

GREG'S NOTES

A NEW BEGINNING TEACHING OUTLINES

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GETTING THROUGH THE STORMS OF LIFE

Matthew 8

Have you ever been out, doing whatever it is you do—the birds are singing, the sun is shining—and all of a sudden a drop of rain falls, ominous clouds build, and you find yourself in a downpour from an unexpected storm? Storms sometimes come unexpectedly. Some are big. Some are scary. Some storms can wreak havoc in your life. Similarly, troubles in life come and go but we have hope that God causes all things to work together for good to those that love Him and are called according to His purpose.

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

1. **Storms do come into our lives.** The pressures of life. Worries. Difficult circumstances. We all have them. God is not asleep during our times of need. Psalm 121 says, “He that watches over Israel never slumbers or sleeps.” God never falls asleep on you. He is not going to worry. You shouldn’t either.
2. **We need to cry out to Jesus in the midst of a storm.** Matthew 8:25 says, “They cry out, ‘Lord save us.’” Though the shrieking of the storm did not wake Him, the cry of His people did. The moment they called out to Him He heard and He answered.
3. **God has His purposes in the storms of life.** Where there are no trials in life there are no triumphs. It has been said, “The hammer that shatters glass also forges steel.” God will come through for you.
4. **Sometimes Jesus stops the storm but He is always with us through them.** Before Jesus rebuked the storm, first He rebuked the disciples. It is better to weather the storm than to face the correction of Jesus. Hold your head up high when you walk through a storm because the Lord is with you.

RELEVANT REMINDERS

- The correcting storm comes when we bring things on ourselves. God sends this storm because we are not doing what He told us to do or we are reaping the consequences of a bad decision. Don’t blame God for this unnecessary storm.
- The protecting storm comes when God guards us from something. Sometimes we plead with God to answer a prayer and He doesn’t answer the way we want Him to because He loves us, and He protects us from ourselves.
- The perfecting storm comes when God allows something to happen in our lives in order to produce in us something that we need. God is doing a work. He will not waste your pain. He will take those things you are going through and use them for His glory in His time.

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APPLICABLE ACTIONS

When you board a naval vessel, you have to request permission to come aboard. They say, “Permission is granted.” Jesus is saying, “Permission to come aboard?” to you. He is God. He could say, “I am coming on this boat.” But instead He asks, “Can I come on your boat? Can I come into your life? Can I come into your marriage? Can I come into your singleness? Can I come into everything you say and do? Can I come and rule over you as your Savior and your Lord and your God?” He won’t force His way in. He waits for you to invite Him.