



Storms Roots and Storm Principles

Various Passages
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Listening Guide

INTRODUCTION: We will all experience storms in our lives. In these storms we can feel isolated, lonely, afraid, pelted by sickness, pain, hurt, abuse, etc. What's the best way to handle this rain of pain? Thankfully, Scripture gives us a number of ways to sustain and support ourselves in the trying and stretching moments of our lives. In this study we'll focus on what we're calling, Storm Roots and Storm Principles—Proverbs 10:21; Matthew 13:21. What's obviously lacking in most destructive storms?

- I. **Storm Roots are Needed.** Here are three simple roots to keep us stable in a storm.
 - A. **Storm Roots #1: Truth must be applied to last**—Matt. 7:24-27; 13:5,20-21.
Jesus teaches that without application, our lives crash or are scorched in storms.
 - B. **Storm Roots #2: Important truths are not hidden.** This means, when studying the Scripture, we're to look for the simplest interpretation. To be more specific, we interpret the obscure (or difficult) in the light of the clear. Keep it SIMPLE!
 - C. **Storm Roots #3: Truth must be applied in the light of the context.** We're to look at verses that precede or follow to understand what is meant by a particular verse or phrase.

The three questions we need to ask when we're looking for a verse in a storm:

1. What does it say? (Read carefully and often - repeatedly.)
2. What does it mean? (Remember, we're reading someone else's mail!)
3. What does it say to me? (Application!)

With the storm roots in place:

- II. **Storm Principles are Needed for Stability.** There are four simple principles.

A. Storm Principle #1: In Time/On Time Principle

1. The verses that apply to this principle are:
 - a. **Philippians 4:19.** The key phrase is: "...My God will meet all your needs..." The translation for some people is "*whatever we want we will get.*" Is that what the verse promises?
 - b. **Ephesians 1:3**—"...blessed us...with EVERY spiritual blessing in Christ."
 - c. **2 Peter 1:2-4**—"...given us EVERYTHING we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us..." Think for a moment about what we have in Jesus because we know Him—Eph. 1:5,7b,13; 2:6,10.
2. If we apply the **In Time/On Time** principle properly in real life, it means:
 - a. **First**, we can expect to get what we NEED **when** we need it, and NOT usually **before**, e.g., when we need to go to the next level; handle a difficult/current storm; or we need strength, wisdom, etc. That's usually not the answer we want. We desire to store up our resources **ahead of time** so they will be available.

Let's illustrate this principle's application in a few ways.

- **What would we like our spiritual garage to look like?**
- **But what usually happens?** It's more like overnight mail. Answers or help comes overnight, on our porch, the day we need it! Exception?
- **What's another illustration?** It's like manna—Exodus 16:16-21. Our provision comes the day we need it - not the day before—Matt. 6:11,34.
- **What if we don't apply this principle properly?** We could experience paralyzing fears that we fixate on: *"I just can't handle this delay, or if such and such happens..."* (Does God give grace for scenarios?)

- a. **Second**, we can expect God to use a wide variety of delivery systems for His grace, power, answers and provision.
- c. **Third**, we can expect God will always give us what we NEED, but **NOT** always what we want. (We don't say, "Oh, that's just fine with me...")

That leads to:

B. **Storm Principle #2: The Jericho Principle**—Joshua 6

Think about those who were present at the events in Joshua 6.

1. **What might those present that day have concluded?** "Let's go to the next city we have to conquer and march around it!" If God delivers what we need in A CERTAIN WAY, we might think we have Him figured out; we know how He works! But God does what He wants - what's best for His Kingdom and us.
2. **In OT, were all battles fought the same way entering the Promised Land?**
3. **Why do you think God might use a variety of ways to get us what we need?** So we'll trust IN Him and LOVE Him - not a formula, a ritual.
4. **Were miracles always done the same way in Scripture?**
5. **How about the ways people are healed of addictions and delivered from spiritual bondage today?** Are they all done the same way?
6. **How about spiritual growth?** Most have different paths for spiritual growth.

C. **Storm Principle #3: The Thorn Principle**—2 Cor. 12:8-9; Heb. 12:11; Luke 22:42. This represents a different way God answer prayers/meets real needs.

Summary: God may **NEVER** give us what we want. He may give us grace to stay in a situation, grow, become stronger, and do something we can't imagine. AGAIN, we can expect to get what we NEED, not what we WANT.

D. **Storm Principle #4: The Gideon Principle**—Judges 6-8

Background—Judges 6:37 (Gideon used the fleece test twice!)

1. **What was the long term-impact of Gideon's fleece?** Religious objects became too important to him and his people, and they worshipped a golden ephod. It became a snare to Gideon and his family—Judges 8:27.
2. **What's the lesson?** Let's make sure we put our trust in the Lord and not in the delivery system, or an object, or a method, e.g., Gideon—Judges 8:27.

Conclusion: God will be **In Time/On Time** with what we NEED in storms. He will not use one way, but a variety of ways to help us (**Jericho Principle**). We may not receive what we ask for, but we will have the grace and strength to do more than we can imagine (**Thorn Principle**). Let's not fall in love with, or even worship the delivery system God uses. Let's focus our attention on Him and worship Him (**Gideon Principle**)!