

Where is God in the midst of the storm?



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Hello and welcome to Lord of Hope Ministries.

We are having a special service in lue of what's going on in the Gulf of the United States. As you all know there was a hurricane Katrina that raged here tremendous force on the land of Louisiana, and Mississippi and a lot of people have become homeless because it destroyed all of their homes. Water was about 6 feet in many areas. A lot of people died. The rescue attempt took a very long time to reach those who needed it.

What we are going to do today is we are going to talk about; the message title is; where is God in the midst of the storm.

Now this is not just the storm that's happening with the people affected by hurricane Katrina but this can also be the storms that are in your life, my life and anyone's life that might be hearing this at some point in time.

It is not always going to be a bed of roses so I think we should talk about this.

This is going to be a mini message for starters and we will see how this goes whether or not this births into a new series but before we get started, let us pray...

Prayer:

Our Great God in Heaven! Almighty God our Father we ask you in the name of Jesus to touch us and help us so that we can do our part, whatever you want us to do to make this world better and point people to you.

Lord help so we can understand what we need to understand when we are in our own personal storm or when others are in their storm help us so we can go along side them and be their friend and help them through.

Bless this message. Help me so I can communicate it in a way that will be God honoring and I pray that anyone listening to it will hear something; something that will motivate them, something that will help them in the name of Jesus amen.

My opening statement gave a prelude of what I want to talk about today.

We all know about the hurricane. We seen many images on TV., people very frustrated, yelling out, people acting a fool for example... people going into place looting, police officers looting, just taking stuff that don't belong to them. There is increased lawlessness there. But now the United States of America have deployed the National Guard and restored order and have been rescuing people and there has been some miracles along the way. The news media don't always report all of the good things. They report some of the things that we don't really want to hear about because they're bad but they do that because they want the news ratings but it is also a good thing that they do that because they want the news ratings. It is also a good thing that they do that because if you only hear the good stuff you will be wondering what they are hiding.

So, I just want us to take this moment to ask ourselves: where is God in the midst of the storm. Some of you might be thinking where was God in the midst of that particular storm? What I would like to challenge anyone of you who ask that question, or is now asking that question to read your bible because the answer to that question is in the bible. Not the answer to all questions. Certain things you won't know on this side of heaven. When you go to heaven you might not even need the answers because it will all be revealed to you. You may not even have to ask. For right now while we are on earth we see things and we wonder Lord why are you allowing this to happen? Now of course if you trust God and no matter if He slays you and you continue to trust Him you know He has the perfect will the perfect judgment and He can't make a mistake. So you have to lean on the fact that if God allows something to happen there is a bigger purpose here. You might be hurt in the process and it might take year to get over. It's your choice to decide whether or not to trust God or not.

Now what I like us to do is open our bibles starting off with two books in the bible. The first one is in 2 Chronicles 7:14. So if we can turn our books "Bibles" to 2 Chronicles chapter 7 and if you can you please turn to verse 14. This is a very popular one for me because when 911 happened, when the terrorist attacked the United States in

New York this came pretty much to my head because I started thinking about a lot of things that has happened in our history. You look at our nation and it is really unraveling with a lot of things that it is allowing. Fortunately in my opinion the republican side of the government seems to show more reverence to the Lord so I am actually thankful that they are in office at this time. I am not loyal to any party. I am not putting my stamp on any party at this time. I vote which ever party is going to elevate the cause of Christ and at this point in history it is the republican side with President George Bush leading. So please don't let that turn you off by me saying what my political views are. Because this is just my political views for now! But now let's take a look at 2 Chronicles 7:14 It says:

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

I want to extend this a little further but first I want to break that down a little bit. I am not suggesting that the storm that hit the Gulf or 911 that hit New York was something that God sent because our nation has many sins on it. I don't know the answer to that one. All I know is God is in the midst of the storm and this is how I know this. There are Christians all over the world. There are Christians who bend the knee. They get on their knees and pray. Some sit in their chairs and pray. They pray throughout the day. There are Christians praying. What does that verse say? Verse 14 reverend will you echo what it says:

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

There are people praying. God hears prayer. I strongly believe that God is in the midst of the storm. He is leading the rescue workers to where people are. There are people trapped in their homes who probably can not even break through their roofs like some people were able to chisel through and climb on their roofs because they could not go below because of all of the water. A lot of people are getting rescued. Yes, it may have taken 3 days but some of that is the slowness of mankind. I don't want anyone out there blaming our Lord. God gives us all abilities. We have to learn how to take those abilities and run and take action. The United States is a big country. We have ministries outside the country and so we are already spread thin. But there are a lot of people who do have the resources that they can deploy to help this cause. The cause of the rescue of the people who are displaced... So I want to challenge you to do that.

Anyone out there that is listening to this why are you waiting? This is your chance to get in the game. Let's turn you your bibles to 1 Kings 19. I ask you to do that because I am trying to establish something. I would like you to turn to 1 Kings 19: 11-12

This is when the Lord speaks to Elijah in a cave.
Now pay deep attention to what's happening here.

Then he said in verse 11

And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; [but] the LORD [was] not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; [but] the LORD [was] not in the earthquake:

Let's go to verse 12

And after the earthquake a fire; [but] the LORD [was] not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

Now, was that clear to you. There was this big fanfare of events happening while Elijah was in the cave. I am sure that if that was me standing in the cave it would scare me to death. All the noise, thunder, earthquake and everything he is shaking you know. God wasn't in all of that. As he was passing by all this stuff was happening... But when did God speak and how? After all of these events suddenly a voice came to him and said what are you doing here? Now that is in verse 13. But it was a still small voice okay. The message is called where is God in the midst of the storm? I am going to reverse this and ask you a question. Are you ready for this?

Can you hear the still small voice when you are going through your storm?

When you see other people going through a storm?

Do you have that relationship with God where you can hear the still small voice?

He is not going to always have this huge fanfare to get your attention. He is not going to say for example Pastor Roscoe no in an audible sound. Mostly, as you can see how God spoke in the previous passage, in a still small voice. Are you listening to that voice? Are the people in New Orleans, Mississippi, in Alabama... are they hearing the still small voice or are they listening to woe is me? What am I going to do? I just lost my family... I am not belittling them I feel for them. But are they all caught up in the destruction that took place where as they are not hearing the Lord small voice. A gentle voice... Would you want to hear a thunderous voice in the midst of the storm like that? No you want somebody who cares for you to talk in a still small voice. Now this does not just apply to them. This applies to all of those people who are called by Christ name, Christians. The Christians, what are they doing? Are they listening for the still small voice that God is trying to tell them what He wants them to do in that circumstance. Instead of us saying I don't have any money. God might be whispering something else to do. Are you listening?

Read 1 Kings 19: 11, 12 on your time. Ponder it and compare circumstances that are happening in your life in the midst of your storm and see if you can still hear that small voice. I say that if you are not hearing the small voice or you are not hearing God at all you have distance yourself from Him. You need to change your activities... You may have gotten caught up doing too many other things which are smothering your relationship with God. Maybe you are living on your computer for hours, maybe you are watching soap operas for hours, maybe you are a workaholic, maybe you don't pick up your bible at all, maybe by the time you get to bed you are exhausted and you want to pick it up but you are so tired you are only going to read a few before you fall asleep. Are you scheduling your life correctly so that you can hear the still small voice? This is very, very important if you want the answer to where is God in the midst of the storm it begins with you being able to hear Him because you will never get the answer if you can't hear him. God can give you the answer. You don't have to go through any one else. You can ask your heavenly Father. Now, let's move on...

There is another component, another discipline that all Christians, all people who are believers should do and I think we all know the answer to this.

It is called prayer!

Open your bibles to Acts 12:5

[Acts 12:5](#)

[Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.](#)

Now, what was the Church doing? They were earnestly praying for him. Or praying without ceasing...

What are we doing for the people in Alabama, Mississippi and New Orleans, Louisiana? Are we earnestly praying? Are we constantly praying for them or are we just praying for them once a day? Let me just throw a prayer up for those peoples... Are they getting the scraps of your prayers? Do you care? I just want to challenge all of you to earnestly pray for your brothers and sisters. Pray for those who are lost earnestly (without ceasing)... Not just when you feel like it.

Turn to [Romans 1:9](#)

[For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;](#)

There is someone else praying without ceasing. There you have someone else giving an example of praying lifting up someone to the throne room of God.

Are you doing that? Are you hearing the still small voice of God in the midst of the storm?

Let's turn to [1 Thessalonians 2:13](#)

[For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received \[it\] not \[as\] the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*](#)

What did they do? They thank God without ceasing... If they are thanking God they are talking to Him and they are talking to Him continually about another individual. I am trying to drive home that all of our prayers should not be focus on me. Lord fix this for me. I need this...Did you catch what happened earlier? Widen your scope if you are not doing that and pray for others more. Watch the news if you need prayer material there is plenty there. That's what I do. I think that it will make the world a better place if we all pray more regularly. All of us need to step up and pray more and build up our relationship to God. I have two more verses for us to read.

Please turn to [1 Thessalonians 5:17](#)

This is a popular one for me. This is going to drive home what I said in the prayer part of this message. It is only three words.

[1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.](#)

That could mean in the middle of the night when you wake up pray...
When you go to the rest room pray...
When you are lying in your bed pray...
Through out the day when you are working, pray...
Some of you have watches with times. You can set your watches to beep periodically reminding you to pray to the Lord...
Do something... Praise Him... Pray without ceasing...

Open your bibles to [2 Timothy 1:3](#)

[2 Timothy 1:3](#)

[I thank God, whom I serve from \[my\] forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;](#)

So, again you should be remembering others and constantly lifting them up in prayer to the Lord. If some of you don't know what to pray consider the picture you have on the wall or in your house. Sit in front of the pictures as a way of reminding you to pray for each individual. Don't pray to the image... Just use it as a memory jogger to wake you up to specific issues... Even if you don't know of an issue pray for whatever they might be going through. Okay

Now bringing you back to the gist of this message and then I will conclude...

The message title is where is God in the midst of the Storm? You might be approached by people who like to say why does God allow these kinds of things to happen.

First of all there is a trust thing going on! Because if they have to ask why they are not really sure. They are not really sure they can trust Him because he allowed it. Some of you might think that I am stretching this but I think it is a matter of trust. Because if you have to ask your children why did you do that or say I can't believe you did this... You know better than this... It is almost like you are thinking along those lines... With God he lets a storm take out a city. You have to trust Him that He knows why he allowed it. Now did He cause it to happen? I seem to remember in Genesis there was a forbidden fruit and God specifically told two of His kids "Adam and Eve" not to eat the forbidden fruit on this tree. What did they do? They allowed the devil to tempt them to eat it so that they can be like God. They believed a lie... Eve thought it was a wonderful thing and she grabbed it she ate it and gave it to her husband. The next thing that happens is sin and degradation ever since then. The world started to unravel. Adam and Eve set many negative things in motion. I think it changed the climate and so many other things. A lot of negative things happened and that means I believe that you have these kinds of storms that will conger up themselves, collect themselves moving through the earth and hitting whatever is in its path...

Who did it? Who caused the storm? I say it was the sinfulness of man put it in motion because they listened to the evil one who has a punishment coming in the end. The bible book of Revelations talks about what will happen in the end. I recommend that you read the book of revelations and just keep in mind that a lot of what is mentioned is symbolic. You have to understand a lot of things about the Old Testament to know what it is talking about.

Conclusion:

Where is God in the midst of your storm?

Can you hear Him? Do you hear His small voice? Do you hear God say no and to you it seems louder but you don't listen to it? Well then you have issues and you need to work them out...

When you are wondering where God is in the midst of a storm first check to see if you can still hear Him... Reestablish yourself with God by confessing all of your sins to Him because that will draw you back close to Him. If there is a gap and you don't feel the Lord's presence you did something because God said He will never leave you nor forsake you. So if you are not hearing Him you did something. You need to fix it. Confess ever single thing to the Lord, repent and stop doing what you was doings. You will then feel His presence again. You should start hearing His still small voice. Now, God has a prerogative, a will. He can decide to speak to you or not. You might not hear Him. You might hear silence for a while. Just know you do what you are supposed to do and the Great Architect of this entire world, the Creator, our Heavenly Father said my sheep hear my voice.

Let us pray

Heavenly Father Thank you, Thank you, Thank you for allowing us to deliver this message to your people. Thank you for allowing me to be the speaker. Lord when I first became a Pastor you said that you put the information in me. I did not put much prep time into this and hope that it is not going to show. I just put it together in about 10-15 minutes... I pray just thanking you and honoring you for that you put in me and what tools you given me to help out this together and a loving spouse to help support me all the way through. I pray that whoever hears this CD will hear the message that is being given and that they take action whether it is the storm that is happening now or that storms that will happen in the years to come, storms that will happen in their life that they will first check to see whether they are hearing your still small voice or hearing your voice at all or feeling close to you at all. Because if they don't feel that closeness I pray that they will do the spiritual disciplines to correcting that by first confessing there sins and repenting of them and opening up the word of God, reading it on a daily basis and understanding what the bible is trying to tell them by talking to you and asking the Holy Spirit to teach them. I pray that everyone will become fully devoted followers of you where no one can ever change them from following you regardless of the storms that take place. We praise you, we honor you and we say Yea God in the name of Jesus amen.

Scriptures

2 Chronicles 7:14

1 Kings 19: 11-12

Acts 12:5

Romans 1:9

1 Thessalonians 2:13

1 Thessalonians 5:17

2 Timothy 1:3