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.
      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