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Fresh Fire Ministries

Expound-Exhort-Explore

“Stand the Storm”

*I said, Oh that I had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and be at rest. I would flee far away and stay in the desert. I would hurry in my place of shelter, far from the tempest and storm.
Psalm 55:6-8 (New International Version)*

This particular Psalm of David penned at a time when his son Absalom's rebellion was coming to a head in Jerusalem is called a maschil psalm (pronounced mahss' keel). It is written for instruction, as much a sermon, as it is a song. If we have been tempted to give up, to run away from our problems or storms that we encounter, then this psalm is for us. Most of us have been where David is in this passage. We have been hard-pressed by circumstances that are partly our own fault but which have passed beyond our control.

Storms always occur as a result of pressure. When a low pressure system comes in contact with a high pressure system it creates an atmospheric disturbance characterized by severe winds, heavy rains, hail, and often thunder and lightning. The high and low pressures that permeate the circumstances of life are inevitable. In **John 16:33**, **Jesus said, "In the world ye shall have tribulation."** The word "tribulation" in the original text gives us the word "pressure", which in turn creates storms. For the believer, storms can materialize in order to correct us, perfect us, or direct us.

Storms of correction challenge us to make an adjustment in our behavior, attitude, or obedience to God (Jonah 1:1-12). Storms of perfection occur at times to help us grow, mature, and endure as a result of our experience (Matthew 14:23-33). Then there are storms of direction, that appear to emerge out of nowhere but have a way of helping us to maintain our focus, purpose, and ultimately arrive at our God ordained destination (Acts 28:9-24). While we cannot clearly observe from the text exactly what type of storm David was encountering, it is important to note that there are unique times in our life that one storm seems to birth another. It is similar to the hurricane that spawns a tornado or the tornado that creates a thunderstorm. Then just perhaps, it is fair to conclude that sometimes we are the "I" of our own storm.

David desires to flee. If he had wings he would fly away like a dove. Given a choice between two possibilities he would rather the desert than the storm and tempest. Can we really blame him? Yet the time comes when we can't run or hide, but we must endure. It is then that we discover that we have an anchor in the promises of God, **"Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast" (Hebrews 6:19a KJV)**. These are the words of a gospel song that says, *"Stand the storm, it won't be long, you'll anchor by and by."* Be encouraged!

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