In the life of every Christian, violent storms will come. For you, these storms may have already come in your family, your business, your relationships, or through physical illness. As the violent winds of crisis threaten to overwhelm you, you should know that you have a Creator whose has power over any storm!

Power to Calm a Storm

The first century followers of Jesus had been looking for three things in a coming Messiah. First, they believed that their Messiah would have a word that would conquer Satan, and that demons would be subject to the coming King. Secondly, they believed He would have victory over death. How thrilling it must have been as the disciples saw this belief become reality when on at least three occasions, Jesus spoke the dead back into life!

The third belief that many sustained concerning the coming Messiah was that He would have control over the forces of nature. They believed that He would be able to simply speak, and nature would follow His voice and command. The disciples had no choice but to acknowledge the reality of the Messiah’s arrival as they witnessed the supernatural power of Jesus.

Every law of nature was subject to Christ as He walked on this earth. When the
disciples worried about tax money that was due, the Lord Jesus went to the waterfront and caught a fish, retrieving a coin out of its mouth. When Jesus stepped in front of plain well water, it blushed and became the finest of wines. He could take a few fish and several small loaves of bread and feed 5,000 people.

On one occasion, the disciples went fishing with Jesus. In spite of the fact that several of the disciples were basically professional “bassmasters,” prior to Jesus’ arrival this particular morning, they had toiled all night and caught nothing! However, when the Creator of every fish in the sea stepped into the boat, the nets broke as His power drew in the fish!

One of the most thrilling accounts given in scripture that tell how the laws of nature yielded to the power of Jesus is the one found in Matthew 14:

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\text{Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to}
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them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshipped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

In one moment, the disciples were overwhelmed with the violence of the wind screaming in their ears, and in the next, they were engulfed in total peace as the storm simply vanished!

The Fact of the Storm

Maybe you are in a storm of sickness; maybe a storm of distress; maybe you have lost your job; or maybe a family conflict. Whatever the storm, Jesus has the answer for you.

Some of us do not want to face the reality of what storms mean in our lives. This truth is a difficult one to accept, but we cannot help but observe that Jesus Himself sent the
disciples straight into their storm! Many Christians are too quick to blame the devil for the latest sickness or suffering, and are blind to what is actually going on in their lives. As the first verse in our passage reveals, the term “made” or “constrained” indicate that Jesus forced His followers to go out on the sea! Ominous clouds may have already been in the sky, and they said, “Lord, we don’t want to go.” He no doubt said, “Get in the boat! I command you!” Their storm was in the will of Jesus Christ.

As you face your storm head-on, are you willing to accept that the Lord has permitted it to come into your life? You see, until you bow to His divine sovereignty over everything, including your own trials, you will never have the freedom that God wants you to have.

Sadly, many Christians who are in crisis spend their energy unwisely. Some simply sit back and complain or grieve. Others may go through the motions of spiritual warfare, binding and loosening stuff left and right, avoiding any areas that actually could be contributing to their storm. These dear Christians cannot always see that God may be using a physical infirmity to deal with an issue of pride, rebellion, stubbornness, or some other problem of the heart. In His divine plan, He can send storms for a specific purpose.

Philippians 3 states that we are to know Him “in the power of His resurrection and in the fellowship of His sufferings.” Thank God for His raising power, but we are also to know Him in the depth of suffering. That’s the balance of truth. The disciples sailed into the storm under the will of Jesus. Just as God knew they were on that boat, so God
knows where you stand right now.

While Jesus sent them into the storm, He did not leave them on their own. As the storm began, Jesus was up on a mountain in prayer. A visit to the Sea of Galilee today reveals that several mountains surround the Sea. From any one of those mountains, you can see all the way across its rolling waters. With the lightning flashing through the storm, the eyes of our Lord could watch His disciples. They couldn’t see Him, but He could see them.

This is such a beautiful picture of what Jesus is doing for us all. Today He sits at the right hand of the Father in the high mountains of heaven, overseeing our lives! He lives to make intercession for us. If you think you are alone in your illness, distress, or heartache, you must realize that Jesus is watching you. He knows right where you are, and He is praying for you.

The Fear in the Storm

What did Jesus pray concerning His disciples? He prayed they would have faith. All too often, those who are in the ministry are the last ones to show true faith. If our people are sick, we may visit them and say, “Let’s pray for you,” but how many pastors call upon the elders of the church, and join together to pray a prayer of healing faith? Sadly, the religious professionals are often the last to get in line with their faith.

The disciples were the religious professionals of their day. They had seen the
miracles performed, the water turned to wine, and the sick made whole. They had heard the Sermon on the Mount, and had even seen nature become subject to Christ, but yet as you read the other gospels’ accounts of this storm, you discover the disciples were rowing hard, getting nowhere, and listening to their own fears. They had forgotten the living fact of Jesus’ power.

Fear completely ruled the disciples in this storm. They were deeply afraid of the power swirling around them. But this passage tells us that something frightened them more than the wind and the waves. When Jesus walked by, they cried out in fear (verse 26)! To some people, there is something worse than a storm, and that is a supernatural Jesus who can walk on water! For many, to believe in miracles, or to believe that God can actually see each of us and can act in our lives today, that brings fear as well!

How ironic it is that this same belief can bring comfort. We must understand that—

There is an eye that never sleeps beneath the wings of night

There is an ear that never shuts when seek the beams of light

There is an arm that never tires when human strength gives way

There is a love that never fails when earthly love decays.

God is always there!

What do you need when you are afraid of a storm? Before anything else, you should recognize the presence and power of Jesus in your storm. Your miracle is as near as He is! When the disciples saw Jesus, they soon recognized His presence, but they
didn’t altogether understand His preeminence. The thing that was disaster for them became deliverance through Him. Their peril became His pathway. What they worried about most was no problem for Him.

You see, what is worrying you, He can walk on! The things that seem like a disaster to you are nothing but a pathway for Him to get to you and to get to your heart. He has allowed that storm so that He can gain a new closeness to your spirit. He is on His way, but He is coming on the wings of your sickness, failed past, heartaches, and problems.

The story is often told of a sailing vessel that came suddenly upon a fierce storm. A mother concerned about her little girl went to her berth to check on her. “Honey, we are in a storm,” said the mother to her sleepy child.

“Is Papa on the deck? Is Papa at the wheel?” asked the girl.

Her mother replied, “Yes, sweetheart.”

The little girl sighed and said, “I’m going back to sleep then. Everything is going to be all right.”

Do you understand that Jesus is at the wheel of your life? You may not feel Him as you are overwhelmed with the winds of your storm. However, in the middle of a tide of emotions, you’ll look upon the crest of your wave of problems, and there you’ll find Jesus, stepping on the waves to invite you to stronger faith.
Faith During the Storm

One fisherman in that boat on the Sea of Galilee got the message. His name was Simon Peter. In verse 28, we read of his faith, “Lord, if it be Thou, bid me come unto Thee on the water.” Jesus said, “Come!” You see, Peter had a desire to get into the presence of Jesus.

Many believers may have the impression that Peter’s life overall exhibited very little faith. However, it is possible that he had more faith than all the rest of the disciples. He had the faith to step out of that sinking boat! He expressed his faith in word and action —“Lord, I want to walk on what You are walking on!” Jesus said, “Come on! That is why I’ve come, to make you victor and not victim.”

Jesus still calls that loving message to us in our own storms. He wants us to get up, get moving, and seek His presence. Go to Jesus in your storm, and you’ll find perfect peace.

In spite of all of Peter’s faith, he soon was plagued by doubt. Verse 30 states, “But when he saw the wind, he was afraid.” What was his problem? Obviously, the circumstances drew his attention away from Jesus.

How do you keep your faith in your own difficult situation? Take that first step, obtain the doctor’s reports, the latest financial reports, the word of a professional. But then go to Jesus and get His report, and don’t be moved off His report! So often we get caught up in listening to too many people’s advice, hearing so many opinions and interpretations.
that it seems to only worsen our storm. Jesus is the true Deliverer, the one whose report matters!

Dr. Charles Stanley was eating in a widow’s home during a great crisis in the life of his church. The elderly lady showed him a picture of Daniel in the lion’s den and said,

“Dr. Stanley, what do you see?”

He said, “I see lions.”

She said, “What else do you see?”

“I see Daniel, and a dungeon.”

She said, “No, Dr. Stanley, can’t you see?”

“Ma’am, what do you want me to see?”

She replied, “Look again at the picture. Which way is Daniel looking?”

“Up,” he responded.

“That’s right, Pastor. He’s looking up to the Lord and not at the lions. As long as you are looking at the lions and your circumstances, you won’t see Jesus walking by in the midst of your problems.”

This same dilemma faced Peter. However, verse 31 tells us of his deliverance.

“And immediately, Jesus stretched forth His hand and caught him, and said unto him, ‘O thou of little faith, wherefore does thou doubt?’” Peter experienced a miracle, and it wasn’t simply the wonder of walking upon water. There is something better than walking on water, and that is letting Jesus walk on the water with you in His arms!
**Safe from the Storm**

As you read these words, perhaps you feel yourself sinking in the waters of adversity. You must turn from your storm and rush into the arms of Jesus where there is safety. Leave your problems at His feet and confess out loud what He is able to do. Stop watching the winds and hearing the report of the enemy—it is time for you to look to Jesus. No matter how deep you are sinking, He will catch you, find you, and bring you home.

Within His embrace, your heart can cry out those words written by the beloved blind hymnwriter, Fanny Crosby, who saw with spiritual eyes the wondrous victory that is ours in Christ:

Safe in the arms of Jesus; Safe on His gentle breast;

There by His love o'ershadowed; Sweetly my soul shall rest.