

The Storms of Life

Genesis 50:15-21

Genesis 50:15-21 (NASB)

¹⁵ “When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “What if Joseph bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him!”

¹⁶ So they sent *a message* to Joseph, saying, “Your father charged before he died, saying,

¹⁷ “Thus you shall say to Joseph, “Please forgive, I beg you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong.” And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.” And Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

¹⁸ Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.”

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place?

²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, *but* God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.

²¹ So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.” So, he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.”

When life gets hard, we tend to get upset and wonder how soon the difficulty will end. But God wants us to focus on Him in times of trouble. As we do, we will discover that He is doing important spiritual work during these “storms.”

Beliefs. The Bible contains what we need to know about our life in Christ. When circumstances are beyond our control, what we really believe will surface. The depth of our faith in God's character and promises will become evident, as will any doubts or uncertainties we may have. For example, Joseph revealed strong belief when he acknowledged that God intended his hardships for his good ([Genesis 50:20](#)).

Genesis 50:20 (NASB)

²⁰ “As for you, you meant evil against me, *but* God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.!”

There will be times when we don't succeed—like Peter, whose fear led to denying Christ ([John 18:25-27](#))—but we should think of trials as opportunities to grow and deepen our faith. ”

John 18:25-27 (NASB)

²⁵ “Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So, they said to him, “You are not also *one* of His disciples, are you?” He denied *it*, and said, “I am not.”

²⁶ One of the slaves of the high priest, being a relative of the one whose ear Peter cut off, said, “Did I not see you in the garden with Him?”

²⁷ Peter then denied *it* again, and immediately a rooster crowed.

Transformation. As God's children, we are to live our lives in a way that displays Christ's character. But we are more like jewels in the rough, aren't we? The heavenly Father can use the storms of life to transform us into His Son's image.

Comfort. This blessing is not only for us but also for others. Our Father comforts us in our sufferings and asks that we share what we have received with other people ([2 Corinthians 1:3-4](#)).

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NASB)

³ **"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,**

⁴ **who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.**

Difficult times can come from our own mistakes, the schemes of the enemy, or the hurtful actions of others. They can even be ordained by God. Regardless of the source, our Father works in them to benefit us and to bless others. What testimony about Him can you give to a hurting world?