

PEACE

in the Storms

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"For I know the plans I have for you, 'declares the LORD,' plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

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Living Deeper

This month we would like to look at what it means to live a deeper life spiritually. Often believers are discouraged by their circumstances and wrongly believe God is punishing them for something they did or are doing wrong. Have you ever thought like this? How do you view God? How do you view how God feels about you? A sinner?

Your circumstances are not a reflection of how God feels about you. God will never let us suffer without fitting it into His plan for your life, and His plan is for your benefit. He will not let us suffer without profiting from it. When God is silent, He is not absent from our life, even though it seems He does not care about us. We must trust God even though He does not always do what we expect or want.

Paul talks about a thorn in his flesh. We don't know exactly what the thorn was, but Paul asked for it to be removed several times. God said no, that His grace was sufficient for Paul. God promises that His strength is enough for us to go through our storms. God chooses to showcase His power in our weakness.

Living deeper requires us to seek God for who He is, and not for what He can do for us. We were not created just to make money and die. We must learn how to honor Him in all aspects of our lives, especially the storms. I did not enjoy what I went through, but I know my God is the great "I am." I trust him for purpose and direction of my life. We can bloom where we are planted until the Lord moves us. We can stop complaining about our problems. We can do our best every day, and leave the outcomes to God. We can choose to praise Him no matter what that outcome is, even if it is not what we want.

God will never let us suffer without it fitting into His plan for our life, and His plan for our benefit. He will not let us suffer without us profiting from it.

Feeling hopeless? Let God do the impossible through you. Get over the resentment that life is not fair. It is not

and never will be. God never promised it would be. Our problem is that we need to change our definition of how God provides. We think providing for us means taking storms away or getting rid of them so we never have to deal with them. God's version of providing is His presence—strengthening us by walking beside us.

We are created by the hand of God with value and purpose. God did not design us for easy life. You are anointed by the creator of the universe for storms. When bad things happen to you, you have a sense of wonder and amazement to see how God will bring you through the pain. When you feel stuck in a situation that seems it will never change, be patient. God will provide the way.

We were meant to live life boldly knowing we can handle whatever comes along. Learn to let God take care of your storm and stop trusting your own ability to figure it out. Stay faithful, God will show up in a way you do not expect and do things you never could imagine.

Next month we will look at the relationship of successful living and praise. Where does inner peace come from? How do we obtain it? What does it look like?

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