



## Peace in the Storm

**Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid.**

- Frederick Buechner, Beyond Words: Daily Readings in the ABC's of Faith

**Mark 4:35-41 (NLT)** *35 As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross to the other side of the lake." 36 So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). 37 But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water. 38 Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?" 39 When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Silence! Be still!" Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. 40 Then he asked them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" 41 The disciples were absolutely terrified. "Who is this man?" they asked each other. "Even the wind and waves obey him!"*

### 1. Faith does not PREVENT STORMS.

**John 16:33 (NLT)** *I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."*

**Matthew 5:45b (NIV)** *He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.*

### 2. You are STILL HERE

**Philippians 1:22-30 (MSG)** *As long as I'm alive in this body, there is good work for me to do. If I had to choose right now, I hardly know which I'd choose. Hard choice! The desire to break camp here and be with Christ is powerful. Some days I can think of nothing better. But most days, because of what you are going through, I am sure that it's better for me to stick it out here.*

**Psalms 107:23-32 (MSG)** *Some of you set sail in big ships; you put to sea to do business in faraway ports. Out at sea you saw God in action, saw his breathtaking ways with the ocean: With a word he called up the wind—an ocean storm, towering waves! You shot high in the sky, then the bottom dropped out; your hearts were stuck in your throats. You were spun like a top, you reeled like a drunk, you didn't know which end was up. Then you called out to God in your desperate condition; he got you out in the nick of time. He quieted the wind down to a whisper, put a muzzle on all the big waves. And you were so glad when the storm died down, and he led you safely back to harbor.*

### 3. You don't have to go through it ALONE!

**2 Corinthians 1:4, 6 (NLT)** *"God comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When we are weighed down with troubles, it is for your comfort and salvation! For when we ourselves are comforted, we will certainly comfort you. Then you can patiently endure the same things."*

**Philippians 1:12 (NIV)** *Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel.*

### 4. He is WITH YOU through the storm.

**Matthew 28:20 (NLT)** *Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

#### Additional Notes:

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#### scriptures that relate

Monday: Psalm 77

Wednesday: Job 1

Friday: Psalm 34

Tuesday: Matthew 7:24-29

Thursday: Job 2

Saturday: Psalm 88

#### small groups—talk it over

1. Do you ever have one of those moments ... like ... if you could just freeze it? It's so beautiful if you could freeze a moment from your life, what moment would that be?
2. What are some of the storms in your life? Is it raining now?
3. Do you think God intentionally puts us through trials?
4. Have you ever felt like God failed to come through for you? Looking back, do you still feel the same?
5. When you're going through really hard times and everything seems hopeless, do you still trust that God knows the way and that you're going to make it?

#### jeff alexander's prayer requests

**Monday:** Pray for church staff as they plan, in obedience, what the Lord desires for our church.

**Tuesday:** Pray for our MOPS and Women's Bible Study as they build community and grow together.

**Wednesday:** Pray for the children and youth as they come together to play, worship and learn.

**Thursday:** Pray for Men's, Women's and Small Group Ministries as they teach the love of Christ.

**Friday & Saturday:** Pray for our community and those who come to our church to hear the Gospel message and come to a saving relationship with Christ.