



CHURCH IN THE HOUSE EDIFICATION MATERIAL - OCTOBER 2011

THEME: THE STORMS OF LIFE
TOPIC: REACTIONS TO THE STORMS OF LIFE
TEXTS: II CORINTHIANS 4: 1 - 18

INTRODUCTION

In the journey of life, particularly, on the road to honour, there are many challenges, afflictions (storms) etc that threaten to frustrate, derail or even destroy us; all with intention to prevent us from reaching our God-given goal. Our understanding and response to them is very critical.

DEFINITION

The Greek word for storm is 'lailaps' and it refers to a wind of uncertain derivation; It is a whirlwind (Squall)/Storm/tempest. The Webster dictionary defines Storm as a disturbance of the atmosphere marked by wind and usually by rain, snow, sleet or thunder and lightning. It is a serious disturbance of any element of nature, which produces a disturbed and agitated state. Storm is a situation in which people suddenly express very strong feeling about something that someone has said or done.

Within context, the inference we can draw from the definitions above is that storm is a sudden adverse situation experienced by man, which usually leaves people wondering "what is happening to me". How then do we react to the storm of life when we find ourselves in them? Acceptance or otherwise?

NATURE OF STORMS THAT YOU MUST KNOW

Apparently, almost all storms will result in the:

1. Loss of goods – Jonah 1:5; Act 27: 10, 18 - 19
2. Loss of lives – Job 1: 13-15, Acts 27:10
3. Loss of both goods and lives – Job 1: 13 – 20

However,

1. Some storms are avoidable – Paul in a shipwreck Acts 27: 9 - 11
2. Some are Unavoidable – Job 1: 1 – 12
3. While some are by association
 - i) the Mariners in Jonah 1: 1-17;
 - ii) Paul in Act 27:10

FOUR IMMUTABLE TRUTHS ABOUT STORMS (*interactive session*)

1. **The principle of equivalent advantage:** *every problem that has the potential of moving you backward also has the potential of moving you forward.*
Gen. 45: 5; Phil. 1:12 - 14. This principle brought Israel to Egypt. The children of Israel became professionals in all fields of endeavour through the afflictions they suffered in Egypt. Exodus 1: 8-12

2. **Not all afflictions (storm) is sin induced**

God sometimes permits affliction on his people Ps. 66:10 – 12; Isaiah 53: 4-5, 10

- Consider Job's affliction: Job 1: 8-12, and
- Paul's suffering: 2 Cor. 12:7 - 10; Col 1-24)

However, God-sanctioned afflictions are for the good of the same people who are afflicted. "The paradox of God's wisdom"

3. **The power to rise above and again is on the inside of you.**

II Cor. 4: 7 – 14; Rom. 8: 11; Job 14: 7 – 9.

4. **Storms are meant to produce in us the best of God:**

Romans 8: 28; Acts 28: 9 – 10; 1 Peter 5:10 – 11.

Conclusion

If you are assured of God's love and know HIS ultimate purpose behind the storms you face, you will have a better disposition to the storms – looking forward to the Joy ahead.

Prayer: Lord, help me to see you even in the darkest hour of my life.