

This past week I postponed my series on Gideon so that I could address the 800 pound gorilla in the room which was the hurricane in Florida





It had been nearly **100** years since a storm of this intensity had come to the Gulf Coast of Florida



Several storms in recent years had passed through Florida but none with the devastation of IAN.



As a result, many people who perhaps would have evacuated the area chose to remain in place because they assumed they could survive the storm



The lesson here is that just because you have survived a storm in the past does not mean you will not have worse storm in your future

Let me also point out and emphasize that you can not always accurately predict where the storm will hit

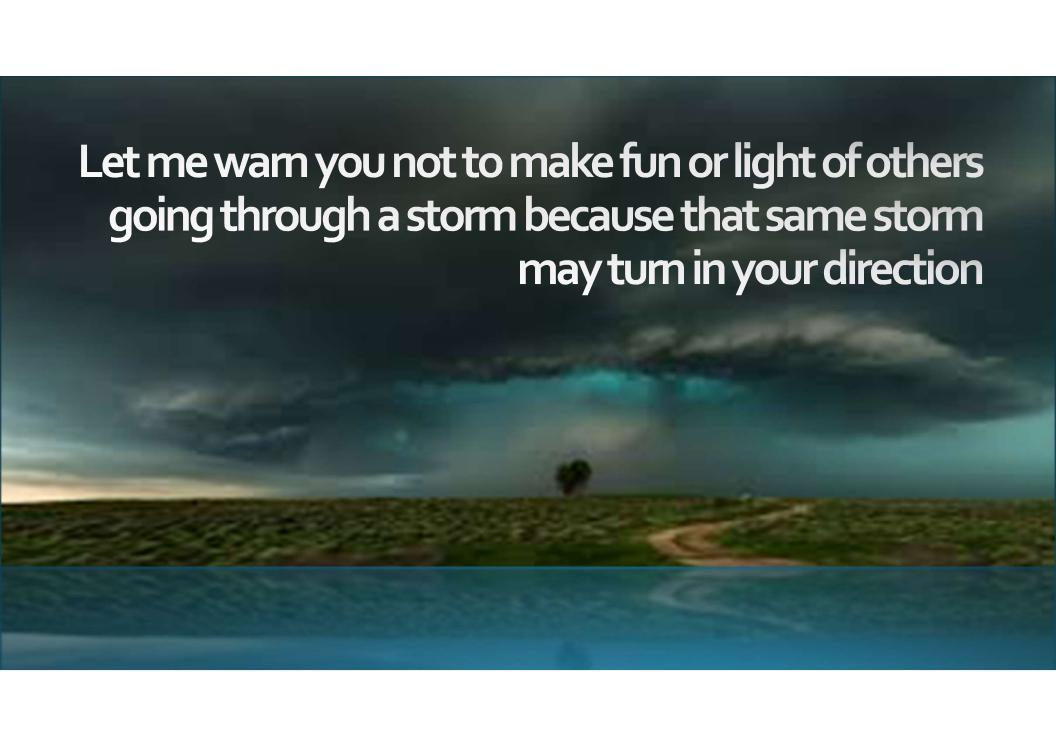


In the first maps of the storm Ft. Myers and Port Charlotte, which became the eye of the storm, was not even in the cone of the storm



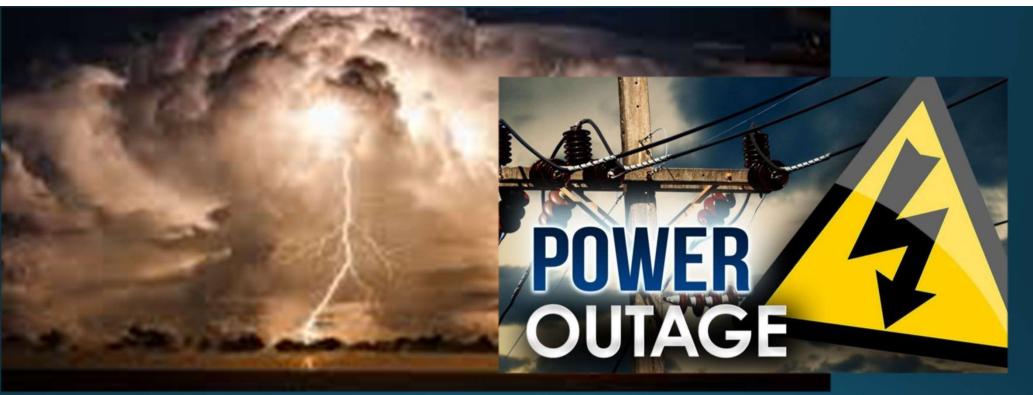




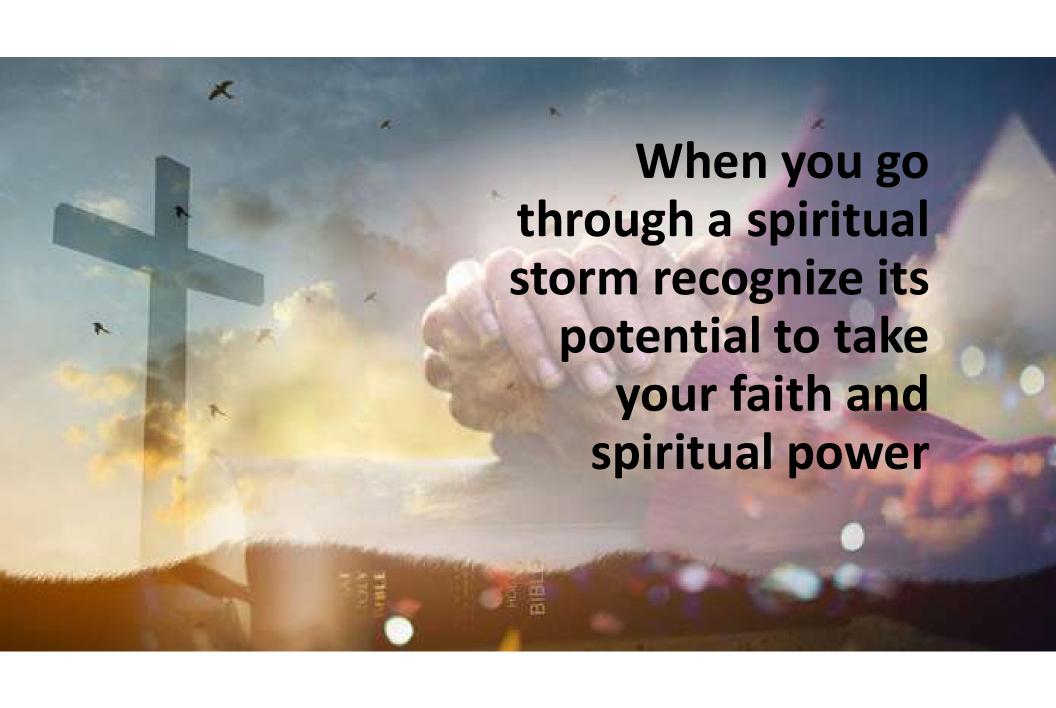




When the storm was over nearly 85% of the area was without power



If you see this storm as a metaphor then let me make the point that one of the greatest dangers of the storm is its potential to take your power out





I concluded my sermon on Sunday with a reference to an alligator that was crawling the streets of Florida beneath the surface

Friends there are always spiritual predators that lurk beneath surface of your reality waiting for an opportunity to attack when you least expect it

