

STORMS

"Pastor, how can I navigate through the storms of life? I'm finding it very difficult at present." The first thing you need to identify is what kind of storm you are going through. There are three types of storms you may encounter. The most common is when you stray from the right path and this diversion causes you to head in a direction that's contrary to the course God has set for your life. The other is simply encountering the unexpected - when you don't see the storm clouds and are therefore unprepared. And the third is when God forewarns you of what is to come and tells you how to deal with the storm (as in Acts 27 when the apostle Paul managed to save everyone on board the vessel). However, whatever storm you may be going through it's very important to realise that no one can live a storm-free life. God never promised us a storm free life, but rather, a destruction free life. But with a proviso, we must build correctly!

The primary reason God allows storms to come is because He wants us to have knowledge concerning the foundations our lives are being built on. Is your life built on sinking sand or on the Rock of Ages? The only way to find out is by examining what is left after the wind and the rain has subsided (Luke 6:48-49). ***"They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a storm came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."*** Note; to the onlooker both houses both looked the same - until after the storm! Your life may appear to be secure, but unless the foundations are right destruction may befall you. Therefore, make sure your life is built on the Word of God; and be a "doer of the Word and not a hearer only."

Back to the primary storms of life... If you have drifted away from the course that God has set, and are being tossed to and fro by tempest, you will probably find the most likely cause is simply that you are at the helm and not Jesus. You ceased to trust and decided to take hold of the wheel and steer the vessel. Check to see whose fingerprints are on the wheel - then hand it back immediately! The other storm you may be encountering is the unexpected and fearful disturbance that has suddenly overwhelmed your life. This is usually violent and relentless in nature! But don't be dismayed, Jesus is right there in the eye of the storm with you. He is still on the boat, even if He appears to be asleep! In Luke 8:24 the disciples went through the same thing, ***"They went and woke Him, saying, 'Master, Master, we're going to drown!' He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm."*** The most important aspect of this story is not necessarily the power that Jesus exercised over nature, but what He had said before they embarked... ***'One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and set out'*** (Luke 8:22). Whatever storm you are trying to navigate through, unless you have the same assurance it will be impossible. That's why I want to remind you, "Jesus has declared that **you are going to the other side!**" Therefore, no storm can prevent this from being fulfilled in your life!