

Scaling the Storms: Finding Strength in Life's Tempests

The Storm That Shook My Soul

I still remember that evening. I was sitting in my car, gripping the steering wheel so hard my knuckles turned white. Another door had closed—a job rejection, the third in a row. I had prayed, fasted, believed. And yet, here I was, feeling abandoned in the storm of disappointment.

"God, are You even listening?" I whispered.

Have you ever been there? When the waves of life crash so hard that you can barely stay afloat? When you feel like Peter, stepping out in faith, only to find yourself sinking beneath the waves (Matthew 14:29-30)?

Storms come in many forms—loss, sickness, betrayal, financial struggles—but one thing is certain: **they test our faith, shake our foundations, and force us to decide whether we'll trust God or the storm.**

But here's what I've learned: **storms don't come to destroy us; they come to deepen our dependence on God.**

Faith That Walks on Water

One of the most gripping storm stories in the Bible is when Jesus walked on water toward His disciples. They had spent hours battling rough waves, exhausted and terrified. Then, out of nowhere, Jesus appeared.

"Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." (Matthew 14:27)

Peter, in his usual boldness, stepped out of the boat. And for a moment, he did the impossible—he walked on water! But as soon as he noticed the wind, fear took over. I imagine his heart pounding, his breath quickening. Maybe he thought, *"I was doing fine... What happened?"* Before he knew it, he was sinking.

Isn't that how life feels sometimes? We start strong, full of faith, but the moment we shift our focus from God to our circumstances, we begin to sink. The storm, once distant, suddenly feels overwhelming.

But here's the beautiful part: **even in Peter's doubt, Jesus didn't let him drown.**

"Immediately, Jesus reached out his hand and caught him." (Matthew 14:31)

That's who God is—He doesn't wait for us to fix our faith before saving us. He meets us in our fear and lifts us up.

The Purpose in the Storm

It's tempting to see storms as punishments, but what if they're actually preparation?

- **Joseph's storm:** Betrayed, enslaved, and imprisoned, but in the end, he told his brothers, *"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good."* (Genesis 50:20)
- **Job's storm:** Lost everything, yet God restored him **double** (Job 42:10).
- **Paul's storm:** Shipwrecked, beaten, and imprisoned, yet his letters—written in suffering—continue to change lives today.
- **The disciples' storm:** They feared drowning, but that very storm revealed Jesus' power in a way they had never seen before (Mark 4:39).

God doesn't allow storms to crush us; **He uses them to refine us.** Every storm has a lesson, a hidden purpose that will make sense in time.

How to Scale Your Storm

If you're in the middle of a storm, here are four ways to hold on:

1. Fix Your Eyes on Jesus

Just like Peter, when we focus on our problems instead of Jesus, we sink. Keep your eyes on Him through prayer, worship, and the Word.

"You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you." (Isaiah 26:3)

2. Speak to the Storm

Jesus calmed the sea with three words: **"Peace, be still!"** (Mark 4:39). He didn't panic—He spoke with authority. Sometimes, we need to declare God's promises over our storms rather than letting fear take over.

- *"The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."* (Exodus 14:14)
- *"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you."* (Isaiah 43:2)

3. Find Strength in the Waiting

The storm won't last forever, but while you wait, let it strengthen—not weaken—you. Let it build your endurance.

"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning." (Psalm 30:5)

4. Remember That the Storm Has an Expiration Date

No storm is permanent. Even the darkest clouds eventually break into light. Joseph's prison was not his final destination. Job's suffering was not his ending.

Your storm is not where your story ends.

Hope on the Other Side

I don't know what storm you're facing today, but I do know this: **God is still in control.** The same God who brought Noah through the flood, Daniel through the lion's den, and Paul through shipwrecks will carry you through.

So, take a deep breath. **Hold on to His promises.** Keep walking. The storm won't last forever. And when it passes, you'll see—you were **never alone.**