

LORD, WRU?

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

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July 16, 2022

Facing storms in our lives would cause us to doubt God's presence, particularly during our darkest hours. But God's Word reminds us: "Courage. It is I. Don't be afraid" (Mt. 14:27). As Christians, we understand that we are designed to endure various storms: illness, broken relationships, financial and other challenges that would test our faith. We are also aware that some of the storms in our life are brought by the devil himself. Hence, if we are going to serve the Lord, we should be prepared for trials/tests (Sirach 2:1).

1. Causes of Storms in our Life

1.1. The Devil

Job was a good and holy man tested by the devil who wreaked havoc on his children and wealth. Despite his suffering, he remained faithful to the Lord who ably regained his honor, family (a new one) and wealth more than before.

Bro. Bob whose reference is Job also prayed to the Lord that he should never abandon his faith amidst the storm. Like Job, the Lord will restore everything that Bro Bob had lost.

1.2 Other People

St. Paul, who is one the pillars of our Church, experienced all kind of persecutions despite his obedience to the will of God.

1.3 Our own doing

It is due to our own wrong doing / action. Bro. Bob in his old life squandered all his money for his vices. Gradually, his business went bankrupt (Acts 27).

1.4 Disobedience to God's will

Jonah disobeyed God's command. As a result, he was swallowed by a large fish for "three days and three nights" (Jonah 1:17).

1.5 Storms (God allows)

There is no exemption. Everyone experiences storms in their life (figurative or real).

2. Purposes of Storms

2.1. It shows the nature of our faith.

"Why are you so frightened?"

'Jesus answered, what little faith you have!' (Mt. 8:26).

2.2 It demonstrates the strength of commitment.

Are we committed to serve God? Do we easily quit or get discouraged when we have problems? Paul ran the distance and kept the faith (2 Tim. 4:6-7).

2.3. It reveals the level of our maturity.

We are considered spiritually mature if we are filled with the Holy Spirit.

2.4. It confirms the healthiness/humility of our faith. We should be humble in serving the Lord and others in need.

2.5. It discloses the measure of our teachability.

We should be thankful if somebody corrects us. It means that they care for us.

3. What does Jesus do for us in the storm?

3.1 He prays for us (John 17:12; Heb. 4).

3.2 He comes at the darkest hour (Mt. 14:25).

3.3 Lord, where are you? (Mt. 14:24).

3.4 He comes to us victorious over our greatest fears (Ecc. 3:11).

3.5 He ministers to us (Mt. 14:26-27).

4. The Four keys to attain peace amidst the storm:

4.1 Trust the Word of God (Ps. 119:165).

4.2 Do not stay in fear (Hab. 2:4).

4.3 Be assured of God's goodness (1 Pt. 5:7).

4.4 Recognize that God is in control.

Conclusion:

If we are experiencing a great storm right now in our life, rocking our faith and belief, then we should cling to Him since He won't allow the devil to capsize our boat in the midst of a squall. He is always with us believing that we would never let go of our faith. Let us then find peace during the darkest time of our lives for He will never abandon nor forsake us.

Reflection:

1. Are you afraid during raging storms? Do you feel alone if you have great trouble looming in your head?
2. Do you ask God why hardships happen to you frequently?

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