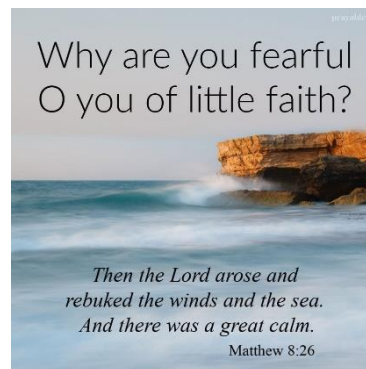


In this 5 day devotional Pastor Dorothy looks at life in the storm. Our lives rarely run smoothly. However, the bible teaches us how to live life to the full in the middle of life's ups and downs.

Day 1. Safety in the storm.



“Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him, saying, “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!” 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.”

Matthew 8:23-26

Have you ever really thought about what Jesus was saying when he said, "you of little faith why are you so afraid?"

I don't believe Jesus wasn't angry with them, but he was reminding them that when Jesus is in your boat there is no need to keep your eyes on the storm.

Jesus was where their faith lay. Faith in who he was and what they had already seen him do.

Their safety in this moment was not found after the storm was quieted. It was found in Jesus. Their safety was on board the whole time.

I needed reminding today that Jesus is onboard my life and that even though storms may rage, I have safety in that storm because my Savior Jesus is right there on board with me and he will carry me through or even still the storm and I need not be afraid.

A little faith in the right place, in the right hands of Jesus will bring safety in any storm.

Day 2. Peace in the storm.



“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4: 6-7. N.I.V

When we stand in the trials and storms of life, peace is something we all seek. Unfortunately, peace isn't something we make happen by turning off sound in the room, closing the curtains or by running away. In all these things our thoughts are still active, which can cause fear and anxiety to take over.

But true peace is only something that God gives. When God's peace is given as the Word of God says it also guards.

Paul wrote this scripture during his time in jail. He was in a place of hardship and uncertainty, but he pens these words " And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

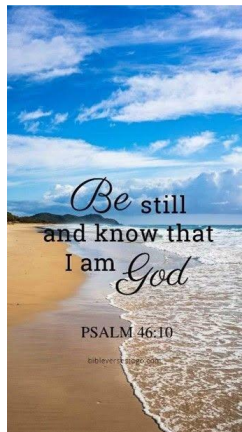
Philippians 4 v 7. N.I.V

He showed us that the peace of God bypasses and quiets our minds and guards our hearts. Peace didn't take away his circumstances, but it did provide him with a stillness, strength and protection in them.

Jesus describes himself as the Prince of Peace and we have him in our lives. We don't necessarily understand it, but he can quiet our fear and anxiety in any situation, and he stands guard over our hearts.

With Christ on guard duty, we can truly find peace in the storm.

Day 3. Stillness in the storm.



He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Psalms 46:10-11 N.I.V.

I don't know about you, but when storms rage and circumstances are overwhelming, the last thing I think about is being still.

Yet when David wrote these words his nation was at war and collapsing around him. David was a warrior, but God does not command him to fight instead he tells David, "Be still and know that I am God."

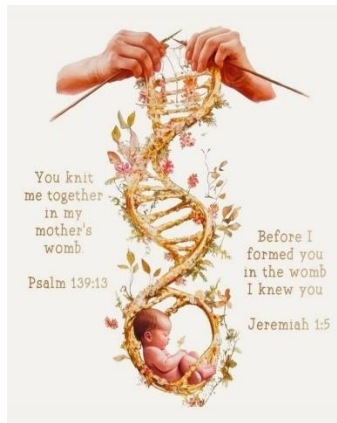
You see God can see the beginning and end. All our days are in his hands. He is already in control of that situation.

Stillness is a surrender to God. It is an active word. It's letting go and allowing God to deal with the circumstances. You see it is only when we actively, ***'be still,'*** surrender and stop striving, that we make time to spend in his presence and still our hearts and minds to hear God's plan.

“The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalms 23 N.I.V.

Day 4. Adopted before the storm.



“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will”

Ephesians 1:4-5 N.I.V

Have you ever really taken the time to unpack this verse and what it means to you?

God chose you!

Even before God opened his mouth to speak this world into being God had already chosen you. Just think about it, God chose you, ***before light existed.*** Before land was formed Almighty God had already decided to create you!

Holy and blameless in his sight.

Before you drew your first breath God already knew you would be holy and blameless. He chose to send Jesus to redeem you even before the seas were created.

Adoption into sonship.

It was God's plan for us to become adopted in his love as his children. But his plan for our adoption did not start at the cross of Jesus Christ. He has always loved us even before the stars were flung into space, but the cross of Jesus fulfilled his adoption plan.

You are God's pleasure.

Wow; How it pleased God to form you!

You were created in accordance with God's pleasure and will. God planned you; and you bring him pleasure.

Regardless of the trials of life remember during the storms and difficulties of life, you are God's choice. Holy and blameless in his sight, adopted into sonship and you were created in accordance with Godly pleasure and will.

God knew you before you faced any storm. He adopted you before you faced this trial. Tell this storm, this trial who you are, chosen, holy and blameless in God's sight, an adopted child of God and it was his pleasure and will to send Jesus to save you.

Stand firm in your truth.

Day 5. His presence in the storm.



Fear and anxiety are real. They can stop you dead in your tracks. The unknown outcome, the battlefield of your emotions, family difficulties, work stress or even financial hardships can all leave you feeling anxiety.

Here are some of the lies the enemy uses to place you into fear and anxiety : You are the only one, No one else would understand, You have disappointed God, You can't share your feelings because it would be embarrassing and you are alone in this.

Well let's just address these lies.

I can assure you that you are not the only one because I have experienced fear and anxiety, hurt, loss, financial issues and many, many more.

I guarantee others will understand because we have all stood on hard ground and in difficult situations and no one is exempt from struggles. ***Just think about Jesus.***

You have not disappointed God. Remember Jesus walked with his disciples, and they did not get it right every time, yet he never walked away from them. In fact, he embraced them just as they were, including their flaws and mistakes. ***Just ask Peter.***

Embarrassment more often than not will stop you from asking for help and prayer. Well let me tell you there is no embarrassment in asking for help, in fact it is one of the bravest and strongest things you can do. ***Remember the widow with the little oil.***

But the greatest lie I have stood in is that I am alone in this storm, and this trial is too great for me alone. The truth is we are never alone! ***Remember Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.***

There is no storm, no trial, no moment in time and definitely no feelings you may have that God is not already in.

“The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”

Deuteronomy 31:8 N.I.V

Today, know God is with you. You have brothers and sisters in Christ who are there to uphold you in prayer and cheer you on.

“being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 1:6 N.I.V

Let's pray.

Heavenly Father, I thank you that you are with me in the storms of life. Your presence in Jesus shows me that your love for me is so great that you will never leave me. You guide me through life's storms by your word. I walk in your peace, I am safe within your hands, I surrender myself in your stillness, knowing that you have chosen me and adopted me in accordance with your will. Your presence is with me in the storm, and you have promised that you will never leave me. I lay my anxieties down and trust in you. I am so grateful for your love in my life. Thank-you God. In Jesus name. Amen.

