

# Finding Peace in the Storm: Trusting the Great I AM

Have you ever felt overwhelmed by life's unexpected challenges? Like you're caught in a storm, struggling to stay afloat? We all face moments when our carefully laid plans crumble, leaving us feeling lost and afraid. But what if these very storms are actually opportunities for something miraculous?

Consider the disciples on the Sea of Galilee. Experienced fishermen, they found themselves battling a sudden, violent storm. Despite their skills, they were helpless against nature's fury. In their panic, they almost missed the most incredible sight – Jesus, walking on the water towards them.

This story teaches us a profound lesson about faith and the nature of God. When Jesus approached the terrified disciples, He didn't immediately calm the storm. Instead, He spoke these powerful words: "It is I. Be not afraid."

In the original Greek, Jesus' words "It is I" translate to "I AM" – a direct reference to God's holy name revealed to Moses at the burning bush. This wasn't just a casual greeting; it was a declaration of divine authority and presence.

How often do we, like the disciples, become so fixated on our problems that we fail to recognize God's presence in our midst? We exhaust ourselves trying to weather the storm in our own strength, forgetting that the Master of the universe is right there with us, waiting for us to turn to Him.

The story takes a fascinating turn when Peter, recognizing Jesus, makes a bold request: "Lord, if it's you, tell me to come to you on the water." Jesus' response? A simple, "Come."

This exchange reveals a beautiful truth about our relationship with God. He doesn't just want us to acknowledge His power from a distance. He invites us to step out in faith and join Him in the miraculous. God is not content to leave us cowering in the boat while He walks on water. He wants us to experience His power firsthand.

However, stepping out requires courage. It means leaving behind our false sense of security and trusting completely in God's ability to sustain us. Peter's brief walk on water shows us that the impossible becomes possible when we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Yet how quickly we can sink when we allow doubt and fear to creep in! The moment Peter took his eyes off Jesus and focused on the wind and waves; he began to sink. But even in our moments of faltering faith, Jesus is there, ready to catch us and lift us up.

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This story challenges us to examine our own response to life's storms. Do we hunker down, relying solely on our own strength and experience? Or do we have the courage to step out in faith, trusting that the great I AM is with us?

It's easy to praise God when He calms our storms immediately. But perhaps the greater miracle is when He gives us the strength to walk through the storm with Him. Our trials can become the very platform on which God displays His power and faithfulness in our lives.

Remember, before your problems appeared, before sickness struck, before financial troubles hit, before addiction took hold – the solution was already there. Jesus is, and always has been, the answer. He sees your struggle, He's in the storm with you, and He has the power to deliver you.

Sometimes, in our spiritual journey, we can become desensitized to the miraculous. We see God work in amazing ways, yet we treat it as commonplace. We rejoice for others but leave no room for God to work miraculously in our own lives. This hardening of heart can leave us spiritually anemic and unprepared when our own storms hit.

The invitation today is clear: tune out the noise of the storm and tune into His voice. Hear Him saying to you, "I AM. Be not afraid." He's waiting for your surrender, not a demonstration of your strength or knowledge.

Don't be afraid to bring your questions to God. Like Thomas who doubted, God is willing to meet you where you are. He's not intimidated by your uncertainties. In fact, He welcomes the opportunity to prove Himself faithful to you.

Your current storm may very well be orchestrated for this very moment – a divine opportunity for you to experience God's power in a new way. The great I AM is waiting. Will you abandon your fear and come to Him?

As you face life's challenges, remember:

1. God is always present, even when we can't see Him through the storm.
2. Our struggles often reveal our need for God and prepare us for a miracle.

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3. Faith means keeping our eyes on Jesus, not on the circumstances around us.
4. God invites us to participate in the miraculous, not just observe it.
5. Surrender and trust are key to experiencing God's power in our lives.

Today, you have a choice. Will you stay in the boat, relying on your own strength and understanding? Or will you step out onto the waters at Jesus' invitation, trusting Him to do the impossible in your life?

Whatever storm you're facing, know this: the One who commands the wind and waves is with you. He is bigger than your problems, stronger than your fears, and able to do exceedingly abundantly above all you could ask or imagine.

Take heart, dear friend. The great I AM is in your boat, and He's inviting you to walk on water with Him. Will you take that step of faith today?