

"WEEKLY WISDOM"  
By Pastor Darryl Baker

For The Week of 05.24.10

"DEALING WITH THE STORMS OF LIFE"

Luke 6:47 Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like:

Luke 6:48 He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock.

I moved to Texas in 1985 having never lived before somewhere in which you deal with some pretty bad storms. Texans are no strangers to tornado's, hail, and high winds. One thing for sure, you are going to face some storms if you live in Texas, but you can if prepared make it through the storms. So it is in this life we live here on earth. When you receive Christ into your life it does not exempt you from the storms that life will present. There is no doubt, as Jesus teaches us in Luke chapter six, that people are going to face storms in life. But what can be different for the Christian is that when storms come if they are prepared they can not only weather those storms, they can stand founded on the rock and not even be shaken.

Jesus speaks of this very truth in our foundation verses for our study this week. I am going to cover some things you can do that will help you to overcome any storm that may come your way. Again not to speak anything bad over anyone, but Jesus did tell us that storms are going to come. But for those who know what God's Word says they can like Jesus did, walk on top of the very thing that is rocking someone else's boat. I am going to share some things that will help you to anchor your life so that you won't be shaken.

#1 Come to Jesus

Sounds pretty basic I know, but stop and think about how often when we are faced with difficult circumstances in life, do we actually take control of our thoughts, get our focus on the Lord, and then actually go immediately to Him. Most of the time we don't take the time to get alone with the Lord until the storm has been rocking our boat for a while. Many times I have done this without even realizing it. I have been faced with some difficult challenges and after going through turmoil for several days realize I haven't really taken the time to draw close to the Lord. Sure I would begin to cry out to God, but that is not what Jesus said here in verse 47, He said you must come to Him.

Psa. 16:11 You make the path of life known to me.

Complete joy is in your presence.  
Pleasures are by your side forever.

When I speak of coming to the Lord I am not talking about coming and spending all of your time talking about the storm. I am speaking of getting into the presence of the Lord. How often do we really do this? As the Psalmist here states, complete joy is found in God's presence. The purpose initially is to come and focus on Him; His goodness, and His love for you, and in doing so often our storms begin to seem rather small in comparison to our God. The devil is going to do all he can to try and magnify our storms, but we need to take the time to get alone with the Lord, draw near to Him and let His presence begin to minister to us. This helps us get our mind focused back on Him. Doing so will as Isaiah 26:3 states keep us in "perfect peace".

God's Word is no doubt true. If we will first and foremost take the time to draw near to the Lord we can in fact get a whole new perspective and refocus on what is truly important, our relationship with the Lord. He truly is what makes us complete as Paul states in Colossians 2:10. That word "complete" means to satisfy. If we do not take time to draw near to Him, He cannot draw near to us and we will not be satisfied. A life exempt from storms is actually not the answer to a satisfied life; it is getting totally founded in Christ.

### #2 Hear His Sayings and Do Them

To hear His sayings also refers to being obedient to what you hear. The word for "hear" in this verse means to yield in obedience to the voice. As simple as that may sound it is vital to us in becoming victorious over the storms of life. Not doing what God's Word tells us to do is going to yield wrong results. For example James tells us that faith without works is dead. You could actually have faith in something God says, but without actions it is useless. Another example from scripture Jesus tells us that we are to forgive everyone, even if it were hundreds of times in one day. Unforgiveness is a heart issue and faith comes from the heart. If we choose not to forgive we can stifle our faith. So we need to make sure we are doing what the Word of God tells us in whatever area we are dealing with.

### #3 Don't Blame God

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

There are those who do put direct blame on God for events that He had nothing to do with, but there are also those times that God still gets the blame but indirectly. People will say, "Why did God allow this?" or "Why did God not do something about this?". There are many verses I could share that refute all the claims people make without proper understanding of the Bible in reference to other scriptures about God,

but Jesus made the most powerful statement that can settle it all right here in John 10:10. I call it the dividing line of the Bible. The thief, and God is not a thief, comes to steal, kill, and destroy. But Jesus came as a direct representation of the Father and He came to give life and that more abundantly. Simply stated, God is not the source of our storms, He is the One who will help us conquer them. The devil loves to get people to blame God. Don't fall for this deception for God is not the source of our storms.

#### #4 Stay In The Word of God

Jer. 15:16 Your words were found, and I ate them,  
And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart;  
For I am called by Your name,  
O LORD God of hosts.

God's Word is a great source of strength, and a great source of guidance in the midst of stormy times. The Word of God will help you keep a proper attitude, proper focus, and will help establish your heart so that you can stand strong. But when you do read the Bible don't just read it, make it a time of fellowship with God. His Word is alive and powerful. I cannot tell you how many times God's Word has given me the strength to go on, not to mention the answers I often needed. God's Word reveals all His is and all He has done. As you abide in Him (fellowship) and His Word abides in you, you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.

#### #5 Don't Become Isolated

Deut. 25:18 ...how he met you on the way and attacked your rear ranks, all the stragglers at your rear, when you *were* tired and weary; and he did not fear God.

Don't let the storms of life get you isolated from God and from the body of Christ. This is a major work of our enemy who tries to get people isolated and in doing so begins to weaken them through less and less church, less time with God, etc., and this will cause you to become tired and weary. This becomes a very vulnerable place where the enemy attacks the most, the rear ranks. The devil will do anything to get you to draw away from other believers, get you out of church the very place where God called you to be built up and strengthened, and to get you spending less and less time in the things of God. This is a tactic of the enemy that you must not give in to during the storms of life or you will become easy prey for the devil. Don't let anything keep you from God's house and your relationship with God.

#### #6 Live By The 90/10 Principle

10% of life is made up by what happens to you, but 90% of life is determined by how you react to the 10% you have no control over. When you look at how you react to what you have no control over it has everything to do with how most of your life turns out. Paul learned from

Jesus that the Lord could not at this time remove the messenger of satan that the devil sent to harass him, but how Paul responded to this made all the difference in the world. He could get upset, mad, and allow it to ruin his day, or he could lean on God's help, use his authority, walk in love and overcome every challenge.

How different our lives would be if we just took more time to pay attention at how we react to the things we cannot control. We can choose to respond by doing those things described here that will help us to be victorious through any storm we face, or we can choose to respond in the flesh and not only be shaken by the storms, but unfortunately for far too many be overcome by them. We serve a mighty God who desires to help us weather any storm that may come. There are more things we could talk about, but if we will apply these things discussed here, we are well on our way to defeating any storm that may come our way.