

The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind

Study Guide

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IDENTIFY YOUR STORM

And a great windstorm arose... (MARK 4:37).

TRANSFORMATION THOUGHT

In the past, we have lumped the concept of storms all together. We have assumed that any and every storm we go through is either caused by I God, or orchestrated by the devil. The truth is, there are storms the devil causes for our destruction, and then there are storms God orchestrates for our redirection and advancement.

So how do you know what kind of storm you are facing? Is your storm a miracle waiting to happen, like we read about in Mark 4:35-41, or is it a tool that God is using to redirect your path as He did with Jonah? Knowing what type of storm, you are in, enables you to respond to it correctly. Have you let past miracles "tutor" you to a place of faith adequate for your current challenge? The disciples' storm was sent by the devil to keep them from the will of God. Jonah's storm was sent by God to turn him back to the will of God. Some people face storms because they took a left when God told them to take a right. God brings a storm in His mercy to drive them back on course. Others face storms because they are in the middle of God's will.

Read Mark 4:35-41. Here, we see an example of a storm purposed to steal, kill, and destroy—all hallmarks of the enemy's nature and intentions. Here is what we need to remember. Even though our tendency is to cry out and ask God to intervene in our situation, we need to reconsider the invitation of past miracles. Even if you have never seen or experienced a miracle for yourself, go to the pages of Scripture. The miracles contained in its pages are your invitations to elevate your standard of life today. Remember, God never allows a storm without first providing you with the tools that will calm the storm. While God allows such storms, they are never allowed for the purpose of defeating us, but instead, He wants us to defeat them through the resources He has given us and bring about a miraculous result.

We may feel like the disciples did, as they woke Jesus up and asked, "Don't You care that we're perishing?" While Jesus did end up answering their prayer and calming the storm, He responded with a strange question, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" (Mark 4:40). In this situation, it was their responsibility to command the obstacle to disappear. Most people's concept of ministry involves trying to get God to fix problems on earth when we should be commanding the storms to be calm. We should see situations from Heaven's perspective and declare the word of the Lord over them—and watch Heaven invade.

The storm is your invitation to steward the miracles you have experienced. Let's not waste our miracles. Let's not watch God do something awesome, then give a little golf clap, a little "amen" and walk away unchanged. Let's recognize that we are equipped for every storm. We have been trained by past miracles to release present solutions.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How have you seen "storms" in the past? How has God been changing the way that you respond to them in your life?
2. Why is it so important that you know what type of storm you are facing?

TRANSFORMATION PRAYER

Father, I ask for wisdom that shows me what kind of storm I am going through—or what type of storm someone else is going through. Help me to identify the storm and respond correctly so I can either bring breakthrough, change direction, or make the necessary adjustments. Thank You for equipping and empowering me with the tools to get through every single storm that comes my way.