

Transformed in the Storm

by Megan L. Anderson

“Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations” (I Peter 1:6).

As I write, plump raindrops splatter over the blacktop, wind rustles through trees, thunder rattles the windows, and our home weather alert system beeps in warning of a thunderstorm. Welcome to springtime in Indiana. Amidst all this chaos I sit comfortably inside a sturdy brick house sipping tea as if I were the third little pig chuckling at the big bad wolf huff-puffing outside my door. Storms like this come and go; there’s no reason for worry. While God may not always spare us from life’s storms, He does bring us through them.

At some point we all get drenched. Best-laid plans fall through, money runs out, loved ones pass away. Sometimes I wonder if our view is often too narrow—focused on the damage and loss. Yes, storms can leave great devastation in their wakes. Lives can be lost and homes leveled. But God shows us another side, one cleansing and empowering: “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing” (James 1:2–4).

The apostle Paul knew about storms, both natural storms and persecutions, having been tempest-tossed, shipwrecked, beaten, imprisoned, and nearly assassinated on many occasions (Acts 27:10–28:1; II Corinthians 11:25; Acts 9:23–25).

Storms assailed many mighty figures in the Bible, destroying their security and confidence, but Paul used his circumstances to transform cultures around the globe. Moses’ identity crisis and escaping from Egypt launched his mission to rescue the Hebrews from slavery. (See Exodus 2:11–15; Hebrews 11:24–27.) As the thunder subsided, terrified Jonah evangelized the nation he feared most (Jonah 3:3–4). These storms motivated and cleared the way for history-altering ministries.

As I watch the sky, I’m challenged to consider God’s creative power in the midst of my life’s storms. Will I hopelessly try to shield myself with fear and doubt as the clouds roll in? Will I grieve over the debris of tempest-wrecked expectations and comforts? Or will I take advantage of the opportunity God provides to become and create something new?

*We can choose how we weather life’s storms:
with fear and worry, or with faith and praise.*



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