

JESUS CAN _____ .

JESUS CAN CONQUER OUR STORMS

Matthew 8:23-27

- Everyone either has gone through, is going through, or will go through “storms” (difficult times) in life.
- Jesus – *“In this world you will have trouble.”* (John 16:33)
- Sometimes we experience physical, emotional, financial, relational, vocational or even spiritual “storms” in our lives.
- ***What types of “storms” have I been through in my life, or am I going through right now?***
- The Lord - *“When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.”* (Isaiah 43:2-3)
- The Lord has promised us that He will be with us to help us through the difficult “storms” of life.
- ***What will it take to overcome Life’s “Storms”?***

We Will Overcome Life’s “Storms” When We:

TRUST IN JESUS’ PURPOSES FOR OUR LIVES

- *“Then Jesus got into the boat and started across the lake with His disciples. Suddenly, a fierce storm struck the lake, with waves breaking into the boat.”* (Matthew 8:23-24)
- The disciples were in a storm on the Sea of Galilee because Jesus instructed them to sail across the lake (Matthew 8:18), which reminds us that we can experience “storms” in our lives even when we’re living for the Lord and obeying Him.
- ***Why does the Lord allow His people to go through “storms” in their lives?***
- Sometimes life’s “storms” are caused by the Devil.
- Jesus – *“The Thief comes to steal, kill and destroy.”* (John 10:10)
- Sometimes life’s “storms” are created by our Disobedience.
- *“But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the Lord. He went down to the port of Joppa, where he found a ship leaving for Tarshish . . . hoping to*

escape from the Lord by sailing to Tarshish. But the Lord hurled a powerful wind over the sea, causing a violent storm that threatened to break the ship apart.” (Jonah 1:3-4)

- **Sometimes life’s “storms” are allowed by God to Develop us.**
- *“We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character in us.”* (Romans 5:3-4)
- **If we will follow the Lord’s plans for our lives and trust in His purposes, He will eventually bring us through our life “storms.”**
- *“God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purposes for them.”* (Romans 8:28)
- **What is the Lord teaching me through the “storms” I’m dealing with in my life?**

We Will Overcome Life’s “Storms” When We:

RELY ON JESUS’ PRESENCE IN OUR LIVES

- *“Suddenly, a fierce storm struck the lake, with waves breaking into the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke Him up, shouting, ‘Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!’”* (Matthew 8:24-25)
- **Just like Jesus was in the boat with His disciples, He’s in our lives once He becomes the Savior and Lord of our lives.**
- Jesus - *“Be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”* (Matthew 28:20)
- **We will never overcome life’s “storms” if we try to live our lives independent of Jesus.**
- The LORD – *“When you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you.”* (Isaiah 43:2)
- **We can daily experience the Lord’s presence in powerful ways through prayer, Bible reading, worship, fellowship and involvement in ministry.**
- *“The disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid . . . Suddenly Jesus was standing there among them! ‘Peace be with you,’ He said. . . . They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord!”* (John 20:19-20)
- **When we know that the Lord is with us, we can have peace and joy regardless of how difficult our “storm” may be.**
- The Lord - *“I will never [under any circumstances] desert you [nor give you up nor leave you without support, nor will I in any degree leave you helpless], nor will I forsake or let you down or relax My hold on you.”* (Hebrews 13:5 Amp)
- **What steps do I need to take to cling to the Lord’s presence on a daily basis?**

We Will Overcome Life’s “Storms” When We:

DEPEND ON JESUS’ POWER IN OUR LIVES

- *“Jesus responded, ‘Why are you afraid? You have so little faith!’ Then He got up and rebuked the wind and waves, and suddenly there was a great calm.”* (Matthew 8:26)
- **When going through difficult times we must remember that the Lord Cares about us.**
- *“He is like a father to us, tender and sympathetic.”* (Psalm 103:13-15)

- **When going through difficult times we must remember that the Lord has the Power to help us.**
- *“Jesus came and told His disciples, ‘I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.’” (Matthew 28:18)*
- *“O Sovereign Lord! You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power. Nothing is too hard for You!” (Jeremiah 32:17)*
- **No matter what type of storm we face in life, nothing is too BIG for the Lord to overcome.**
- *“I learned there are troubles of more than one kind. Some come from ahead, others come from behind. But I’ve bought a big bat. I’m all ready, you see. Now my troubles are going to have trouble with me.” (Dr. Seuss)*
- **Our “troubles” will have trouble with us when we trust in Jesus’ purposes, presence and power in our lives.**
- *“Jesus responded, ‘Why are you afraid? You have so little faith!’” (Matthew 8:26)*
- **When facing the “storms” of life, we will respond in “faith” or in “fear” (Mark 4:40).**
- *“Every child of God can defeat the world, and our FAITH is what gives us this victory.” (1 John 5:4 CEV)*
- **We can overcome every “storm” in life when we have faith in the purposes, presence and power of Jesus!**

What ‘storm’ am I dealing with right now, and what am I going to do about it?”