

Facing the Storm in The Quiet Place

Discovering insights and finding encouragement as you travel through the storms of life that often come so unexpectedly into our daily lives.

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The Quiet Place

Chapter 1

Stepping into the Storm

It was a frigid wintry morning, with a northern Alberta wind buffeting the region with an intense frosty chill. The night before, a fierce bitter arctic blizzard had rolled relentlessly across the prairies. It moaned and howled like something that had crawled out of an unholy abyss. It stalked the farm, rattling storm windows and buffeted the house continuously through the long night.

The snow covered panorama of the surrounding fields was bleakly windswept with mounds of drifting snow that were not there the day before. It was still snowing hard this morning, and it was possible that some of the outbuildings housing the farming equipment had been damaged, so I dressed warmly to survey the impact of the storm.

As I closed the front door, I heard a truck coming slowly down the debris strewn driveway. It pulled to a stop, and I recognized my neighbor Ken who stopped by to see if I needed any help after the blizzard. Farmers are a family.

He stepped out of the truck, and was followed by his big old white dog named Frost. The faithful companion loved to be out chasing down wandering cattle, lost sheep or any other living thing that he could get a bead on. We set off toward the barn, and as always, Frost ran on ahead, and true to his nature the hunt was on, only this morning, the chase was not like anything I had ever seen him do before.

Chasing after the Wind...

Frost would leap and bark, spinning in circles, snapping at unsuspecting prey that he appeared to be hunting. I looked at Ken and he just shook his head with a sorrowful grim look upon his face. *“He’s not been himself for a couple of months now. The vet thinks he is about at the end of his days.....”*\

Nothing else needed to be said. Frost had been Ken’s second hand on his cattle farm for a number of years. However, the old hunter's world at present was intensely focused upon one futile objective...chasing after the wind. It was heartbreaking to see this fearless hunter, skilled cattle herder, and loyal companion, now totally disoriented, and frustrated, as he frantically barked and bit at the cold prairie wind on this wintry morning.

The Futility of a Life without God

It was Late one evening, some weeks later, and I was sitting at my desk, trying to work through several complicated life impacting issues that lay inert on the horizon of my future. I looked out the slightly frosted window, and gazed at the snow covered fields that were luminescent in bright moonlight.

Suddenly a gust of wind swirled the snow covered scene outside my window and the image of an old faithful dog, leaped before my eyes, turning this way and that, and I was struck with an intriguing thought:

Maybe the real issue for me this night was that I was spending all of my time trying to find My strategy to sort out my frustrating real life problems. In reality, like the old dog Frost, I was just chasing the wind. I had spent very little time of late in The Quiet Place. Decision making in the Will of God can only take place when His will becomes the focus of our lives.

Drifting from The Quiet Place

Spiritual drifting leads naturally to Chasing after the Wind. We are created to worship God in the Quiet Place where His will, not ours, becomes our strategic mind-set in sorting through life's challenging problems.

The drifting creates futile patterns in our life and germinates the seed of Apathy which becomes the critical issue in Spiritual Drifting.

The Apathetic mindset grows slowly, rooting the following attitudes where we become:

Driven in All of our Activities...

“I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.” Ecclesiastes 1:14.

Principle: *Only God gives Purpose to my life.*

Exhausted with everything we do...

“Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind “Ecclesiastes 2:11. _

Principle: *Only work that I do for God's Glory has Purpose.*

Consumed by the pursuit of wealth and overwhelmed by loss of financial security...

"To the person who pleases Him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner He gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind." Ecclesiastes 2:26

Principle: *Only God can give me a Biblical Perspective on Wealth.*

Apathetic about what used to be meaningful...

"Toil Is Meaningless, so I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun was grievous to me. All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind." Ecclesiastes 2:17.

Principle: *Only God can give my Work a sense of Value*

Progressively pessimistic with a sarcastic perspective...

"Then I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind." Ecclesiastes 1:17.

Principle: *Only God's Wisdom has any Meaning*

Envious for what other people have that we have lost...

"And I saw that all toil and all achievement spring from one person's envy of another. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind." Ecclesiastes 4:4

Principle: *Only God frees my Achievements from Envious Competitiveness*

Decision Making in The Will of God

Always remember that God's Word is the only compass that never changes, the only Book that will always tell you the Truth, and the only life Road Map to help you navigate through whatever critical time you are experiencing right this moment.

Decision making in the Will of God becomes a mindset when our primary goal is to please Him. Storms can dim our view of what is best to do in a given situation because often changing our circumstances becomes more important than changing our attitude in the midst of adversity.

Often we miss the beauty and majesty of the winter storms of life, because we only see the storm, and not the creative display of our God's artistic handiwork (Psalm 19). When trials come our way, they can become strategic trails to a deeper walk with God.

There is strength and courage that we receive when we immerse ourselves in God's Word. He wants each of us to discover the vital importance of spending meaningful time meeting with Him in.... The Quiet Place.

It is only there that we discover that decision making in the Will of God flows out of our heart desire to please Him, and enjoy unhindered communion. That is where our thinking must be centered, otherwise we are more often just going through the motions in our spiritual walk and finding ourselves...Chasing the Wind.

Pathway Principles:

1. What is it about the storms that blow into our lives that awaken a need to reassess the direction we are heading, and the purpose behind out pursuing a goal or dream?

2. Has there been a time in the last few months where you have concluded that much of you effort and energy is like “Chasing after the Wind.”
 - What area specifically?
 - How can you change it?
 - What is your target date to begin?

3. Read over each of the verses that speak of “Chasing after the Wind” and prayerfully align yourself with the Biblical Principle taught there.

4. Write a prayer to your Heavenly Father that rededicates your life and ambitions to be Biblically motivated in your World View by allowing these principles to become a vital part of renewing your heart and mind today.”

Daily Meditation Scripture

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12:1-2

The Quiet Place

Chapter 2

Between the Lightening and the Thunder

There is always a sense of uneasy anticipation when dark clouds, pregnant with rain, ignite the sky with a flash of lightening. According to the National Weather Service, it is estimated that there are some 16 million lightning storms in the world every year. Nearly 1,800 thunderstorms are occurring at any one moment around the world.

Most of us pause and begin to count off the seconds, to see how far away the lightning strike was from where we are standing. There is something about that in-between moment where we are conscious of our finite vulnerability. You are aware that something is coming your way that could hurt you, but you don't know exactly when that will be....only that it is coming.

Thunder can be heard up to 10 miles away from the lightening that creates it. Meteorologists and experts on weather have calculated that lightning can heat the air around it to as much as 60,000 degrees, producing incredible sound waves by the quick expansion of the heated air. That would be hot enough to fuse silica sand into glass channels known as fulgurites which are normally hollow and can extend some distance into the ground.

Light travels at 186,000 miles per second, so we see lightening the very instant that it flashes. Sound travels a mile in 5 seconds, if 20 seconds elapse between the lightning bolt flash, and the deafening boom of the thunder, then the lightning struck 4 miles away. Any closer would be a warning that the potential of a lightning strike hitting you could be imminent, and that it is time to seek immediate shelter. When there are successive lightning strikes, it means that they are often 2 to 3 miles apart, so it is wise to get to safety.

The 30 / 30 Rule

If you can only count 30 seconds before you hear the thunder, get into shelter for at least 30 minutes. When the lightning is very nearby, you can actually hear a snap or pistol shot sound that is followed by a sizzle that is followed by the smell of

ozone. The snap-sizzle sound is not called “thunder” since it doesn’t really sound like the rolling, booming, thundering sound.

The Warning between the Lightning and the Thunder

Be Aware of the Coming Storm

A coming storm always begins with clouds on the horizon. Times of trouble will inevitably come our way. Trials have a way of confronting what we depend upon when times are tough: God or ourselves. When we let our guard down and become undisciplined in our seeking God in the Quiet Place, we tend to become careless in our lives and get caught unaware when a storm crashes down upon us.

Prepare for the Coming storm

People sometimes spend an enormous amount of energy and money in their desire to be best prepared for a coming storm. The recent reports of hurricanes and tornadoes challenge everyone that lives within the storm regions to be prepared. Sometimes no matter how well you are prepared, storms can hit with very little warning. In a few terrifying moments, the destruction of a tornado can literally tear a person's world to shreds.

The best way to prepare for a coming life storm is to study, meditate upon and memorize the Word of God. The more we do it, the easier it is to lock those truths into long term memory. The Spirit of God will bring God's promises into your mind before the full brunt of the storm hits. The more we are immersed in the Scriptures, the more prepared we will be.

Seek God’s Wisdom for the Coming Storm

One of God’s great desires is to see this characteristic fused solidly with our lives.

“Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.” Psalm 51:5-7

When specific storms are building upon the horizon of our lives, it is critical to seek God, and ask Him for insight and direction, as to how best to deal with what is coming our way.

“...that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please

Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God." Colossians 1:9-10

People all over the world are facing intense and life shattering storms every moment of every day. Pending layoffs at work, threats of foreclosure, mounting financial pressures, and health related issues are common to everyone today no matter how prepared we may be. That is because in life, there is very little that we have any absolute control over. Between the lightning and the thunder one must seek God for wisdom as to how to respond Biblically to the coming storm and thereby glorify Him in the midst of it.

The Caution between the Lightning and the Thunder

There is a Tendency to Ignore the Signs

It is a strange phenomenon, but we often ignore the warning signs that a storm is coming our way. We reason that storms have happened in the past and we made it through, so why get so frantic about it. History abounds with examples of people who have ignored the warning signs between the lightning and the thunder to their peril.

"For wisdom is protection....the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom preserves the lives of its possessors." Ecclesiastes 7:12

James wrote about the need to seek God for wisdom, especially when undergoing times of trouble:

"But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind." James 1:4-6

There is a Tendency to be Unprepared

Procrastination: "to put off intentionally and habitually, the doing of something that should be done." The Oxford English Dictionary identifies that at the root of procrastination is delay. "It is the postponement of something often with the sense of deferring though indecision, when early action would have been preferable," or as "defer[ing] action, especially without good reason."

Sometimes the storm upon the horizon is there because we caused it. Impulsive decisions, acting on unwise counsel, and a stubbornness to do it our way, may have created consequences that are dire, and may have a negative and costly impact upon our lives. In times like this, we need to trust God's merciful grace, and with a repentant humility, humbly ride it through, whatever it may be. God in His mercy may lighten the impact of the storm, but the hail will still do its damage.

The contrast between wise planning and poor planning is seen in the story Jesus told regarding the wise and unwise builder:

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.” Matthew 7:23-27

There is a Tendency to not seek God for Wisdom

Between the lightening and the thunder, there is a tendency for most people to respond without seeking God's wisdom, and then wonder how things got into such a great mess.

*“Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and turn away from evil.”
Proverbs 3:7*

Be Faithful between the Lightning and the Thunder

There is the Reality of Danger

There is a free App for your smart phone that is called Lightning Locator that allows you to accurately measure the distance where the lightening actually struck.

The issue is not necessarily where the last lightning struck, but to know how to respond to the one that is coming.

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.”
Proverbs 3:5-6*

There is a Need to Trust God

Between the lightning and the thunder, the test will be upon what it is that you lean on, to give you strength, other than God.

“When you get to the end of all the light you know and it's time to step into the darkness of the unknown, faith is knowing that one of two things shall happen: either you will be given something solid to stand on, or you will be taught how to fly.” Edward Teller

“The Lord is my strength and my shield; My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart exults, And with my song I shall thank Him.” Psalm 28:7

There is a Need to Praise God

An attitude of thankfulness is intricately linked with trusting God, for it is the consequent act of praising Him in the midst of the storm.

“...Therefore, (because I trust in Him between the lightning and the thunder) my heart exults, and with my song I shall thank Him.” Psalm 28:7

Don't be Afraid between the Lightning and the Thunder

God is Sovereign

“When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, You knew my path.” Psalm 142:3

God can be trusted

“From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.” Psalm 61:2

God is Faithful

“It is good to give thanks to the Lord And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning And Your faithfulness by night.” Psalm 92:1-2

The psalmist understood this principle and wrote wisely:

“I know, O Lord, that Your judgments are righteous, And that in faithfulness You have afflicted me. O may Your lovingkindness comfort me (be my comfort), According to Your word (or promise) to Your servant.” Psalm 119:75-76

Between the lightning and the thunder kneel in The Quiet Place, and give it to God, whatever it may be, and trust Him to walk with you through it.

Remember that the will of God will never lead you, where the grace of God cannot keep you. He will be right there with you, between the lightning and the thunder.

Pathway Principles:

1. Between the lightning and the thunder, there are palpable moments of raw anticipation as to what to do. Think of an incident where you were caught within mere moments of time and had to make a critical decision that affected your lives or the lives of others:
2. We tend to automatically think of ways to problem solve and deal with those seemingly “Urgent” scenarios. What would help you to pause, and gain God’s perspective when you are caught between “The Lightning and The Thunder?”

Give a few recent examples:

3. This chapter noted three characteristics about God that are important to grasp and cling to “Between the Lightning and The Thunder.” Comment briefly on why each truth is bedrock to establishing a strong steadfast walk with God.

God is Sovereign:

God can be Trusted:

God is Faithful:

4. Write a prayer to your Heavenly Father that rededicates your focus upon trusting God “Between the Lightning and The Thunder” rather than instinctively finding a way to escape the storm and hunker down safely.

Daily Meditation Scripture

“My God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. He is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior—from violent people you save me.” II Samuel 22:3 NASB

*“I have commanded you, ‘Be strong and courageous! Don’t tremble or be terrified, because **Yahweh** your **Elohim** is with you wherever you go.’” Joshua 1:9**

*“Don’t be afraid, because I am with you. Don’t be intimidated; I am your **Elohim**. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will support you with my victorious right hand.” Isaiah 41:10**

*“I, **Yahweh** your **Elohim**, hold your right hand and say to you, ‘Don’t be afraid; I will help you.’” Isaiah 41:13**

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Chapter 3

Discovering God's Faithfulness in the Midst of the Storm

Each year violent storms rage across the landscapes of the world. Recently the Colorado State University Meteorologist Forecaster's Team reported that it anticipates 17 to 20 tropical storms, with nine of those becoming hurricanes during the season that runs from June 1 to November 30.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, anticipate that 2015 will see an increase in storms lacing across the regions of the world in the form of Cyclones, Typhoons, Monsoons, and Hurricanes. The NOAA Climate Prediction Center has recently updated the hurricane outlook predictions for 2015. (<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>)

Cyclonic Storms around the World

The Hurricane

A hurricane is a powerful, rotating storm that forms over warm oceans near the equator in the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea, or the eastern Pacific Ocean.

The Severe Tropical Cyclone

A cyclone is a closed, rotating wind. Cyclones rotate counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.

The Typhoon

A typhoon is a violent tropical cyclonic storm that forms in the Western Pacific Ocean. It derives its name from the Chinese word *taaifung*, which means Great Whirling Wind.

Life Storms touch Everyone's Lives

Everywhere we look there are multitudes of recurrent Life Storms that are raging across people's lives. These unexpected events impact financial resources, destabilize a family's economic security, and in some cases greatly affect their

capacity to survive. Life Storms crash into us in recurring waves, just like the great whirling winds of cyclonic storms.

Each wave envelopes us before we have fully recovered from the impact of the previous one. We often continue to cope with each storm the very same way we did the last one. We hunker down, hang on and try to survive the onslaught of the storm. It may be a death in the family, the foreclosure of the family home, the collapse of a business, or any number of tragic events.

Life Storms can Transform our Faith

You may think that God is punishing you, or isn't taking care of you, but life storms hit everyone, and they often come without advance notice. When a storm hits your life, after a period of intensity, there will always be a period of calm. It often does not mean that the storm is over, for you just might be standing in the eye of the storm. Without tough times, faith does not grow. Stormy trials are periodic disruptions in our life to keep our faith riveted in God, and not our financial portfolio, our financial consultant, our 401 k or anything else that can easily become a false god in our lives.

In the Eye of the Storm

"On that day, when evening came, He said to them, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd, they took Him along with them in the boat, just as He was; and other boats were with Him. And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up. Jesus Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

"And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. And He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They became very much afraid and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?" Mark 4:35-41

Restore your Faith in God

Like a howling hurricane, whose counterclockwise motion goes in a circle in the opposite direction from the way a clock moves, Life Storms cause us think through problem solving impulsively, irrationally and often not Biblically. The Devil likes to make us dizzy, overwhelmed, and confused during a Life Storm.

Jesus had told the disciples, *“Let us go over to the other side.”*

They kept their eyes on the storm instead of holding firm to the promise of His word to them. He promised that they would make it to the other side, He just didn't mention that a storm would hit them on the way to test their faith.

Surrounding the eye of the storm is the eyewall. It is a band of thunder clouds. The eyewall has the most rain and the strongest winds of the storm, gusting up to 225 mph.

The devil wants us to try to break through the wall of the storm in our own strength, or run away from it. That would be disastrous. Stand firm in the Eye of the Storm and look straight up, and you will see the sun shining in the sky above.

“In the whirlwind and in the storm is His way, and the clouds are the dust beneath His feet.” Nahum 1:3.

Storms are not something that God cannot see you through. God will always show us how to respond Biblically in any situation. The details may vary, but principles from His Word do not (See Proverbs 3:5-6).

“Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Psalm 119:105

Renew your Strength

In **The Quiet Place** we are able to draw strength from God's presence, and be renewed through His Word. Give the burden of your Life Storm to God and lay it down at the Throne of Grace. (See I Peter 5:7; Hebrews 4:16)

The psalmist acknowledged in the midst of a Life Storm:

“My life dissolves and weeps itself away for heaviness; raise me up and strengthen me according to [the promises of] Your Word.” Psalm 119:27-28 (AMP)

Even the beginning of new seed faith in our trust in God gives spiritual awakening in our heart and produces renewed faith.

Pray to God to give you strength today for whatever Life Storm that you are going through. *“In the day when I cried you answered me, and strengthened me with strength in my soul.” Psalm 138:3*

Rest in His Word

There is a calm assurance that comes to one who has trusted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. That confidence comes through our daily time of worship in **The Quiet Place** as we pray and read the Scriptures.

“Remember the Word to your servant, in which you have made me hope. This is my comfort in my affliction, that your Word has revived me.” Psalm 119:49

God will reveal how to get through the Life Storms that crash in upon any of us. He calls us to spend time with Him in **The Quiet Place**. He will show us how to stand firm in the Eye of the Storm, strengthened in our faith as we trust in His Word, to show us the way. God will always be faithful.

Pathway Principles:

1. Life Storms can come into our lives with little warning and are often catastrophic. It may be the death of a love one, a serious life threatening illness, a tragic motor vehicle accident, or weather fronts that bring hurricanes, tornadoes, and blizzards.
 - What recent Life Storm have you faced or are experiencing, and what is the most difficult part of it?
 - What have you been learning in your walk with God during this time?
 - What Scripture promise would you say stands out as one that has encouraged you the most.
2. What did the psalmist mean when he wrote:

“Remember the Word to your servant, in which you have made me hope. This is my comfort in my affliction, that your Word has revived me.” Psalm 119:49

3. Write a prayer to your Heavenly Father that focuses upon thanking God for His faithfulness during this Life Storm and highlighting the ways that He has been there with you through it all.

Daily Meditation Scripture

“For You have been a defense for the helpless,
A defense for the needy in his distress,
A refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat...” Isaiah 25:4 NASB

*“You are my **hiding place**; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with songs of deliverance.” Psalm 32:7 NASB*

The Quiet Place

Chapter 4

Trusting God when you go through a Life Storm

Violent storms are howling across the planet, leaving in their path, shattered demolished communities, destroyed businesses, and thousands of uprooted and displaced families. Picking up the pieces, and rebuilding shattered dreams are never easy.

Storms are Increasing

The world at any given time is blanketed with an innumerable array of cyclones, tornadoes, blizzards, hurricanes and lightning storms. The power and ferocity of these mega storms is incredible. In 10 minutes, a hurricane releases more energy than all of the world's nuclear weapons detonated at once.

The hottest place on earth is the air around a lightning strike, which can reach as much as 54,000 degrees Fahrenheit, easily 5 times hotter than the surface of the sun. Supercell tornadoes, with incredible downdrafts drag the rotating mesocyclone toward the ground and can create accelerating wind speeds of up to 300 miles per hour and can cut a swath across the landscape making it look like a war zone.

Life Storms are Inevitable

So it is with storms in our own personal lives. Many people throughout the world today are facing extremely difficult circumstances, and they are finding it very hard to cope with life. In any given season of our life, a storm will be allowed to blow in upon us, and the purposes while often unknown, are always allowed by God in His Sovereignty.

Life Storms can be Devastating

In reality, you do not have to go through a hurricane to be devastated by a Life Storm. The inevitability of life is that storms will never stop coming our way. When they will hit, where we will be at that moment, and the magnitude and severity of those storms are hard to predict. Life Storms are literally times of great trouble, painful suffering, grievous losses, and periods of extreme hardship.

They cause chaotic shifts in the way we usually live our lives. The very nature of our existence readily assures us that just like the seasons of weather in our natural world, Life Storms will regularly gust through our lives with incalculable ferocity.

From the time we draw our first breath, our days are shadowed by trial and difficulty. The Patriarch Job reflected the following:

“Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He comes forth like a flower and fades away; He flees like a shadow and does not continue.” Job 14:1-2

Life Storms are Unpredictable

While literal atmospheric storms are able to be tracked with technology like the Doppler Radar System, many Life Storms cannot easily be seen until they are about to crash down upon your life. The storms that hit our lives, often do so with hurricane force, and sweep in with a torrent of stress, chaos, and confusion.

The Psalmist wrote poetically the following Psalm using the analogy of storms upon the horizon as illustrative of God displaying His divine attributes, power and majesty.

“The clouds poured down water, the heavens resounded with thunder; your arrows flashed back and forth. Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind, your lightning lit up the world; the earth trembled and quaked. Your path led through the sea, your way through the mighty waters, though your footprints were not seen.” Psalm 77:17-19

He notes several insightful principles that are drawn from this magnificent display of God’s dealings with man in verses 17 – 18.

- **In the midst of a Life Storm, His Path is always there**

“Your path led through the sea...”(19a)

- **In the midst of a Life Storm, His Way is not easy**

“Your way through the mighty waters...”(19b)

- **In the midst of a Life Storm His Presence is always near**

"...though your footprints were not seen." (19c)

Life Storms are Purposeful

There is a saying that always inspired me, especially when a Life Storm would come into our lives.

"The Will of God shall never lead you where the

Grace of God cannot keep you."

Holding onto God's hand in the midst of a Life Storm is learned by trusting Him, relying upon Him, and believing that He will never let something come into your life but that it pass through the filter of His Sovereign purpose for your life.

When we face the unknown, it is important to remember that God's primary purpose is to teach us to rely upon Him to be there always, and to learn how to draw near to Him, rather than trust in our feeble limited resources to keep us out of harm's way.

Life Changing Principles to Embrace

In a Life Storm, things are not always what they seem, are often blown out of perspective, and often create doubts regarding God's faithfulness in allowing the storm.

Isaiah 41:10; 13 provide 5 key principles to remember when you face a Life Storm:

"Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you; (Isa, 41:10) "For I am the Lord your God, who upholds your right hand, Who says to you, 'Do not fear, I will help you.'" (Isa 41:13)

God's Presence within the Storm Alleviates Anxiety

"Do not fear, for I am with you..." (Isaiah 41:10a)

God's Purpose within the Storm minimizes Confusion

"Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God" (Isaiah 41:10b)

God's Provision within the Storm will Strengthen you

“I will strengthen you, surely I will help you.” (Isaiah 41:10c)

God's Perspective within the Storm will Encourage you

“For I am the Lord your God, who upholds your right hand” Isaiah 41:13a)

God's Protection within the Storm will Enable you

“Do not fear, I will help you.” (Isaiah 41:13b)

If you find yourself in a Life Storm right now, you are not alone. Take some time in **The Quiet Place** where you can spend time with God alone, and reflect upon the principles found in here. Storms do not last forever. They always blow themselves out. So it is with Life Storms.

The disciples discovered that they were not alone in the midst of the storm. Jesus was there in the boat with them and He promised them that they would get over to the other side. (Luke 18:22-27). So it is with each of us when we are caught in a Life Storm.

Within the storm, always remember that there will always be a light to shine upon His Pathway, He will always lead you through His Word to find His Way, and you will discover that He is always right there with you, even though you do not see His footprints, for His Presence is near.

Pathway Principles:

- 1 Life Storms have a way of impacting our lives in ways that travel with us throughout our lifetimes. Identify a Life Storm that you or your family have gone through that has had such an impact.
 - How did it or has it affected your life?
 - How did the experience of the Life Storm affect your relationship with God?

- What did you learn from that Life Storm that has stayed with you through the years?

- 2 What does God promise in the following verse, that He will provide and do for you in the midst of a Life Storm?

“Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you; (Isa, 41:10) “For I am the Lord your God, who upholds your right hand, Who says to you, ‘Do not fear, I will help you.’” (Isa 41:13) NASB

- 3 Write a prayer to your Heavenly Father that focuses upon thanking God for His protection and provision for you during a recent Life Storm.
- 4 What Scripture Promise stands out to you that you discovered during your recent Life Storm that was a special blessing to you?

Daily Meditation Scripture

“Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, For His lovingkindness is everlasting. ²³ Those who go down to the sea in ships, Who do business on great waters; ²⁴ They have seen the works of the LORD, And His wonders in the deep. ²⁵ For He spoke and raised up a stormy wind, Which lifted up the waves of the sea. ²⁶ They rose up to the heavens, they went down to the depths; Their soul melted away in their misery. ²⁷ They reeled and staggered like a drunken man, And were at their wits’ end. ²⁸ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, And He brought them out of their distresses. ²⁹ He caused the storm to be still, So that the waves of the sea were hushed. ³⁰ Then they were glad because they were quiet, So He guided them to their desired haven. ³¹ Let them give thanks to the LORD for His lovingkindness, And for His wonders to the sons of men! ³² Let them extol Him also in the congregation of the people, And praise Him at the seat of the elders.” Psalm 107 1; 23-32 NASB

The Quiet Place

Chapter 5

Learning to Quiet the Inner Storm

We all need significant times in our lives where we experience the peacefulness of complete and total silence. Hushed moments where we can make a heartfelt exploration of our deepest questions, posed before the Almighty God of the universe; questions that are whispered in but a single solitary moment in time. God is timeless, yet He pauses, draws near to our hearts, and listens to what we are really saying, when no one else is really listening.

We all need to find a solitary place where we can stop the world, breathe our own oxygen and hear the sounds of silence. Yet mere aloneness or solitude is not an asset that truly satisfies unless we are able to connect to someone greater than ourselves.

“If one pictures life as a line on a page, one must picture God as the page on which the line is drawn.” CS Lewis

What is this Quiet Place within us? How did it get there? If there is Quiet Place within us, why can't we easily find it? Most people are so afraid of silence and solitude that we cringe from the quiet and even panic at the mere thought of solitude. The very idea of a prolonged period of quietness can seem to suffocate our consciousness, rather than liberate our deepest self. Inner exploration as a pilgrimage in and of itself, can lead one into a maze from which there are no true answers and for some, only a disillusioned imprisonment, from which there can seem no escape.

There is a Quiet Place within every one of us

There is a God created domain, deep in the very soul of every human being. It is a place within our soul that nothing can truly fill except our creator Himself. He created us to be indwelt by His Spirit, and nothing in life can take His place there.

The reality of this truth could fill a myriad of blogs. This one cannot explore the depths of such a vast topic. My hope is that it touches a parched tongue with a drop of water so as to find the fountain from which living water can truly be found.

One of the most terrifying of incarcerations is one of solitary confinement? Why is that? Yet the Monastic zealots, the Ascetics, the Gnostics and the philosophers of history, write of such a quest with passionate fervency. Many however, have later ventured forth disillusioned, broken in spirit, mentally bankrupt, and unable to function in society at all. Their baptism into rigorous, and disciplined prolonged periods of solitude, had changed them, but the change was a metamorphosis into having lost their self completely, rather than having found their true self.

The deeper into themselves that they had searched, the more enslaved and shackled they became; captives of their own disillusionment, rather than becoming liberated and set free. There is a truth that cannot be denied: The longer one lives in the darkness, the blinder he will become.

"The world's smallest package is a man wrapped up in Himself." Charles Swindoll

"The Lord is near those who have a broken heart." Psalm 34:18

Life within the Inner Storm

Your own Quiet Place may be enveloped by a raging storm within your life right now, or seemingly imprisoned by an addiction that now has you trapped rather than enlightened. Your profound heartache, bitterness at being hurt, or unending physical pain and suffering may numb the reality of it, but the Quiet Place is real. It is God's private place to share life with you and you alone. Regardless of what is happening to you, taking place around you or going on within you, always remember that you are not alone in the storm.

"His way is in the whirlwind and the storm..." Nahum 1:3

As our lives are jammed tight with unending schedules, time pressures, and burdensome obligations, it may not seem like there is Quiet within, but it is there amidst the noise and the stress...it just doesn't seem accessible. In times of hardship, suffering, or loneliness, we are more conscious of the Quiet Place within, but it is encumbered and suppressed by depression, sorrow, and feelings of deep despair. We may see the dim pathway to it, shimmering across our minds eye like a mirage, but then it seems to dim and fade amidst the pain.

God's Promise to us

Only God can become our Quiet Place. Only He can prepare within us, through His redemptive mercy and grace, a new place where He can commune with us and we can truly know Him and worship Him

"I will give them one heart (a new heart) and I will put a new spirit within them; and I will take the stony (unnaturally hardened) heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh (sensitive and responsive to the touch of their God)."
Ezekiel 11:19 Amplified. Bible

"God's quest to be glorified, and our quest to be satisfied reach their goal in this one experience; when our delight in God overflows in praise for God, for praise is the sweetness of His own excellence in the hearts of His people. For us, praise is the summit of satisfaction that comes from living in fellowship with God." John Piper

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17

We discover in life that no amount of money or fame or possessions or power can satisfy the Quiet Place. Even in spite of all of the sentimental poetry, romance novels, love songs or love stories depicted in movies, no person can truly fill the Quiet Place.

"God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him." John Piper

The Quiet Place exists within us regardless of our age, gender, or nationality. It exists no matter where we were born, or whatever language we may speak. The Quiet Place exists as a human reality. It is no less a fact than the truth that the sun rises every morning. It exists within us as certain as the astrological proof that the moon courses its way across the heavens, even if it is obscured from our sight because of a raging storm.

Counsel from a Pilgrim Traveler

"Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them. You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance." Psalm 32:6 -7

Comfort from a Loving God

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.” Psalm 32:8

“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty (Whose power no foe can withstand).” Psalm 91:1 Amplified Bible

No matter how many mistakes you have made, or how far away from God you may feel, or how broken your heart may be within you, God desires to know you and to show you how to turn a heart of chaos and turmoil into a Quiet Place.

Pathway Principles:

- 1 What is it about life that becomes so chaotic and stressful that we are compelled to find a Quiet Place?
- 2 What are the Inner Storms that you are facing or have faced in your life?

Examples: Dark periods of depression, bouts of unrelenting anxiety, a broken heart, prolonged grief and loss, or a shattered dream.

- 3 God calls each of us to a Quiet Place to find in Him the comfort, healing and strength that we need when facing Inner Storms. How has God led you during these storms and what have you experienced and learned?
- 4 Do you have a specific Inner Storm that you are presently struggling with at this time? If so, reflect on the following Scriptures, and then bring that Inner Storm to The Throne of Grace and lay it before the Lord.

“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30

“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.” Psalm 147:3 NASB

“The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” Psalm 34:18 NASB

“When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, You knew my path. In the way where I walk...” Psalm 142:3 NASB

“Casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.” I Peter 5:7 NASB

“Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:16

- 5 Write a prayer to your Heavenly Father, as you give your Inner Storm to Him, and thank Him for lifting that burden from your heart.

Daily Meditation Scripture

“God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea;³ Though its waters roar and foam, Though the mountains quake at its swelling pride.” Psalm 46:1-3

“Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the [\[k\]](#)nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” Psalm 46:11

The Quiet Place

Chapter 6

The Only Way to The Quiet Place

There is a time in every person's life when he must explore the reality of his own personal faith. Questions tug at the heart like, "Does God really exist?" "How can I know Him?" "Upon what do I base my beliefs?" or "Does God really care about the Storms that come into my life?"

The issue of the existence of God is especially personal and pertinent, when one goes through the inevitable Storms of life, and discovers that he needs more than his own strength, and individual abilities to make sense of life.

The following poem is written as a Pilgrim's Quest to explore these questions, and seek to discover the reality of a personal relationship with God. It is The Quest to discover and experience for himself, the reality of The Quiet Place.

There is a pathway that we all must travel,
it is different for each of one of us.
Throughout the years on this pathway we trek,
we are pilgrims on a lifetime quest.

Were we to reflect on the mountains we've climbed,
or the valleys that we have been through;
Our stories would be similar, our joys and our pain,
a tapestry unique, for me and for you

There are many bridges that we have walked over,
along this rugged terrain;
there is one that has collapsed, and is broken for all,
it is the one bridge that we all must cross.

The bridge to God's heart must span that vast chasm,
and many try to cross that divide.

But when in the garden, man turned far from God;
we became lost with no where to hide.

There are millions of pathways across the horizon,
and they weave over the stark lonely landscape.

They are twisted like pathways to Mordor,
dark like the trail to Shelob's Lair.

Like a spider web woven with evil intent,
so the Serpent has darkened the way.

There are arduous twists, and turns full of suffering,
and the pilgrims cry out in dismay.

He lures many to seek remedy for their deep soul pain,

like those from the Path of the Dead,
Oathbreakers they are, who reject Jesus the King,
Who is Lord, and King over all other kings.

The pilgrims, are shackled with heavy chains,
burdened and bent, with yokes full of bondage,
seeking the Stone of Erech in vain;
amidst the shadow of the Tower of Cirith Ungol.

Multitudes who have sought for a way to the King,
found across that great rift, a bridge covered the span,
it was the Lamb's altar, mankind's pure sacrifice;
and all paths led to the bridge that was made from the Cross.

Then I awoke from a dream so real,
I could not forget all I did see.
The pathway across that terrible span,
is where Jesus died to set mankind free.

It is urgent that we cross the bridge to find God,
for one day before the Lord we'll all stand,

It was Jesus, who came to die for us all,
the Lamb that was slain for man.

He is Immanuel, the Alpha and Omega;
the Prince of Peace, and the true Deity.

The pathway across that terrible span,
is where The King died for you and for me.

We all must receive His gift freely given,
and believe, and have all sins forgiven.

Walk over the bridge of the old rugged cross,
and bow your knee to The King of Heaven.

Now we are wearing clean garments of grace,
tattered rags tossed away and forgotten;

This pathway is aglow with His Holy Light,
and ahead we find Jesus the Shepherd.

“You are Jesus the Christ, full Deity with the Father,

You are the Mighty God, Way, Truth and Life,

The Lamb of God, and Messiah and our Blessed Redeemer.

You are known by so many names through the Scriptures,
Why is that?" I did ask the Lord.

He turned toward the chasm and His hand gestured widely,
"There are millions of pathways all pilgrims will travel,
sincere and devout, in themselves they do trust,
yet each pathway still ends at the bridge now a cross."

"I AM that I AM, the Way, Truth and Life,
and any can come their own way,
but unless they repent, yield their lives as a sinner,
each will stand on the other side lost."

One day that old bridge will be closed to mankind,
no way across the chasm will be found.

Now is the time to accept God's mercy and grace;

Take heed, fellow pilgrim, for you stand next to God's Holy Ground.

"Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:6-7

“To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in Me.” Acts 26:17-18

“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.” I Peter 1:18-20

“In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you. I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.”

II Cor. 6:1-2

Some of the prose uses allegorical imagery and settings adapted loosely from the Lord of the Rings

Etymology:

The Sindarin name of Shelob's Lair was Torech Ungol, meaning "Spider's Hole." The word ungol means "spider" from the Quenya ungwe meaning "gloom" and ungo meaning "cloud, dark shadow." Ungoliant was the mother of Shelob and the ancestor of all the Great Spiders. The word torech apparently means "hole or lair," though its etymology is unclear.

It was on the Stone of Erech that [Aragorn](#) called on the [King of the Dead](#), and the other accursed, to fulfill their oaths so that they could rest in peace. This occurred at midnight. The Oathbreakers helped Aragorn take over the [ships](#) of Sauron's allies from the south. They were finally put to rest by Aragorn for fulfilling their oath where they had not done so before.

Excerpts from <http://www.tuckborough.net/>An encyclopedia of Middle-earth and Numenor.

Pathway Principles:

1. As you map out your life pilgrimage to date, what were the events that began to open your heart to seek after God?

2. Was there a specific time when you acknowledged your need to give your life to Christ and embrace Him as your Lord and Savior?
 - If so how long have you been a Christian?

 - If not, what has held you back from accepting His free gift of Salvation?

 - Take this time, if you do not know Christ as your Savior, and open your heart to Him, and receive His forgiveness, and He will place The Quiet Place within your heart.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life” John 3:16 NASB

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.” John 1:12 NASB

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

“Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:16 NASB

- 6 Read the Daily Meditation Scriptures and then write a prayer to your Heavenly Father, Thanking Him for the gift of your Salvation, and for placing His Quiet Place within your heart.

Daily Meditation Scriptures

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the Heavenly Places in Christ.” Ephesians 1:3 NASB

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.” Ephesians 1:7 NASB

“In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.” Ephesians 1:13-14 NASB

“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might ²⁰ which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the Heavenly Places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” Ephesians 1: 17-23 NASB

“For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in Heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:9-11 NASB

Epilogue

Thank you for purchasing and or obtaining a copy of “Facing the Storm in the Quiet Place.”

We all need significant times in our lives where we experience the peacefulness of complete and total silence. Quiet moments are where we can make a heartfelt exploration of our deepest questions and pose them before the Almighty God of the universe.

When our lives are impacted with Life Storms, we find it very difficult to settle our hearts and minds in The Quiet Place, and seek God for His wisdom, strength and provision. We are more often than not scurrying about desperately looking for a way to escape the Life Storm, or at least find ways to cope with the unrelenting consequences that often accompany such catastrophes.

We easily forget that God desires us to grasp His hand in the storm and calm our fears so as to discover His will, and how He wishes to use the Life Storm to deepen our faith and trust in Him.

God is timeless, yet He pauses, draws near to our hearts, and listens to what we are truly saying when no one else is really listening.

Throughout history there has been a void in the heart of man that resounds with urgency. It expresses a deep yearning that is palpable and reflects an intense desperation that is the heart cry of the human soul that is separated from God.

With the tragic event in the Garden of Eden, when man turned away from God and lost his pure and unhindered communion with his Creator. Mankind has since been left with a spiritual vacuum and painful emptiness.

The Quiet Place within the heart of man, where he walked in the cool of the garden with God, became instead, a lonely place.

Every person who has ever lived has experienced the awareness of a profound inner thirst, deep within the heart. It is an intense spiritual need that can only truly be satisfied when a person has found the place where he can commune together with God in unhindered worship. The reality of this inner spiritual void exists

within us regardless of our age, gender, or nationality.

We discover in life that no amount of money, fame, possessions or power can satisfy the longing within or fill the emptiness. History has proven that whatever man attempts to use to fill that void never brings permanent fulfillment or genuine inner peace. Instead, there is an acute dissatisfaction with what was thought to be the solution to fill the emptiness within. This results in an intense awareness of inner chaos, which can so often lead to many different types of addictions that people can use to anesthetize their inner pain and provide them with short term pleasure. One of Satan's most common strategies to enslave man is to create a counterfeit God. As we discussed, the inner void inside us is there because of the broken relationship that man had once enjoyed so freely with God in Garden of Eden. Satan's subtle lie is to get us to believe that our relationship with any form of addiction will bring a physical and spiritual pleasure that will mimic communion with God. This has been true since the beginning of man's life on earth.

In spite of all of the sentimental poetry, romantic novels, tender musical ballads, or passionate love stories depicted in movies, there is no earthly relational experience that can truly satisfy the innermost loneliness of the human heart.

We must understand that the deep loneliness that can consume us is a result of our soul being homesick for an intimate relationship with God that we were originally created to enjoy continuously. Before the fall, the quiet place was the entire expanse known as the Garden of Eden. For at that time, wherever man was, God was with him.

Our deepest need is to bask intimately in the fullness of God's love. There is nothing apart from God that can truly fill the inner void, because it was created by God, for God, and only He can dwell there. For Adam and Eve, the Quiet place was experienced in the external beauty of the Garden of Eden, and in their continual communion with God. Life Storms enable us to see the reality of our need to cultivate the inner Quiet Place, and evermore spend time there, and worship with our God, regardless of the life circumstances that we may experience throughout our lives.

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Visit The Quiet Place at: johnkrohn.blogspot.com