and obedience to do God’s will stop the storm!

THE OBEDIENT STORM

The 12 disciples of Jesus experienced this kind of storm. Mark 4:35-41 says, “That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, **“Let us go over to the other side.”** Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. **A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped.** 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?” **He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!”** Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? **Do you still have no faith?**” They were terrified and asked each other, **“Who is this?** Even the wind and the waves obey him!” There will be times in our Christian walk, that we are serving God and walking with Him and obeying His Word, that storms will come against us, but it is here where we must trust Him. Why the Obedience Storm?

This is where God will reveal your heart to you to see if you are really trusting Him with all your heart. Anyone can trust God when they are on the mountain top and being blessed by Him. You are on “Blessed Blvd!” But can you trust Jesus when all hell is breaking loose all around you! You are walking with Jesus! Obeying Jesus! Serving Jesus! Preaching Jesus! But are you Trusting Jesus with all your heart no matter what comes your way? The 12 disciples failed this test from God because they were trusting in themselves and not on God.

CAN YOU TRUST AND OBEY JESUS...

In the Storms? In the Lion’s Den? In the Blazing Furnace? **And not take matters into your hands!** The Obedience Storm reveals your heart to you!



“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight” (Prov. 3:5-6).

King David said, “The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and He helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise Him” (Proverbs 28:7).

THE STORM FROM THE DEVIL

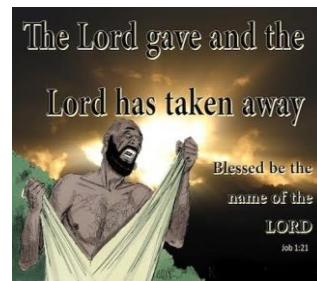
Yes, many Christians will go through this storm because they are feared by the devil himself. These Christians are sold out to Jesus and are walking in the ‘Highway of Holiness’ and they are on the devil’s 10 most wanted list, Dead not Alive (Isaiah 35:8). They are true soldiers of Jesus and are in the frontlines in the battlefield fighting the good fight of faith. They are prayer warriors, anointed, and doing damaged to satan’s kingdom of darkness. This is one of the main reasons that satan attacks them with his satanic storms. He attacks in this manner because he wants you to lose your faith in God and give up the fight. The devil unleashed this kind of demonic storm against Job. “Does Job fear God for nothing?” Satan replied. “Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout

the land. But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face” (Job 1:9-11)

The Bible says that satan destroyed everything Job had and even killed his 10 children with a violent storm. “While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, “Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother’s house, when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. **It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”** (Job 1:18).

Job wins round #1 when he says, “At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.” In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

In Job 1:20-22 the devil attacks Job with another storm, a deadly disease that was killing him. “So, Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head” (Job 2:7).



Why was God allowing satan to attack Job with these storms in his life? God was testing Job’s faith! God wanted to see if Job loved Him with all his heart even when everything was taken away from him (Job 42:5).

Job said, ‘The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised...’ verse 20.

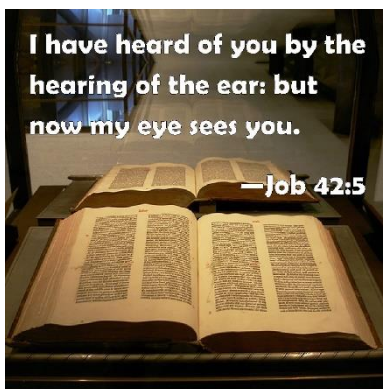
Job wins the painful round #2 when the Bible says, “His wife said to him, ‘Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!’ He replied, ‘You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?’ In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.” Job loved God with all his heart, he trusted God with all his heart even though he did not understand the storms that killed his 10 children and destroyed his livestock and all his means of making a living. Job shows us to trust God with all your heart no matter what the devil throws at you.

God was in control of all those hits from the devil upon Job.

* Round #1 “The Lord said to Satan, “Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man, himself do not lay a finger.” Job 1:12

* Round #2 “The Lord said to Satan, “Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life.” Job 2:6

We must understand that whenever the devil is attacking us, God has allowed the devil to send the storm, but the devil is limited in how far he goes. GOD IS IN CONTROL! So, trust God no matter what! The Bible reveals to us that Job passed all those tests from God with an A+ and that God blessed him at the end of the storm. “The Lord blessed the latter part of Job’s life more than the former part. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys. And he also had seven sons and three daughters.” Job 42:12-13



No matter what storm you might find yourself in:

- THE DISOBEDIENCE STORM
- THE OBEDIENT STORM
- THE STORM FROM THE DEVIL

We must put our trust in a loving God!