
In SPIRIT and TRUTH



Make Jesus Your Peace In the Midst of the Storm

It was almost 30 years ago that my family and I experienced what was said to be “one of the worst natural disasters in America’s history” (at the time). It occurred on Monday, August 24, 1992, when Hurricane Andrew made its mark on South Florida, with devastating 165 miles an hour winds! Because we resided in an area of Miami that was outside of the *mandatory evacuation zones*, we decided to remain in our home during the storm. I, along with my husband (Bishop Clarence), and our five children, gathered together food and various necessities, and settled into a small room centrally-located in the house. We thought it would be a safe place to remain for the duration of the storm. Hurricane Andrew began just past midnight. If you can, try to envision being totally surrounded by the most violent winds and rain imaginable, for 4 1/2 hours!

“PEACE I leave with you, my PEACE I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14:27

At the peak of the storm, we found ourselves sitting in total darkness (due to the loss of electricity) as we listened to the sound of the angry winds, howling and *seemingly* snatching up everything in its path! The house shook as though a freight train was passing, *not by it, but through it...* shaking everything, non-stop for hours! Even though no one showed signs of fear, I remember thinking, “Lord, when will this end?” At one point, I made eye contact with my husband; he seemed to indicate that he had done all that he could do to secure our space. He then prayed for our peace, as we all sat quietly, trusting God for a safe outcome. By God’s grace, all of the children soon fell asleep, and I managed to make myself comfortable, though well into *my seventh month of pregnancy* with our last child (Jordan). ***Believe me, that kind of peace, under such trying circumstances, could only come from God.***

In the morning, when we finally ventured out to assess the damage, it looked as though a bomb had hit our neighborhood! There was massive destruction of all homes, with debris scattered everywhere. We lost most of our roof, resulting in extensive water damage to virtually every room (and most of the contents) of the house; but we fared well in comparison to others around us. Praise God, despite our great material losses, what mattered most was that we were unharmed and alive. There were no tears shed for our losses... just much joy and thankfulness of heart, realizing that ***God was literally with us, in the midst of the storm.***



KNOW JESUS, KNOW PEACE

No Jesus, No Peace

I am sure that not everyone can relate to having experienced a literal devastating natural disaster, but we all have had “storms” in our lives... those trying situations that disturb our peace to the extent that we might feel overwhelmed. Probably most prevalent today is all of the *fallout* that has resulted from the worldwide Pandemic... sickness and deaths, the stresses of job and financial losses, and now all of the constant hype about the *vaccines* required to combat the new strains of the virus. These situations have caused many to become fearful and some have lost hope of ever having their peace of mind restored.

Have you experienced a recent “storm” in your life?

Have there been mounting circumstances in your life that have caused you to become fearful, anxious, or overly stressed? Believe me, ***you are not alone, EVERYONE is going through something!*** Jesus knew that we would have trials and suffering in the world, so He came to bring peace, to as many as would *receive Him in obedience to His commandments* (John 1:10-12, 16:33).

In John 14:27, Jesus tried to prepare His disciples for what they would face in the world when He was no longer with them, stating, *“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”* Jesus knew we would have “storms” in our lives, so He also made a way for us to have *His peace* in the midst of it all. He came as the Holy Ghost to dwell in man so He could be our “Comforter” and the source of our peace (Acts 2:2-4, 38-39; John 14:26, 15:26). It is important for us to understand that when we are faced with perilous times, turmoil, and chaos in our lives, Jesus wants to be our *first choice*, not our last resort; we should come to Him in prayer, and look to Him for peace, because *Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace* (Isa. 9:6).

There is an account in the Bible, of a time when Jesus was on a boat with His disciples, in the midst of a storm (Mark 4:35-41). We are told that Jesus spoke to the storm, commanding “peace” when His disciples became fearful of dying; and the winds and waves ceased, obeying His command!

“And there a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full (of water). And Jesus was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they (His disciples) awoke him, and said unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? And Jesus arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And he said unto His disciples, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith? And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

Mark 4:37-41

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have PEACE. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”
John 16:33

Those who are “born again” in the kingdom of God (John 3:3-8), have the peace of knowing that our Heavenly Father promises to provide for His children (Matt. 6:25-34; Psalm 37:25). In Mark 16:15-18, Jesus instructs His disciples to go out into all the world, not only to preach the gospel, but also to cast out devils (restoring the minds/souls of the afflicted) and to lay hands on the sick, so they may recover, from *ALL* manner of bodily sickness and disease.



The word of God lets us know that *Jesus has always been concerned about our total well-being*. Just as He was there for His disciples when they cried out to Him in fear, He remains faithful today, for those who call upon Him in their times of trouble (Psalm 46:1, 9:9; Hebrews 4:14-16). *Now, do you think it is possible for YOU to have peace in the midst of your storm?* Yes indeed! Have faith... put your trust in GOD! *“With men this is impossible, but with God ALL things are possible”* (Matthew 19:26).

“I will both lay me down in PEACE, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makes me dwell in safety.” Psalm 4:8