

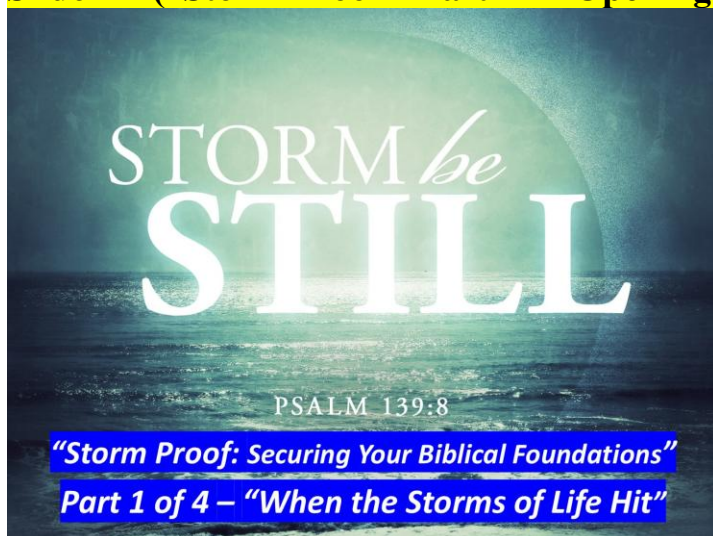
Sunday 05/04/25 – Panama Methodist Church

Sermon Title: “Storm Proof: Securing Your Biblical Foundations” Series” - Part 1 of 4 – “When the Storms of Life Hit” - Psalm 139:8, Romans 8:38-39, Psalm 91:1-16, John 14:1-4

(Slides 1-18 will be listed in order throughout this sermon 😊!)

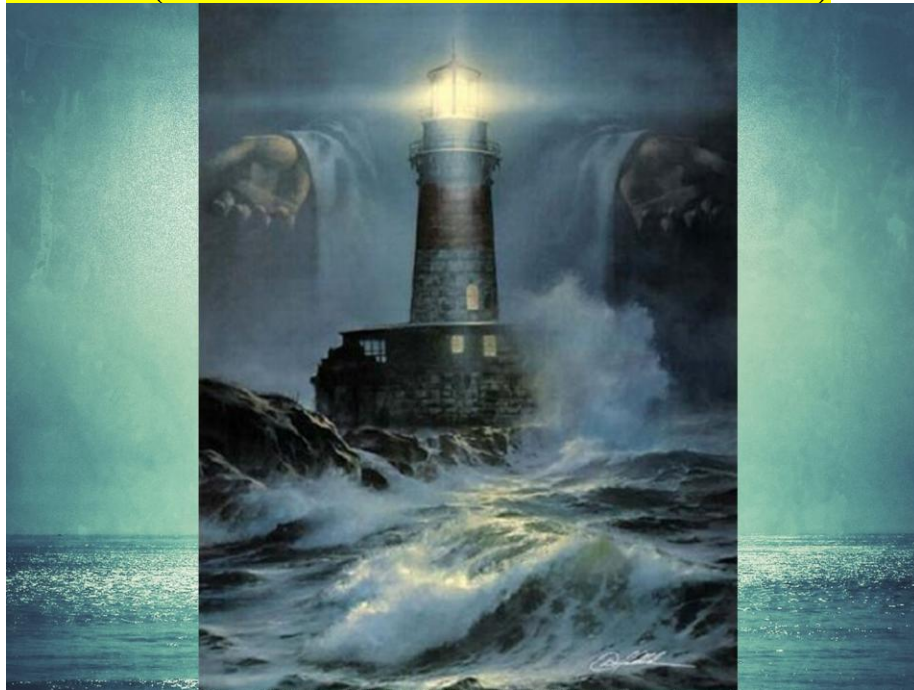
This morning, we are starting a sermon series together called “Storm Proof: Securing Your Biblical Foundations.” While I picked this sermon series for the month of May months ago, this is a great sermon series about putting our full trust in Jesus Christ. Admist the changes in our lives, the unexpected, the trials and tribulations that we face, we can have “Storm Proof” faith, if we put our trust in Jesus Christ. With our pastoral transition in this church, I hope and pray that this sermon series will anchor us deeper in the unshakeable and “Storm Proof” faith found only in Jesus Christ our Lord. For Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ alone is the sovereign head of the church. Here is our opening slide for this sermon series:

Slide 1 – (“Storm Proof – Part 1” – Opening Slide”)



This morning, in this the first of our four weeks of this sermon series, we are going to be talking about “When the Storms of Life Hit.” It could be a variety of things. Maybe you hit a deer one day, and it totaled your car. Maybe it was or is a health issue. Perhaps it was or is a relationship struggle. Maybe someone we loved passed on to glory, etc. Sometimes storms in our lives are not expected and can happen suddenly. When the storms of life hit, how do we respond to them? One of the pictures that I have had in our last three parsonage offices, was this picture:

Slide 2 – (“Jesus With Us In The Storm” - Picture”)

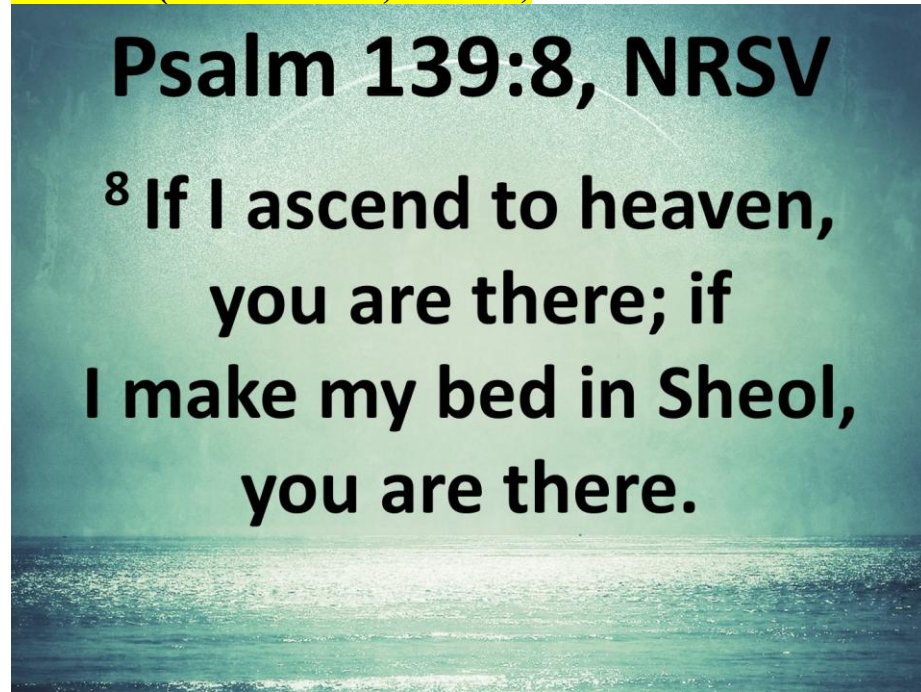


I remember seeing a print of this, and Melissa and I bought one. It is a storm raging in the sea, with light house pointing us to safety and hope, with Jesus’ hands extended to us. The question then is how do we respond when the storms of our lives hit? Do we panic? Do we get angry? Are calm and always trusting in God?

Or have our reactions varied? How can we always have “Storm Proof” faith in Jesus Christ? I think that sometimes, if we are honest this can be hard to do at some moments, especially when the unexpected comes. I know for me I have gotten much better at this the older that I get, but sometimes if we are all honest it can just get away from us.

For example, if we suddenly get a flat tire, do immediately thank God, smile, and change the tire? Jesus will never forsake us, and God is always with us if we turn to him. In fact, the main verse of scripture for this “Storm Proof” sermon series is from Psalm 139:8. If you will turn to your bibles or bible apps, and open with me to Psalm 139:8. This is what it says:

Slide 3 – (“Psalm 139:8, NRSV”)



Wherever we are, Jesus is with us if we have faith in Him. Having “Storm Proof” faith is not always easy, but it is something that we can grow into, as our faith in Christ deepens. Here is a great picture showing how deep God’s love for us truly is from Psalm 139:8:

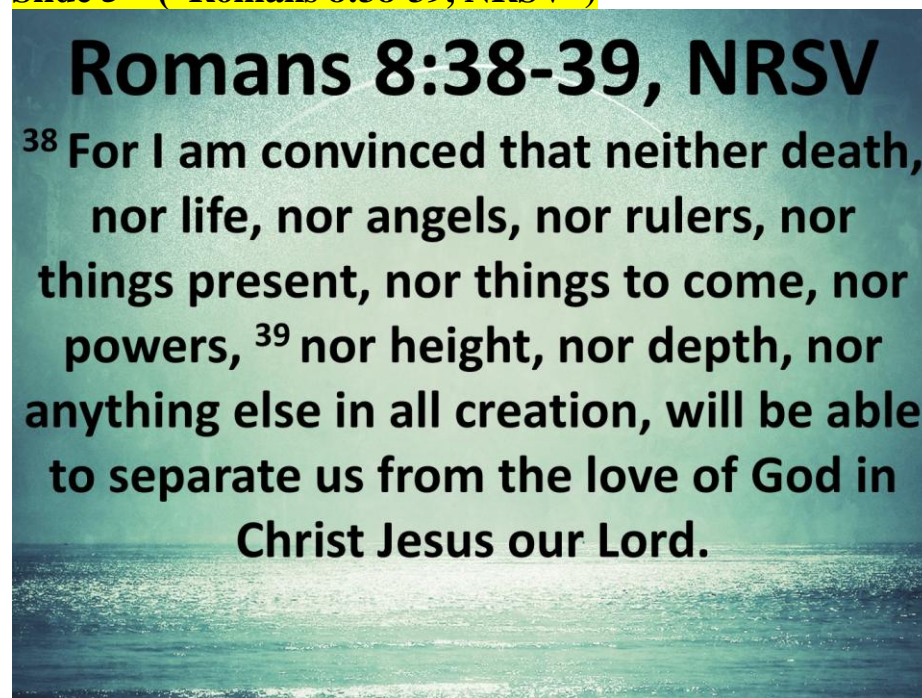
Slide 4 – (“Psalm 139:8 - Picture”)



Even in the deepest and darkest places, Jesus is with us, if we turn to Him. The Prophet Jonah was in the belly of fish for three days in the Old Testament, and God was with him. When soldiers are in combat, when they cry out God, He hears them. When a medical diagnosis is given that is not good, God is with us. Whatever comes our way, Jesus is with us.

If you will now turn your bibles to Romans 8:38-39, we have a beautiful scripture about the power and the fullness of the love of Jesus Christ. If this is not one of your favorite scriptures, it may soon be. This is what Romans 8:38-39 says:

Slide 5 – (“Romans 8:38-39, NRSV”)

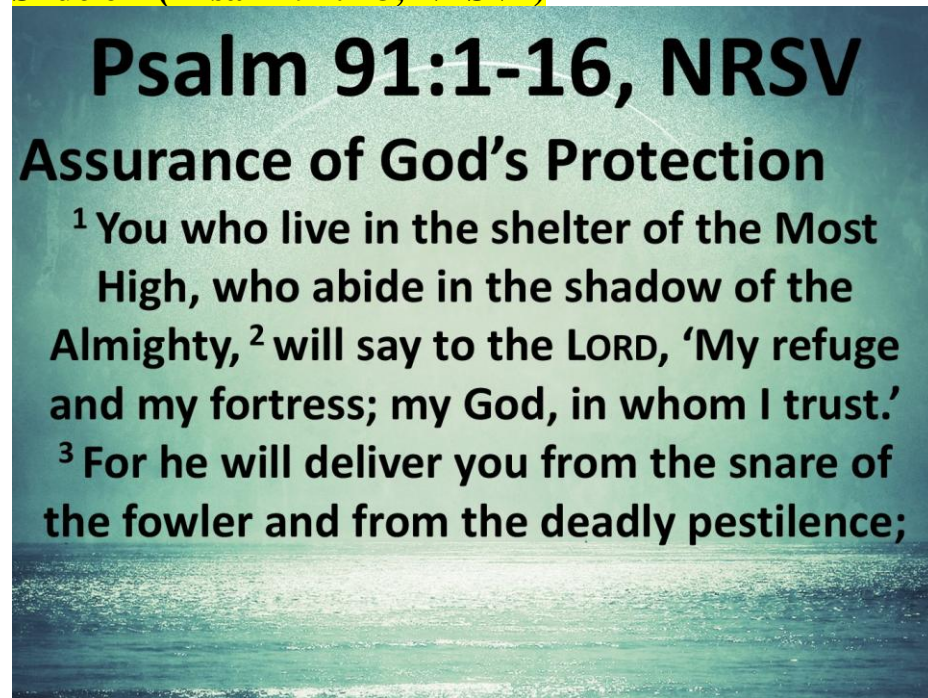


Now when we get that flat tire, when we hit a deer, when someone we love passes on to glory, or gets sick, is this scripture the first type of thing that we think of? All who call on the name of the Lord Jesus will be saved, and all of us in Christ, will be with Christ for eternity. When I was flying back from Wisconsin last Sunday, we had a flight attendant that was just joyful and full of life. She found out I was a pastor, and she then pointed to the cross I was wearing, and she said, “Pastor, I love Him to, but sometimes His people just get on my nerves!” Wouldn’t it be great no matter what to fully trust in Jesus? Imagine the freedom that we would

have, knowing that if we have or are going through a storm in our lives that Jesus is with us, and will be with us during and when the storm ends.

One of the scriptures that I think of when putting our trust in God comes from Psalm 91:1-16. I would invite you all to return to the Psalms in your bibles or bible apps, once again. This scripture is a little longer, but it is entitled, “Assurance of God’s Protection.” There is even songs and hymns written to the words of this scripture reading. This is what Psalm 91:1-16 says:

Slide 6 – (“Psalm 91:1-3, NRSV”)



Slide 7 – (“Psalm 91:4-6, NRSV”)

Psalm 91:1-16, NRSV

Assurance of God’s Protection

⁴ he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. ⁵ You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day, ⁶ or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

Slide 8 – (“Psalm 91:7-9, NRSV”)

Psalm 91:1-16, NRSV

Assurance of God’s Protection

⁷ A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. ⁸ You will only look with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked. ⁹ Because you have made the LORD your refuge, the Most High your dwelling-place,

Slide 9 – (“Psalm 91:10-12, NRSV”)

Psalm 91:1-16, NRSV

Assurance of God’s Protection

¹⁰ no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. ¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. ¹² On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

Slide 10 – (“Psalm 91:13-16, NRSV”)

Psalm 91:1-16, NRSV

Assurance of God’s Protection

¹³ You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot. ¹⁴ Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. ¹⁵ When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them. ¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

You see my friends, it is not how we respond when things are good. It is how we respond when things are hard. Are ability to have “Storm Proof” faith in Jesus Christ, will keep us calm in the storms of life. If we know who we are, and who is we are, we know that God has us. For example, I have counseled many people pastorally in tough times in their lives. Some of them were calling on and trusting in God, and some were not sleeping and stressed out. Yet, if we think back in our lives to the storms we have been through, or are going through, hasn’t God always seen us through? My mother has said more times that I can count, “God has not brought you this far to drop you!” Sometimes in a moment of angst we can lose sight of that if we are not careful. We are reminded of God’s presence in the scriptures, we have our families, our friends, great churches like this one that are here for us, and great organization like Love INC, that everyday show us that God is with us. Organization like Love INC do not just have “Storm Proof” faith, they lives “Storm Proof” faith. God has entrusted us with so much, and if we have “Storm Proof” faith in Jesus Christ, then we get through anything. Jesus overcame this world, and daily He can teach us increasingly to be like Him. Here is a beautiful picture representation of Psalm 91:1-16:

Slide 11 – (“Psalm 91:1-16 - Picture”)



In this picture, one could shelter in cave in a mountain, or some other safe location, as God is with us.

Lastly, if can turn to the gospel of John 14:1-14, I want to read a scripture that is often read at funerals, memorial services, and celebrations of life. I have read this scripture dozens upon dozens of times, but it is a reminder of the promise that we have in Jesus Christ. This promise is not just now, but it is eternal. This promise in unwavering and rock solid for all who trust in Jesus Christ. If you turn to John 14:1-4, we find these words:

Slide 12 – (“John 14:1-2, NRSV”)

John 14:1-4, NRSV

Jesus the Way to the Father

14 ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?’

Slide 13 – (“John 14:3-4, NRSV”)

John 14:1-4, NRSV

Jesus the Way to the Father

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.’

If you have ever ministered to someone in Crisis, they might hear these words, but they might be unable in their panicked state to internalize these words. You see

sometimes our calm, our focus on Christ can slip when the “Storms of Life Hit,” yet He is always there. What would it take for us to just put our full trust in Him? Not our trust when it is convenient, but bone marrow deep “Storm Proof” trust in Jesus no matter what?

One of the best examples of “Storm Proof” faith that I have ever seen, is portrayed in the movie, “Hacksaw Ridge,” that came out in 2016. If you have never seen the movie “Hacksaw Ridge,” you will not be disappointed if you do. In this movie, Corporal Desmond Doss who an US Army Medic, and a Seventh Day Adventist, was in World War II. Specifically, Corporal Doss participated in one of battles with the Japanese in a place called “Hacksaw Ridge.” Desmond Doss’ father was a veteran of World War I, and the war caused his father to have PTSD and lifelong trauma. As a result, Desmond Doss became a pacifist and was determined to never ever hold or fire a gun. Well, when World War II started, he then enlisted in the US Army. He refused to qualify on the rifle range in basic training and was called “corn stalk” because he was skinny and lanky. Most thought Desmond Doss was a coward because he would carry a gun. Yet Corporal Doss became a US Army Medic anyway. He said with so much life being taken, God had called him to save life.

In order to expel the Imperial Japanese Army from the Pacific Island that the US Military was on, the soldiers had to climb up in this movie, Hacksaw Ridge on

a massive cargo net. The first day of combat for the soldiers that Corporal Doss was with was a day of heavy losses for those US Army units. Many soldiers retreated back down that cargo net to regroup for another attack the next day. Yet, Corporal Doss was not among the retreaters. In fact, he was alive and well on top of Hacksaw Ridge. For the entire night that Corporal Doss was on Hacksaw Ridge, he risked his life to save wounded, in what is now called the Battle of Okinawa. Corporal Doss saved, wait for it, 75 men. Seventy-five men. In the movie he had extreme rope burns on his hands, as he tied ropes to the wounded soldiers and one by one lowered them down the cliff called Hacksaw Ridge. Every time he would risk his life to save a fellow soldier he prayed, "Lord, help me get just one more." The man they called a coward, who they called "cornstalk" saved 75 men, risking his life all night. Corporal Doss was also the first soldier in US history to be awarded the Metal of Honor, being a conscientious objector, and having never carried or fired a gun. I tell you this story, because every time I have seen the movie "Hacksaw Ridge" portraying Corporal Desmond Doss, I think of "Storm Proof" faith. "Lord, help me get just one more." That is the kind of faith that makes the devil run and feel, sets the church on fire through the Holy Spirit, and can change us all. Brothers and sisters, do we have "Storm Proof" faith? It will be tested, and are we ready? It is not if, but rather it is when.

So how does all of this apply to our lives today? Let us look together:

Slide 14 – (“Application To Our Lives - # 1”)

Application To Our Lives # 1

- Trusting in Jesus, signifies surrendering your life to Him, placing Him at the center of your life, and seeking a close relationship with God. It's not blind faith, but rather a commitment to live according to God's word and guidance, believing in His promises and seeking His power in all areas of life.

If we do not have in faith Christ like this, then what is preventing us from having faith in Christ like this? Continuing on:

Slide 15 – (“Application To Our Lives - # 2”)

Application To Our Lives # 2

- Why Should We Trust In Jesus?

- 1. Surrendering to His Lordship: This involves acknowledging Jesus as the Messiah, Savior, and Lord of your life. It means accepting His teachings, principles, and values as the foundation for your beliefs and actions.**
- 2. Living by Faith: Trusting in Jesus means living a life based on faith, even when you don't see the outcomes or understand the circumstances. It's about believing in God's promises, even when they seem impossible or difficult.**

Do we have full trust in Jesus? Do we have “Storm Proof” faith? Application slide

3 says:

Slide 16 – (“Application To Our Lives - # 3”)

Application To Our Lives # 3

- Why Should We Trust In Jesus?

3. Seeking God's Guidance and Power: Trusting in Jesus implies seeking His guidance in your daily decisions, trusting that He knows what's best for you and will lead you in the right direction. It also means relying on His power and strength, especially in times of difficulty, knowing He's able to help you overcome any challenge.



Lastly,

Slide 17 – (“Application To Our Lives - # 4”)

Application To Our Lives # 4

- Why Should We Trust In Jesus?

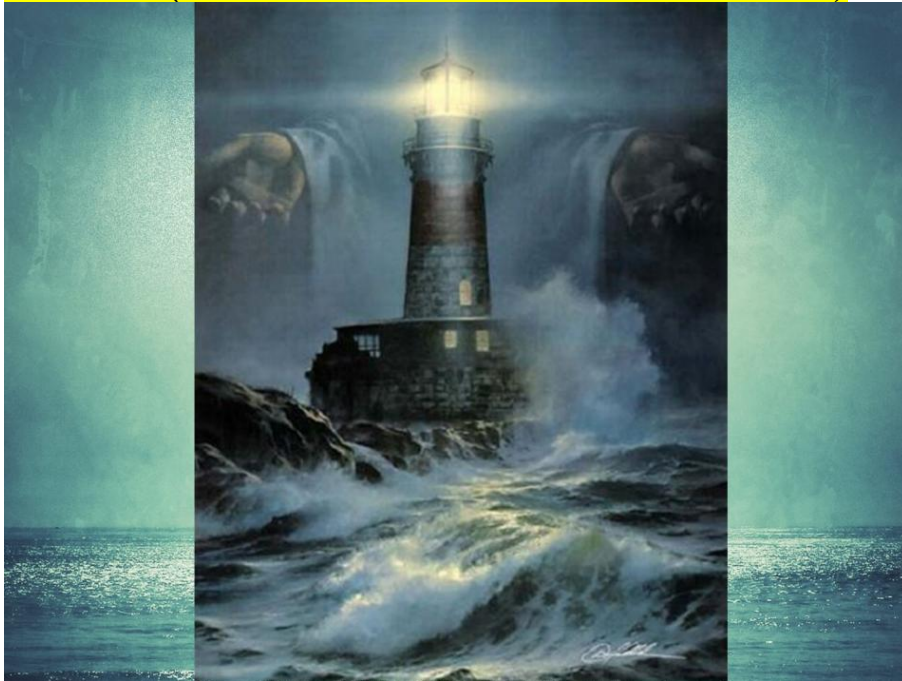
4. Living a Changed Life: As you trust in Jesus, your life should be transformed, reflecting the values and principles of the Bible. It means striving to live a life that pleases God, and that is pleasing to others.



When David came out with a sling and stone to face the mighty Philistine soldier Goliath in the Old Testament , he must have had “Storm Proof” faith. God is with us, God is with this church and may we today and always have “Storm Proof” faith!

As I show our opening picture once again, you can understand why I love to have this picture in the parsonage office of the church where I am serving. It reminds of “Storm Proof” faith.

Slide 18 – (“Jesus With Us In The Storm” - Picture”)



Amen.