

He Stilled the Storm to a Whisper

Storms have always been highly symbolic to me. I never understood why until I rediscovered a verse in Psalms that reads, “He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed” (107:29, NIV).

What prompted my thinking about stormy weather was an article by Cheri Fuller that we published in *SpiritLed Woman* titled, “Praise Him in the Storm.” It points out that there is never a good reason for us to withhold our praises to the Lord.

I can recall growing up in Florida when Hurricane Donna, a particularly damaging storm, tore through our city, leaving an almost indelible mark. For my sister Bridget and me, the experience was both fascinating and great fun—at first. We thought all the sounds outside our house were “neat.”

My mother had baked cakes before the power went out. We played games, told scary stories and stayed up late to “watch the hurricane.”

We loved the eerie glow of the kerosene lamps. And we imagined that things must have been like this back when our parents were children in the “olden days.”

Finally, we got to bed. Through the night we were only faintly aware of what was happening around us. But when we awoke, we discovered that we had been saved from a very real danger. All the while my sister and I

had been blissfully enjoying the excitement or sleeping away,
a furious storm
had been raging outside.

Our yard was strewn with huge tree limbs and chunks of
debris that had been peeled off our neighbors' roofs. Oaks
that had stood for a
century had been uprooted and tossed aside. Slowly, I started
thinking
differently about this experience and realized how grateful we
should be that
the Lord had protected us.

Natural storms remind me of God's sovereign protection. They
help me remember that He rules over every circumstance and
stills the storms of
life after they've served His purposes.

I'd like to say that I still face life's storms with the
same kind of abandon I had as a child. But I know a lot more
now, and with
knowledge has come the temptation to fear what's ahead. So,
during rough times
I try to look back and recall how faithful God has been to me
through all kinds
of tumultuous situations.

Reflecting on God's faithfulness, you can face your
challenges and continue to praise and worship the Lord. Your
praise attests to
your trust in His power and love. It reminds you of Who He is
and that He will
never change. It also supernaturally lifts you to the realm
where His peace
reigns—where you know with all certainty that He is larger
than your troubles.

I felt totally secure while Hurricane Donna raged outside. I

had no doubts that I'd be safe. Though I may never recover that same childish innocence, I am no less secure. In place of the innocence, God has given me the experience of His perfect, incomprehensible peace. He has delivered me from the effects of numerous storms of every sort, and as a result, my faith in Him has matured.

When we come through storms and experience God's deliverance, something wonderful happens to us, inside and out. We remember that Jesus is Lord over everything. We are blessed with a testimony and a deeper understanding that life's storms do not last forever. In the aftermath, we will never see God in quite the same way again.

PRAYER POWER WEEK OF 2/21/2011

This week thank God that He has helped you through the storms of your life, and that He is able to see you through anything that may come your way. Praise Him in the midst of your current challenges and come boldly to His throne with your requests and concerns for the future. Continue to pray for the situation in the Middle East and pray for God's purpose to be fulfilled there. Pray that God's people would pray in one accord for revival and the expansion of His kingdom around the world. Pray that our leaders would turn to the Lord for wisdom and strategies to solve our nation's foreign, domestic and economic problems. Remember our military and their families.

Psalm 107:29; Heb.
4:16; James 1:5