

## **Why You Can Laugh at the Storms of Life**

**Introduction:** The Bible has a lot to say about storms. Sometimes it is talking about literal storms, where the weather is fearsome and seems out of control. More often, though, when the Bible speaks of a storm it is referring to an adverse set of circumstances—when negative events enter into a person’s life.

A storm connotes struggles, trials and tribulations. Storms seek to knock you over—mentally, emotionally, physically and spiritually. Our life is full of troubles, so at any moment you are probably either in a storm, just heading out of a storm or about to experience one.

As Jesus said, “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). We will have tribulation, Jesus says. That isn’t negotiable. But how we look, act, and get through our trouble is.

**Scripture:** II Corinthians 1:8-11; Job 38; Mark 4:35-40

### **I. God won’t put more on you than you can bear?**

1. Too scared to live, too scared to die? Paul said, “I’ve been there.”  
*“The sentence of death was upon us...”*(vs 9a)
2. Why did God allow that to happen to you Paul?  
*“...so that we would not trust in ourselves.”* (vs 9b)
3. Paul had to deal with a TRUST issue, and the things he thought were “fixed” in his life, had to be broken, or taken away.

Lesson: Brokenness is simply when God stripes us of our self-sufficiency... or simply when God removes our tendencies to depend on ourselves rather than Him.

### **What storm of life has God used to recalibrate your trust level in Him?**

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### **II. “My problem is that I’ve never seen anyone raised from the dead.”**

1. The lesson of Job ~ *“I have only heard you by the hearing of the ear.”* (Job 42:5)
  - a. This is a paradigm thought: When you begin to understand the reality of God, is that He’s a God of restoration, a whole new way of thinking now bursts on the scene.
2. The lesson of Mary and Martha ~ John 11
  - a. Jesus let the most important man in their life die, because he wanted to show them a resurrection.
  - b. When it feels like you are going through a “death” of a sort, if you take a moment to trust in Him, the end result is God is waiting to (literally) blow your mind!
3. The lesson of Paul ~ II Corinthians 1:10
  - a. Paul said, I WAS rescued, and I WILL be rescued, and He will YET deliver me.
  - b. Paul says in Verse 10, *“He WILL yet rescue us, He on whom we have set our hope.”*
4. The Lessons of the Disciples ~ Mark 4:35-41
  - a. Problem #1: They have a storm on the OUTSIDE, and it helped to create problem #2

- b. Problem #2: They have a storm on the INSIDE. They are scared because they are perishing.
- c. Problem #3: They have a THEOLOGICAL storm, because they think Jesus just doesn't care about their storm of life.

Lesson: Take your eyes off of the external circumstances, and place them on Jesus, because He is the only ONE that can control your circumstances.

**What storm of your life takes precedence over God's control?**

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