

THANKING THROUGH IT

Ryland Walter | November 4-5, 2023

Week 2: Withstanding the Winds of Life

When the storm has swept by, the wicked are gone,
but the righteous stand firm forever. Proverbs 10:25 (NIV)

What Kind of Winds Are Blowing in Your Life?

Winds of change? Winds of conflict? Winds of opposition?
Winds of trouble? Winds of temptation? Winds of testing?

Winds are _____

Withstand: To remain and grow in the midst of a destructive force

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

Ephesians 6:13 (ESV)

Jesus: "Stand firm, and you will win life." — Luke 21:19 (NIV)

How To Withstand the Winds of Life

1. Remain _____ to my spiritual family

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and **BUILD UP** the church, the body of Christ. ¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Ephesians 4:11-14 (NLT)

Song: "Brother" by NEEDTOBREATHE

2. Put into _____ everything I learn

"Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. Matthew 7:24-25 (NIV)

Why do we take notes?

1. It clarifies that the message is rooted in the Bible
2. Not everyone has a Bible
3. It relieves embarrassment in finding texts
4. Sometimes, God gives us messages before we need them
5. We can cover more verses in less time
6. We can read verses aloud together
7. We can use the Bible to interpret the Bible
8. We can compare multiple translations
9. We can emphasize key themes by interacting with the text
10. We remember and retain more
11. We can review what we learn later
12. We can use it for small group study and discussion
13. We can see how much longer the sermon is

But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. James 1:25 (NIV)

SONG: Take You At Your Word by Cody Carnes

3. Turn my _____ to how great God is

Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. ²⁵ The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" ²⁶ He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. ²⁷ The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!" — Matthew 8:24-27 (NIV)

SONG: "Jesus Your Name/In the Name" by Matt Redman

4. Remind myself how much Jesus _____

Late that night, the disciples were in their boat in the middle of the lake, and Jesus was alone on land. ⁴⁸ He saw that they were in serious trouble, rowing hard and struggling against the wind and waves. About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. He intended to go past them, ⁴⁹ but when they saw him walking on the water, they cried out in terror, thinking he was a ghost. ⁵⁰ They were all terrified when they saw him. But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage! I am here!" ⁵¹ Then he climbed into the boat, and the wind stopped.

Mark 6:47-48 (NLT)

The winds are your messengers Psalm 104:4 (NLT)

SONG: "Stand In Your Love" by Rita Springer

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THANKING THINKING THROUGH IT

WITHSTANDING THE WINDS OF LIFE Talk-it-Over Notes | November 4-5, 2023

REVIEW IT

One of the most powerful forces of nature is wind. It can knock you off balance and blow you off course. The Bible uses wind as a metaphor for a lot of different things. I wonder, what kind of winds are blowing in your life right now? Winds of change, conflict, opposition, trouble, temptation, testing? Wind is uncontrollable, and so are these things. So how do you handle the winds in life that are uncontrollable? You WITHSTAND. When you withstand, you remain and grow even in the midst of a destructive force. How do you withstand? You stay connected to your church family, you put into practice what you learn, turn your focus to how great God is, and remind yourself how much Jesus cares.

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Spend some time in the word: Read Luke chapter 21

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What are some ways you can stay connected to your church family, and what are the benefits of doing so?
2. Share some ways you've put into practice what you've learned at church or through scripture reading. (i.e. forgiving someone, being generous, trusting Jesus...) What prevents us from putting into practice the lessons we've learned?
3. Read Matthew 8:24-27... Why would his followers be afraid and forget to rely on his power during difficult times? How might we help each other turn our focus from fear to reliance on God?

ACT ON IT

The action step this week is to pray for the persecuted. Feel free to use these ten ways to pray as a guide:

Pray they will...

1. Sense God's presence (Hebrews 13:5)
2. Know we are praying for them (2 Timothy 1:3)
3. Experience God's comfort (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)
4. See God open doors to evangelism (Colossians 4:3)
5. Boldly share the gospel (Acts 4:29)
6. Mature in their faith (Colossians 1:28-29)
7. Be granted wisdom in covert ministry work (Acts 9:23-25)
8. Remain joyful amid suffering (Acts 5:41)
9. Forgive and love their persecutors (Matthew 5:44)
10. Be rooted in God's Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

10 WAYS TO PRAY
FOR OUR PERSECUTED CHRISTIAN FAMILY