

Our Purpose

Our Purpose
TODAY IS NOT TO
Dwell ON Suffering
& Adversity. BUT
TO SHOW WHAT GOD'S
MERCY & GRACE CAN
HELP US OVERCOME.

Hope in the Storm

THIS IS THE ONE

MATTHEW 8:23-27

SAT

4

→ MANY PEOPLE IN THE WORLD—maybe even you—are facing terrible storms in their life. Broken homes, joblessness, loneliness, loss, financial struggles, and world crises slash at the very fabric of hope. Some may even feel as though they're lost, adrift at sea in a small boat during a hurricane. And many wonder, *How on earth will we be able to reach the shore safely?*

The disciples faced this fear as well. While they were crossing the Sea of Galilee in their boat, the weather took a frightening turn. In desperation, they woke Jesus and cried, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing!" (Matt. 8:25). He rebuked them for their lack of faith and proceeded to calm the storm, showing Himself to be Lord over all creation.

This story teaches us where we should turn when storms arise in our own life. Sometimes people interpret challenging events as an indication that God isn't paying attention. That's what the disciples thought until Christ calmed the turbulent waters. But even when the world seems out of control, remember that Jesus is in the boat with you, and He's still Lord of all.

FORGET.
E. AD. TRUST (3)

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Deuteronomy 33-34

Becoming Holy

To get the most out of this devotion, set aside time to read the scriptures referenced throughout.

→ IT'S COMMON TO HEAR CHRISTIANS SAY, "You don't have to be perfect—God loves you just the way you are." And that statement is true, except it's not the whole picture.

Yes, the Lord's love is unconditional; we can do nothing to change it. At the same time, His plan for all believers is to make us increasingly like Himself. It's a perfection that transcends our understanding of the term—a perfection found not in how we perform but in our willingness to surrender our life to Him.

In Matthew 5:48 (NIV), Jesus says, "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." Instead of hearing those words as an impossible expectation, think of them as an invitation. He's welcoming you to the abundant life, the healing of your soul, the recovery of your true self. It's what we know as the process of sanctification.

To be sanctified—in other words, to become holy—is not a pursuit of faultlessness but rather one of becoming more and more like Jesus. And there's just one way to do that: Say "yes" to His invitation each day.

THINK ABOUT IT

→ Read Matthew 5:6 and 2 Corinthians 3:18. How do these verses make you feel about Jesus' command to be perfect?

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Joshua 1-3

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BIBLE IN ONE YEAR: Deuteronomy 33-34

MARCH 16, 2023

NEVER GIVE UP - Page 1

OUR PURPOSE

There is Hope in the storm

We are all sailing across the sea of Life -

We are often in a great storm, but a calm sea Never makes a Skillful Sailor

God Never promised smooth sailing but He did promise to help us reach the other shore

IN this world, We suffer illness, financial struggles, job loss, marital difficulties, unexpected tragedy & Adversity of all kind -

Sometimes to the point of losing our FAITH & Hope

- What can we learn from Adversity?
What can we do to survive the coming storm when you feel like you are going under. When FEAR grabs you by the throat and tries to drown you - -

This is a Normal part of living. It doesn't mean that God doesn't love you. He wants the Best for you.

★ Jesus said in John 16:33

IN this world you will have trouble. But take heart - I have overcome the world

It is only in the storm that
your Faith can grow

When you can discover the power
of God to deliver you
This is when you know if your Anchor will hold.

Let us go to the Bible and learn
from some of God's chosen.

When we think of suffering we think of Job
But in the end he was able to say
this in Job 19:25, 26, 27

Read Job 19: 25-27

Joseph was sold into bondage and put in
prison but the outcome was the
saving of his family and an entire Nation

Let us look at an event in David's life
when he was distressed

Read 1 Samuel 30: 1-6

David found his strength in the Lord -
And he would write in Psalm (121)

Read Psalm 121

Persevere - Never Give Up Hope

Adversity develops Character.

Life is a Battle and one Victory leads to Another

God sent David a bear to Kill and a lion to Kill before he had a giant to Kill

④

1836
1837

The Apostle Paul tells us of his suffering in 2 Corinthians 11:24-33

→ Read 2 Corinthians 11:24-33

Paul writes in Phillipians 3:14

★ Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press ON toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus

When we focus on the threat we develop FEAR - When we focus on Christ we develop - FAITH

Christ said "I will never leave you nor forsake you - I will be with you always.

Whatever your Burden -

~~Take~~ Go to Jesus - He is the Rock

He is our Saviour

He is our Shepherd

He laid down his life for his Sheep

TRUST Him, (2) " (3)

Also see (1)

Paul writes in Romans 8:16-18

The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His Glory

Ad Lib — AN incident in My Life, Proves a Point
 — Tell about the man in Prison
 — His Choice to Look At the Sky —
 Not the mud 35 yes / 3 spent
 DONOT — ADVERSITY ASK WHO HE DID

CONCLUSION

I want to share with you a reading by Charles Stanley — Read devotional

So we can either lose our Faith when we suffer or use that Adversity to further God's Kingdom and increase our Faith — Remember others are watching^{us} and you may be the only Bible they read —

So WAKE up each morning with a purpose — Keep your eye's on the Prize to win the Victory

Keep on Rowing and look to the other shore + Remember

THE ROPE OF FAITH BEEN DOWN TO THE KNOT
 "CHRIST IS IN THE BOAT WITH YOU"