

The way out of a storm

We live in a fallen world, not how God intended it to be, therefore we are faced with challenges and hardships, and at times these storms of life can feel overwhelming and we can't see a way out.

Isaiah 43:16; 19 “Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea and a path through the mighty waters, (...) I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

The prophet Isaiah is reminding the people of Judah of the great deliverance of the people of Israel from Egypt in the past. He was encouraging them to believe in the Almighty God to whom nothing is impossible.

The words of the prophet Isaiah were not meant just for those people at that time. This is a standing illustration of God's unchanging character towards His people and that includes everyone who belongs to Him.

He is still the Almighty God who makes a way where there seems to be no way.

David wrote:

Psalms 34:19 “many are the afflictions of the righteous **but the Lord delivers them out of them all**”.

There are different types of life storms or hardships, in the same way that there are different types of storms in our natural world.

Different storms require different measures of action.

1. One type of storm is found in the story of Jonah.

Jonah was a prophet in the Old Testament who lived in Israel. God told him to go to a place called Nineveh to preach repentance to the people because they were very wicked. Jonah was not in agreement with God and he decided to disobey Him.

Jonah 1: 17 “Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.”

Jonah 2:1 Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the fish's belly.

Jonah repents and the Lord caused the fish to regurgitate Jonah. He finally decides to do things God's way and not his way. We all act like Jonah at some point in our lives.

In this story we see one type of storm- **a Jonah storm.**

A Jonah storm is a self-inflicted storm. It's when we create our own problems.

If I have caused my own problem I have to quit blaming everyone else for it.

Jonah got into his storm because of disobedience but he got out of his storm through repentance.

Not every storm is a flood, a dust storm or a thunderstorm. The same way not every storm is a Jonah storm – a self-inflicted storm.

Not every problem that we face in life is because there is sin in our lives or because we are out of the will of God. And this leads me to the next type of storm:

2. Let's look at Mark chapter 4 where Jesus and the disciples faced a big storm.

Mark 4:35;37 "On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side.""

37 "And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling."

Jesus had been teaching beside the Sea of Galilee, and His instructions to the disciples were to cross over to the other side.

The disciples did what Jesus asked them to do.

Sometimes we are faced with situations that have nothing to do with us being in God's will or not.

We read in verse **38** that the disciples started panicking **"But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"**

There are two lies that the devil will tell you when you are going through any type of storm:

Lie number 1: Jesus doesn't care about you.

Lie number 2: You are perishing, there is no way out.

We need to resist these lies. Jesus cares about us!

What was Jesus's reaction to this storm? What was His course of action?

Mark 4:39 "Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm."

Jesus spoke to the wind and to the sea. He rebuked the storm.

Jesus exercised spiritual authority over this situation.

Two things that Jesus did not do:

1. Jesus didn't turn to His disciples and say: Who has sinned? Jesus did not assume that one of his disciples had sinned.

2. Jesus didn't look at the storm and say: well, I guess God is trying to teach us something. We should just sit here and do nothing. This must be God's will.

There is nothing in this story that indicates that the disciples had sinned and needed to repent like Jonah.

Jesus understood that this was a spiritual attack. Therefore He took spiritual authority over it. He rebuked the storm.

Some people when they face a storm in life they give up on God. Life can bring really bad things our way but the Holy Spirit will guide us through the storm and show us a way out.

We need to have a tough, resilient faith and resist the enemy when there is a spiritual attack.

Use your spiritual authority. **Use the name of Jesus and the Word of God.**

Jonah got **into his storm** through **disobedience**, he **got out** of his storm through **repentance**.

The disciples got **into their storm** through no fault of their own. It was a spiritual attack, however **they got out** of their storm through exercising **spiritual authority**.

3. A third type of Storm is found in Acts 27:1-37 – This was Paul’s storm.

By this time the apostle Paul was a prisoner, he had been arrested for preaching the Gospel. Paul was being transported by ship to appear before Cesar in Rome. It was wintertime and it was not the best time to travel.

The apostle Paul perceived that the trip would end in disaster and tried to warn the people in charge of the boat. Unfortunately they did not listen to Paul and the majority decided to carry on journeying.

They were caught up in a huge storm and they could have all died because of an unwise decision.

What type of storm is this? This was a storm caused by other people. It could have been avoided.

What’s the way out of a storm like this?

Paul stood firm in the promises of God. The Lord provided a way out of the storm, no one died and Paul was able to appear before Cesar.

Paul was out of his storm through perseverance and faith.

In this type of storm we just need to persevere in faith and stand on the promises of God until we see a breakthrough in our situation.

The way out for Jonah was repentance.

The way out for Jesus and the disciples was exercising spiritual authority.

The way out for Paul was perseverance and faith.