



Surviving the Storms of Life

Adapted from “Shipwrecked” series by Rod Loy.

I will never forget the first hurricane I experienced. It was 1970 and my family was stationed in Corpus Christi, Texas. I was seven years old and I had the front door open watching the storm. I remember counting nine tornadoes making their way down the street in front of our home. I turned to my mom and said, “Mom, don’t those tornado’s look cool?” Here is a description of this hurricane from Wikipedia:

Late on August 3, Celia made landfall near Corpus Christi, Texas. Throughout the state, 8,950 homes were destroyed and damaged about 55,650 others. About 252 small businesses, 331 boats, and 310 farm buildings were either damaged or destroyed. Impact was the worst in Nueces County, which observed gusts as high as 180 mph (290 km/h). In Corpus Christi, about one-third of houses suffered severe damage or were destroyed. Additionally, about 90% of the buildings in downtown were damaged to some degree.¹

At seven years old, I loved a storm. Now that I am older, I do not enjoy storms as much. How does a man handle life’s storms that come their way? Personal and real storms can be overwhelming. We can learn from God’s Word the principles for surviving the storms of life.

¹ “Hurricane Celia,” Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurricane_Celia (accessed July 21, 2017).

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COURAGE

C1: Describe a natural storm you were in. What were your thoughts? How did you survive?

C2: Describe a life storm that has occurred in your life. What were your thoughts? How did you survive?

C3: Read and answer the following.

Isaiah 41:10–11 (ESV) Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Behold, all who are incensed against you shall be put to shame and confounded; those who strive against you shall be as nothing and shall perish.

Psalms 27:1–6 (ESV) The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall. Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident. One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock. And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

- From these verses, what are five things you can glean about the grace of God when you are in the midst of a storm?

STRENGTH

S1: Paul was in a personal storm and he was headed for a literal storm. Read and answer the following.

Acts 27:1–3 (ESV)

- From these verses, what did Paul do when he was in his personal storm?

- When you are in a personal storm, what do you typically do? Why?

S2: As men, we tend to withdraw when we go through a personal storm. Make a list of at least 4-6 reasons why we do not ask for help. Rank in order from top to bottom the order you normally respond when facing a personal storm.

S3: Read and answer the following.

Acts 27:4 (ESV)

Acts 27:7 (ESV)

Acts 27:9–10 (ESV)

- From these verses, what do you glean about what to do when you are in the midst of your storm?

ENDURANCE

E1: Paul was honest and realistic about his storm. Read and answer the following.

Acts 27:14–22 (ESV)

- From these verses, what can you glean Paul did during his storm?
- On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being very well and 4 being not very well, rate how often you speak with faith in the middle of your storm.
- Write out the storm you are going through. Now, write out a faith statement about your storm. Begin to speak your faith statement.

E2: Storms reveal what is inside you. You do not know what is truly inside you until pressure is applied. Read and answer the following.

Acts 27:23–25 (ESV)

- From these verses, how did Paul speak words of faith?

E3: When you are amid a storm, it seems to occupy every waking moment. You need to get away from the raging roar of the storm to hear God's voice. Develop and execute a plan to get alone with God for thirty hours for the next thirty days. Make sure you take a notepad and you write down what God is telling you amid your storm.