



# THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

## PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

### SURFING

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Surfing is a water sport of riding/breaking waves toward shore, by means of a surfboard. An experienced surfer knows which wave is the right one, and will wait until it comes along. Jesus has the power over the wind, the waves, and the storms of life. As Christians, we need to know that storms of life always come, and the trials we face are designed to test our dependence upon God. Therefore, we need a strong faith and a prayer for wisdom, so that we may receive His grace and mercy to help us in time of need/challenges.

#### 1. Reasons why storms of life always come

1.1 **to grow in faith and trust God** who provides wisdom and guidance (Jm.1:6).

1.2 **to be completely dependent on God**, to do His will and expect to provide an answer (Jm.1:6-8).

1.3 **to be truly convinced of God's faithfulness**, wisdom, love, grace, mercy and assurance that He will never forsake us.

1.4 **to learn to recognize the presence of God**  
In the darkness of the night, Jesus would say "It is I, do not be afraid" (Jn.6: 20)

1.5 **to submit to God's will** and avoid taking matters into our hands, and doing personal decisions not attuned to God (Mk.6:48).

1.6 **to pray to God in times of fear and uncertainty**; to strengthen our patience; and to listen to His voice (Jn.6:19).

1.7 **to remember that God loves us**; to have concern for our wellbeing, safety and protection and will always be there to help us.

1.8 **to remind us that our storms are temporary**; and that God will not give us trials beyond our capacity. Surely, He will equip us so as glorify Him (1Cor.10:13).

#### 2. Biblical Characters who experienced Storms in their lives

**2.1 Israelites (Exodus)** The Israelites in Exodus kept whining against God, for they thought it was impossible to cross the Red Sea, with the Pharaoh's chariots pressing on them. God took care of the situation. Thus, they praised God for being able to walk on land. However, when they became thirsty, they started complaining again, treating Him as a vending machine. In all of these, God constantly assured them that they would be provided.

**2.2 Peter (Mt. 14:22-29).** The boat where Peter was with the other disciples was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it. Then, they saw Jesus walking on the waters. Terrified, they cried out in fear, thinking, it was a ghost. Jesus said, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." Moreover, Peter who wanted to walk with Jesus fixed his eyes on Him and started to walk toward Him. However, Peter heard the strong wind and fear overcame him, and began to sink. Therefore, we can walk with Jesus on the waves of our problem, but we should not waver and be afraid because He is always on our side.

#### Conclusion:

All of us should follow Jesus for His blessings and protection. Let us trust Him when storms/problems hit our life. Jesus has a greater purpose: to make us holy and to know Him in a more profound way, rather than just be happy, healthy and wealthy.

#### Reflection:

1. What storms in your life tested your faith and thinking?
2. How are you encouraged and strengthened in facing storms in your life?
3. What hopes do you have that do not line up to God's plan in your life?

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