



Thankful Through the Storm

One of life's BIGGEST DECISIONS – Will we trust God is good even when life is not?

- Our response to pain and challenges determines so much about our future.
- **Your decision to trust God in life's storms may be one of the best ongoing choices you ever make.**

Mark 4:35-41 (NIV) ³⁵ *That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side."* ³⁶ *Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him.* ³⁷ *A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped.* ³⁸ *Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"* ³⁹ *He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.* ⁴⁰ *He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"* ⁴¹ *They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"*

People think wrongly, you shouldn't have trouble...

John 16:33 (NIV) *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

To trust God regardless of your circumstances, remember two things **when you are caught in a storm...**

- God's PRESENCE is with you no matter how alone you feel.
- Having JESUS in the stern beside you doesn't mean the storm won't ROCK your boat. It just means the storm won't SINK you.

Psalm 46:1 (NIV) *God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.*

- Not only is God with you during the storms, He will also USE them for His PURPOSES in your life.

We can decide ahead of time that no matter what life throws our way, we will trust Him. If you know that God is ALWAYS WITH YOU and that He uses everything for your good, why are you so afraid? Trust Him.

Life Groups

Scriptures that Relate:

Monday: Mark 1
Tuesday: Mark 2

Wednesday: Mark 3
Thursday: Mark 4

Friday: Mark 5
Saturday: Mark 6

Talk it Over:

1. Why is it so hard to trust God when life is not good?
2. **When is the last time you were in a "don't you care if we drown" situation?**
3. When has your trust in God grown the most?
4. How does God use our storms to grow us more like Him?
5. Share a faith story where you learned a big lesson.

Pastor Nathan's Prayer Requests

Monday: Pray for the church leadership as they prayerfully lead us.

Tuesday: Pray for Pastor Brian as he prepares the message God is giving him.

Wednesday: Pray for our discipleship classes and small groups.

Thursday: **Pray for the Worship Arts department as we plan to deliver God's Word through art.**

Friday: Pray for the youth and children in our church to be an impact to the people around them.

Saturday: Pray for our weekend services and those attending.