

**Faith  
&  
Family**

*Connecting the Community to the Christ*

**Connect**  
*A Ministry of Victory Baptist Church*

## How To Handle The Storms of Life

**Pastor Mike Ennis**

With the arrival of the Covid-19 virus we are in the midst of a storm, not a weather-related storm but what we call a storm of life. A storm of life is when we are confronted with trials and events that shake up our normal everyday lives. The disciples find themselves in the midst of a storm that illustrates the storms that we often face.



Note from the disciple's example, our normal human response to the storms. Luke 8:22-24a “Master we perish!” “Jesus wake up we are going to

dieeeeeeeeee!” They panicked. Panic is the extreme expression of worry. Worry is anxiety caused when the storms of life overwhelm us, when things happen that are beyond our control. Is this a right response to the storms? Is worry and panic the right way to handle the storms of life?

We say no but then when the storm comes what do we do, we often worry and panic. Why is it wrong to worry and panic? First, it is a lack of faith. Luke 8:24-25 (KJV)<sup>24</sup> And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm. <sup>25</sup> And he said unto them, **where is your faith?** And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.

Faith is believing God and trusting Him. Where is your faith? Where is your belief and trust? Here is the truth that we do not like to face. When we are in the worry/panic mode we have left faith.

**(See Storms of Life Page 2)**

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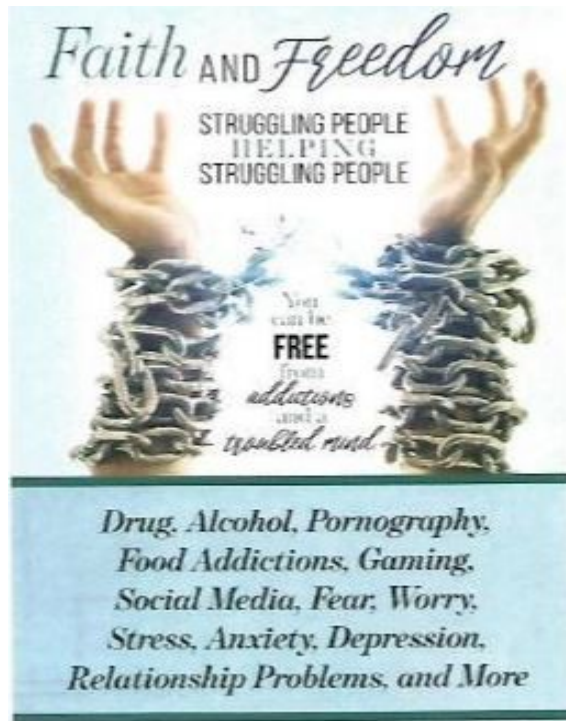
Mike Ennis – Senior Pastor

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**(Storms of Life from Page 1)**

When we worry, we are not believing God and we are not trusting Him! That is not good because faith is the God appointed way of getting what we need in life. Second, worry and panic are focusing on the immensity of the storm and not the immensity of the one who makes the storms. God is bigger than the storm. See verse 24. In fact, God is bigger than any storm you will face.



What kind of power is it that can simply say “peace be still” and bring absolute calm to the raging storm? Luke 8:25 (KJV)<sup>25</sup> And he said unto them, **where is your faith?** And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! **for he**

**commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.** In the next few verses Jesus demonstrates His power over demons, sickness, and even death. How big is your God? Is He not bigger than the storm you are facing or will face? Don’t focus on the immensity of the storm; focus on the immensity of God. Third, worry and panic are not productive. Look at the disciple’s reaction to the storm. I have one question. Are they helping matters? Worry and panic are not productive at all. Matthew 6:25-27 (KJV)<sup>25</sup> **Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?** <sup>26</sup> **Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?** <sup>27</sup> **Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?** Taking thought is being anxious or worrying, the extreme of which is panic. Can you by worrying make yourself grow? Worry and the panic that ensues are not productive! Worry about the future is not only a dishonor to God—it is also futile. The Lord demonstrates this with a question: **“Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?”** A short person cannot worry himself eighteen inches (See Storms of Life Page 6)



**April – May 2020**

**“Focus on Faithfulness”**

## **U.S. Children Respond Best To Evangelizing**

by Sim Lee

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14 ESV

Of all of the age groups with whom we share the Gospel, decade after decade the data indicates that it is the children who consistently respond the best. If we were to look at two reports that cover the thirty years between 1995 and 2015, and look at how these children came to decide for Christ, we can easily see why most Americans come to Christ before 14 years of age.

In 1995, 83% of Americans came to a decision for Christ by age 14.\* Over half of them were led to Christ by their parents, with the rest being led by friends, relatives, special events (church outreach) or their pastors. (Barna data)\*\*

By 2015, the number of children accepting Christ by age 14 in one study had fallen to 63%, yet the aspects of how they were led to decide for Christ were essentially the same: parents, friends, church service, pastor, Bible schools and youth ministries.

The one thing most common in all of these aspects of what brought someone so young to a decision for Christ is that of one person caring about another enough to share the Gospel with them.

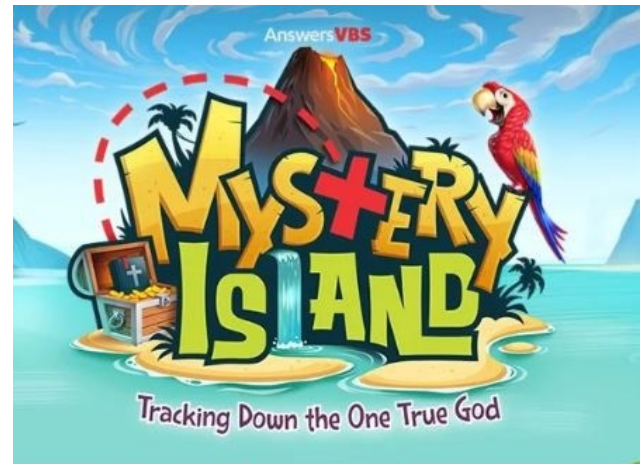
The fact that so many of us came to Christ as children prior to age 14 speaks for itself: children are the ones who respond the best to evangelizing by those who love them and they are well worth the effort for us to do so.

\* "The 4/14 Window" Child Ministries and Mission Strategies"

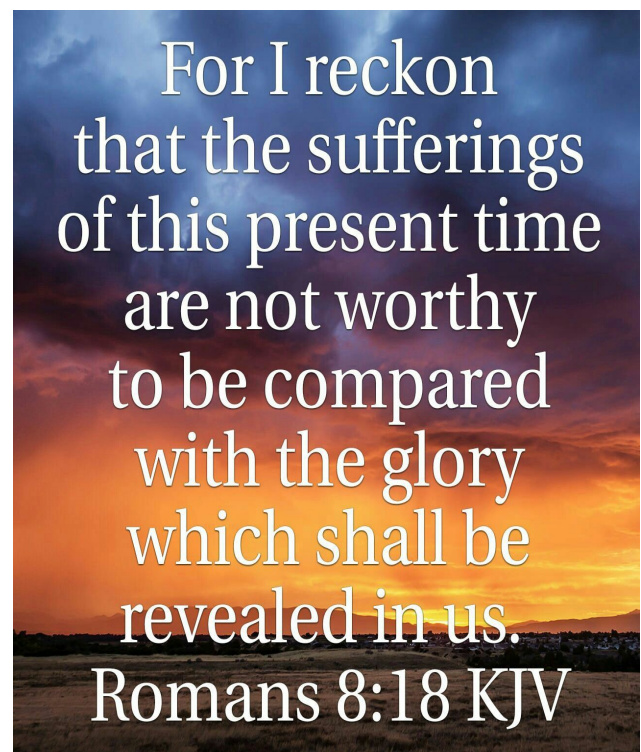
by Dr. Dan Brewster, 1996, updated 2005 - originally a chapter in the 1996 Book.

"Children in Crisis: A New Commitment" MARC Publishing  
\*\* Barna Group Study: "Evangelism Is Most Effective Among Kids" 10/11/2004 - [barna.com/research](http://barna.com/research) .

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**Sunday June 7 - Thursday June 11 @ 6:00 PM**  
**Victory Baptist Church 610 Alto Road Kokomo**



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**April – May 2020**

**“Focus on Faithfulness”**

**"One more Christian, one less Chinese"**

Xu Xiaohong, head of the National Committee of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement of the Protestant Churches in China - 3/11/2019

That remark speaks volumes for the anti-American feelings in China because of past work by U.S. Evangelicals and its effects upon many Chinese Christians. China wants to end and erase it all.

From 2015 until today, there has been a transitioning from State tolerance for limited Christianity, on to the brutal destruction of over 100 unauthorized Christian churches, Muslim Mosques and Buddhist Temples last year. During that same period, as China continued to expand its robust global trade, the appearance of "tolerating" Christianity grew less and less politically important in maintaining and expanding trade. Tolerance going forward is not a part of the national conversation.

As the Peoples Republic of China only authorizes Christian worship at its 57,000 Three Self Church locations, it seems to double down more each year and has made considerable headway over this past year in its effort to close all unauthorized "underground" churches.

As comments like "The actions by anti-China forces that attempt to affect our social stability... are doomed to fail,"\* and "Christianity in China must rid itself of all imprints of a "foreign" religion"\* are being expressed more and more from leaders of the Three-Self Churches, closings will become exponentially more frequent. It is vital for the government to remain in absolute control of any religious circumstances to regulate what people believe, including their re-writing of the New Testament to reflect Chinese ethics of Confucianism and the Party values of socialism.

The 5-year plan of the "sinicization campaign" (remove western influence and instill Chinese values in their place) has been going to plan since established by President President Xi Jinping in 2015 and the 220 million Christians in China will soon have their own Chinese version of Christianity, without Jesus as their Savior.

\*South China Morning Post and \*\*the Xinhua News Agency

Note: Sam Brownback, top religious freedom official of the [current] administration warned in a speech given in Hong Kong on March 8th: ".. the Chinese government is trying to make sure religious minority groups "are brutally and forcefully controlled... Somehow, men and women of faith are viewed as a threat to the Chinese Communist Party..""\*\*

\*\* "China vows to rid Christianity of 'western' influence.." by Leah MarieAnn Klett, CP World -3/13/201 Copied Free Share



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### Remedy for Fear by Marlene Custer

The Israelite's, God's chosen people, have been wandering throughout the desert for forty years. They are on the threshold of entering into their promised land. But, they must go without their trusted leader. Moses is now 120 years old and has already been told by God that he cannot enter the long-looked-for land, and he knows death is imminent.

The people, who have had forty years of furnished meals, plenty of water, and clothes that did not wear out, are troubled by the prospect of change. The book of Deuteronomy records Moses' final instructions and encouragement to this group of weary travelers. He even presents to them his replacement—Joshua. To all, he declared,

**Deuteronomy 31:8 KJV**

“And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.”

What message does this hold for you and me today? Are you facing a change in your life? Perhaps you are changing jobs, downsizing your home, or facing an unexpected illness. If you have accepted Jesus as Lord of your life, you can count on His presence. Just as He promised to be with the Israelite's throughout the transition to the Promised Land, He will never leave you nor forsake you. Call upon Him today, and ask for His peace and calm to flood your heart and life.

‘Father, please calm my troubled heart and give me the peace only you can give. Please help me to embrace your promise fully, never to leave me. Thank you in Jesus' name.’



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### Angel On A Broomstick

by Larry Lilly

Sue Smith a former teacher and long time friend sent a cute note the other day and it is right in line with my thoughts for today, thoughts designed to help you stay at it. Here is Sue's key to success:

"Women are Angels And when someone breaks our wings.... We simply continue to fly.....on a broomstick... We are flexible like that."

Brian Tracy noted motivational speaker puts it like this: "Sometimes your greatest asset is simply your ability to stay with it longer than anyone else."

God Himself weighs in on this subject with Paul's statement in 1 Corinthians 15:58:

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

This verse is an old standby for the premise that persistence pays off. Tracy's statement deals with only half of the premise, namely staying at it. Paul strangely enough lends credence to Sue's line. In Ms. Smith's statement women are flying and in order to keep flying they must persist. But they must do something equally as important: They must adjust, from flying on wings to a broomstick. Now I know some of you don't believe women can fly on a broomstick. You don't know some women I know. Many folks are unaware that Paul uses a navigational term in his verse. To remain steadfast means to maintain course through correction of heading to compensate for wind and current. If you fail to correct you may still be flying or sailing, but you are not going to get where you want to go. Set a predetermined course to your destination and make small corrections enroute, then persistence will pay off.

We abound in the work of the Lord, which we know is not in vain, but the object is not mere movement, but progress toward the prize. If the wing breaks, use a broomstick.

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**(Storms of Life from Page 2)**

taller. Yet, relatively speaking, it would be far easier to perform this feat than to worry into existence all the provisions for one's future needs. Fourth Worry and panic are self-destructive. Instead of helping us live longer, anxiety only makes life shorter (Matt. 6:27). The Greek word translated *take no thought* literally means “to be drawn in different directions.” Worry pulls us apart. Until man interferes, everything in nature works together, because all of nature trusts God. Man, however, is pulled apart because he tries to live his own life by depending on his own resources.



**What is the proper response to the storms of life? Have faith in God. Faith is a belief in God's Word and a trust in Him to get us through the storm.**

Again, Jesus question to the disciples was

not “What are you going to do about this storm?” but His question was “Where is your faith?” When you are given to worry and panic you must ask yourself “Where is my faith?” The disciples failed this test of faith because they did not lay hold of His word that He was going to the other side. It has well been said that faith is not believing in spite of circumstances; it is obeying in spite of feelings and consequences. The disciples looked around and saw danger and looked within and saw fear; but they failed to look up by faith and see God. Faith and fear cannot dwell together in the same heart. The whole point of this passage is this. If you have Jesus on board, you have nothing to fear. Do you have Jesus on board? First are you saved? Second is your relationship with Him what it ought to be? If that relationship is right, everything is right. If that relationship is not right, nothing is right. Make sure that relationship is right. You will face a storm; make sure Jesus is on board.



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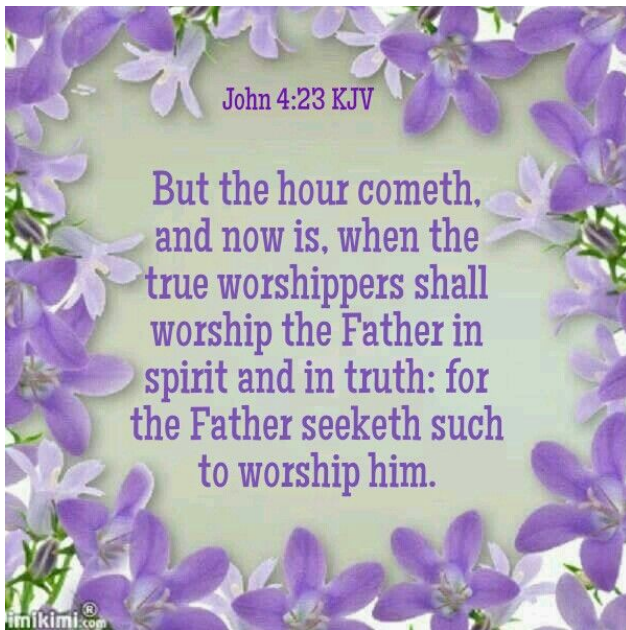
### Pray That Ears Be Opened

by Sim Lee

When Paul spoke to the immature level of spiritual understanding at the church in Corinth, it would be like you saying "Come on people, you should have a much higher understanding of scriptures by now!"

"But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ." 1 Corinthians 3:1 ESV  
Paul loved all who had turned to Christ, from the model students of Berea (Acts 17:11 ESV)\* to these carnal Christians at Corinth, but before he taught any, he always prayed that their ears be opened to hearing the Word.

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that you may know him better." Ephesians 1:17 NIV



This is what we should be doing before we witness to anyone, or share our faith with them. It is our obligation to share the gospel and as it is the Lord's will that none perish, He will open

the ears of whomever He pleases to. Please Him and pray that ears be opened and pray this every time before you share the Gospel.

"...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel." Ephesians 6:18-19 ESV

If you have a heart for Christ like Brother Paul did, so much the better, for you are needed more now than ever.

"And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold." Matthew 24:12 ESV

Christians in China are now sending their own evangelists to our California Chinese because of their resentment and resistance to our American Christian culture. It is likely to be the diluted Gospel that the People's Party is presently tolerating, so pray that the ears of these people, who refuse assimilate in America, be opened to the true Word of God.

"For no word from God will ever fail." Luke 1:37 NIV

This is an increasingly fast changing world in which we share, and our Christian witness is being carried out on a battlefield, no longer on a level playing field. Those who share the true Gospel today, amid so many tribal, separatist or an otherwise diluted versions of the Gospel, need our prayers more than ever as their witness continues. Pray for these true workers of the Harvest.

"..to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert.."Galatians 1:6b,7 NKJV  
(See Pray Page 8)

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**(Pray from Page 7)**

For ourselves, let us pray for and know that our witness is true to Christ and then pray that the ears of those with whom we share shall be opened to hear the Word.

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." Romans 10:17 ESV

\* "Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true." Acts 17:11 ESV



**JESUS SAVES !**

We have heard the joyful sound:  
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
Spread the tidings all around:  
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
Bear the news to every land,  
Climb the mountains, cross the waves;  
Onward! 'tis our Lord's command;  
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!



Give the winds a mighty voice:  
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

Let the nations now rejoice:  
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
Shout salvation full and free;  
Highest hills and deepest caves;  
This our song of victory:  
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

William J. Kirkpatrick (b. Duncannon, PA, 1838; d. Philadelphia, PA, 1921) received his musical training from his father and several other private teachers. A carpenter by trade, he engaged in the furniture business from 1862 to 1878. He left that profession to dedicate his life to music, serving as music director at Grace Methodist Church in Philadelphia. Kirkpatrick compiled some one hundred gospel song collections; his first, *Devotional Melodies* (1859), was published when he was only twenty-one years old. Many of these collections were first published by the John Hood Company and later by Kirkpatrick's own Praise Publishing Company, both in Philadelphia.

Bert Polman

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