

RIDING OUT THE STORMS OF LIFE

(Psalm 55:8)

I. Seek help from others.

- a. Most storms we face cannot be gotten through on our own.
- b. When the storm hits, it isn't time to man up and act all tough.
- c. Rather, it is a time to turn to our brethren for encouragement and help.
- d. The wise Preacher of old understood this (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12).
 - i. Life is easier with the help of others.
 - ii. I remember when the house got blown away in '02.
 - iii. I remember being overwhelmed when I got the house.
 - iv. Then, several of you showed up and we were able to save a lot of our stuff that I couldn't have saved on my own.
 - v. How foolish would I have been to say, "Hey, I got this, y'all go home"?
- e. Some people get diagnosed with a disease and don't want to tell any of their brethren.
 - i. You can't pray for something about which you are unaware.
 - ii. Most people I know, including me, want all the Christians possible praying for them if something were to happen to them.
- f. All of us need to realize that it is our responsibility to help others.
 - i. Hebrews 12:12-13.
 - ii. Galatians 6:2, 10.
 - iii. 1 Thessalonians 5:14.
- g. There will be a time when we desire the help of others during our storms so we need to be giving help to others during theirs.

II. Search for possible benefits.

- a. Storms in life bring us some blessings at times.
- b. (Talk about Slade getting hit in the head and the mri showing something that needed to be fixed).
- c. Remember what James taught?
 - i. James 1:2-4.
 - ii. Getting through storms brings about endurance and makes us better able to handle the next storm.
- d. Trials are a way that God purifies us (Psalm 66:10).
 - i. We don't like to think about it, but really, we are bettered by the storms.
 - ii. Our faith is grown, our reliance on prayer and one another has increased.
- e. If we handle the storms properly, we are more suited for use by God in the lives of others.
 - i. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4.

- ii. Paul revered God for comforting Him during his trials and then stated that he could bring comfort to others because of what God had done for him.
 - iii. Putting an arm around someone to let them know you are there and have been thru such a storm in the past is a great encouragement and source of comfort to the one in the storm.
- f. We can always use what we learn in the midst of a storm to help others.

III. See God's desire and power to help.

- a. For some reason, when storms hit, we oftentimes feel abandoned by God.
- b. The Psalmist understood the desire of God to help him and the power God had to do it (Psalm 46:1).
- c. God wants His people to rely on Him.
 - i. Matthew 11:28.
 - ii. 1 Peter 5:7.
 - iii. 1 Peter 1:5.
- d. God had not forgotten that we are in need or how to help us when we cry out to Him (2 Peter 2:9a).
- e. God wants to help and has let us know of His desire to help (Romans 8:28-38).
- f. God can, has, and will deliver us in times of trouble (Psalm 18:19).
- g. We don't serve a weak, impotent God.
 - i. Our God is powerful.
 - ii. He has provided us with a powerful weapon, His word.
 - iii. He surrounds us with an army of people who are His who will come to our aid when we need them.
- h. When we look for God's power, it will be seen.
 - i. It is up to us to turn to Him in prayer, which is how we cast our cares on Him.
 - ii. It is up to us to look to Him for strength, which comes through a study of His word.
- i. We have to want to see it.

IV. Shelter in the place of safety.

- a. When Paul was on a ship in the middle of the storm, he warned those with whom he was travelling to stay on the ship or they would die (Acts 27:31).
 - i. That was the place of safety for them.
 - ii. It was told him by an angel from God that there would be no loss of life if they all stayed together.
- b. When a tornado comes, are you supposed to go outside and look for it?
 - i. I'll admit I have.
 - ii. That's not the smart thing to do.
- c. Get to safety and ride it out.
- d. God allowed Moses to see His glory.

- i. Moses was told to stay in the cleft of the rock (Exodus 33:22).
 - ii. What if Moses had gotten out of the safe place?
 - e. We must be like the Psalmist (Psalm 91:1-2).
 - f. The wise man is the one who builds his house on the foundation of rock.
 - i. We stay with Christ no matter what.
 - ii. We must remember that in God's hand, no one can harm our souls (John 10:28-29).
 - iii. The danger comes when we stray out of God's hand.

From an article by Neal Pollard