

Trusting God



“He’s in the Boat!”

by Steve Hind

As I am writing this article, it is approaching another anniversary of the homegoing of my father. Dad was a pillar to my Christian walk because he knew exactly what to say when I was in need of encouragement.

One of my father’s favorite sayings came from a story in Luke 8:22-24. Jesus was in a boat with His disciples and fell asleep. As they sailed along, a storm came, and water began to fill the boat. The disciples feared they would drown and woke Jesus saying, “Master, we perish.” Scripture records that Jesus arose, rebuked the wind, and then there was calm.

Dad would remind me of this passage during times in my life when I was struggling. He would say, “Remember son, He’s in the boat!”

I’ve found that in life we tend to focus on our present circumstances rather than on the promises of our almighty God. Jesus has promised us in Hebrews 13:4 to never leave us, nor forsake us. The writer of Hebrews goes on to say in verse 6 that since we’ve

been promised to never be left alone, we can boldly say, “The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.” Instead of allowing our present situations to defeat us, we have an opportunity to trust God...not to take our problems away, but to live in the full assurance He will take us through each and every one of life’s problems.

I’ve often pondered the idea of how we are to cast our cares on Him in times of trouble. I think part of the answer is in understanding the word *cast*. I Peter 5:7 instructs us to cast all of our cares upon Jesus because He cares about us. The word *cast* means to literally *throw upon*. Our Lord is much more able to bear up under any load than you or I. It seems logical to allow Him to bear our burdens for us.

As we cast our concerns on Christ, our responsibility becomes one of trusting instead of doing. Trusting does not mean we are passive. God helps us as we interact with our problems. The idea of trusting comes

into play when we realize it is God who is in control. It's not our role to manipulate the circumstances or other people to get our desired results. However, you may occasionally find yourself in a position of trying to help God. We do this as if we have some hidden knowledge about our situation that God hasn't yet discovered.

My daughter has a disease for which there is no known cure. As a father, I would do anything in my power to "fix" Aimee's disease. I have cried, been depressed, and even begged God to heal her. After all, there is something special between a little girl and her Daddy. I've had to wrestle with myself to come to the realization that there is not one thing I can humanly do in our situation. I must trust the God who understands and pray for His sovereign intervention.

It is always so very easy for me to encourage others to trust and let God be God, but we all feel the urgency to do something other than just trust. We want to be an active part of the solution.

The idea of simply trusting can seem so passive in the thunderstorms of life! The point we can so easily overlook in times of struggle is that trusting *IS* doing. As I pray and rely on my heavenly Father to work as He sees fit, I am actively involved in the entire process. No longer am I passively watching, but through prayer, I am instrumental in the outcome! James 5:16 states that the fervent prayer of a righteous man avails *MUCH!*

Proverbs 3:5-6 takes on a new meaning for me when I realize my part in life's struggles is first to trust. Second, I am not to be leaning on *MY* own understanding as I try to figure out a solution to my dilemma. Third, in everything I am to agree that He is in control. And fourth, I must rejoice in knowing that it is God who will direct my path.

Who would you rather trust in troubled waters...The God who created them or yourself? It just makes sense to realize God knows exactly what you are going through and what it will take to

navigate through your storm. He is well aware of your situation, and guess what? You didn't catch Him by surprise.

Scripture teaches in Psalm 121:4 that our God neither "slumbers nor sleeps." He's always on duty. He's always ready to hear *AND* respond to whatever size waves come our way. In the same Psalm, verse 8 reminds us "it is the Lord who preserves our going out and coming in...both now and forever."

You might be asking how a loving God would allow you or a loved one to experience a crisis. To me, the answer is not complicated. We live in a world where the Bible says, "the rain falls on the just and the unjust" (Matthew 5:45). God never promised to insulate us from trouble, but He did promise He would be with us the entire way through the situation. Believers have an opportunity to respond differently to adverse situations because we have an inner strength from God Himself.

What is the bottom line? I believe it is this: God loves you! He desires to assist you in living above your circumstances. Is it easy? *NO!* Is it possible? Most assuredly. Almighty God promises to guide us through *ANY* storm. So, when the storms of your life start making your seas rough, and you are tempted to yell "Master, we perish," remember the Christ who is able to still life's storms. Don't be afraid 'cause He's in the boat!

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