

**Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:**

Jeff Sturgill continues to recover from a sore on his foot and is doing better.  
Ray's brother-in-law, Teddy Adams, in Kentucky is recovering from surgery to remove a tumor in the back of his neck  
Jesse Riddle is on hospice care but is often able to attend Sunday AM service.  
Virginia McKinney had outpatient surgery for her cancer and is recovering well..  
Connie Davis underwent surgery to replace the left side of her hip. She is receiving rehab treatments and a full recovery will take approximately 8-12 weeks.  
Charlie Henard's niece, Brittany Henard, is battling cancer.  
Karen Sproles had a nerve block injection in her knee. A biopsy taken from a sore on her leg tested positive for melanoma. She has several other spots as well. She will have a procedure on May 7<sup>th</sup> to remove the growths.  
Karen Sproles' son will have moved back to this area and will have knee surgery.  
Karen Sproles' daughter had stomach surgery and is doing well.  
Randy Shanafelt, Shirley Cook's son-in-law, is still in Florida with Karen because Randy is having heart problems. He will have the leads on his pacemaker replaced and a coronary artery blockage removed and a stent put in on May 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> prior to returning to Indiana.  
Linda Jones will have eye surgery to correct cataracts in both eyes and the iris in one of her eyes. Surgery will occur within the next four months when a special lens coming from Germany is available. Linda also will have surgery to remove a malignant growth and her prognosis for a full recovery is good.  
Jessica Haynes', daughter-in-law of Dave and Tina, is in the hospital in critical condition.

**Pray For Our Shut-Ins:**

Gloria Hale, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, John & Terry Richardson

**Pray For The Mission Works We Are Supporting:**

John Grubb (Mission work in Asia), Daniel Goshorn and family (Mission work in Peru). See latest mission reports on the bulletin board in the back of the auditorium..

**2024 Gospel Meetings:**

A fall gospel meeting will be held September 6-8 with brother Tom House of the Plainview Church of Christ in Fulton, MS.

**Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:**

Our next pitch-in dinner will be today, following the AM services. Following the pitch-in we will have a service in song at 1:00 PM.

**Men's Business Meeting:**

The next men's business meeting will be Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM.

**Radio Program:**

Please remember to tune in every Sunday morning at 8:00 AM to WCBK 102.3 FM to hear our radio program which is entitled: "Preparing For Eternity".

**God's Plan For Our Salvation**

Hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).

Believing what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).

Repentance (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).

Confession (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).

Baptism (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4).

Faithful Christian Living, after the above five steps (I Peter 2:11, 12; Rev. 2:10).

May 5, 2024

***MORGAN STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST***

**540 E. Morgan Street  
Martinsville, IN 46151  
(765) 342-6027**



**Schedule of Services:**

**Sunday**

Bible Study – 9:30 AM

Worship – 10:30 AM

Evening Service - 6:00

**Wednesday**

Bible Study – 6:00 PM

**Thursday**

Ladies' Bible Study – 11:00 AM (March through October)

**Radio Program:**

"Preparing For Eternity"

Sunday Mornings 8:00 AM, WCBK 102.3 FM

**Website:**

[www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org](http://www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org)

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

## WHY DIDN'T HE STOP THE STORM?

Storms in our lives are not always bad things, spiritually speaking. Just as rainstorms cause the foliage in the natural universe to grow, spiritual storms can cause one to grow spiritually too.

Matthew chapter fourteen (vs.22-33) deals with an event in the ministry of Christ that many people are aware of in religious and secular settings. The fact of Jesus walking on the water has entered our vernacular to mean that one is perfect or has an inflated opinion of themselves if they can “walk on water.” This means that no person is as unique or as perfect as Jesus was and no person ever will be. That being the case, the circumstances surrounding Jesus’ walking on the water deserve deeper investigation. Previously in the ministry of Christ, Jesus had been asleep in a vessel that was tossed severely in a storm. The text tells the reader that Jesus was soundly asleep at the stern of the vessel. Upon the alarm of the Apostles in the boat, Jesus stops the storm. Mark 4:35-40 says, “And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side. And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships. And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?”

From this event, one learns that Jesus had the ability to stop the most powerful forces of nature. Notice the response of the Apostles in Mark 4:41, “And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?” Since these events fall earlier in the chronology of Jesus’ life than Him walking on the water, one deep question might come to mind. Why did Jesus not stop the storm in Matthew fourteen?

Theoretically, He could have created a water surface that was calm and smoother than polished glass. Instead of Peter becoming distracted by the storm (Matt. 14:30), he could have easily strolled to where Jesus was on the face of the water some three or four miles from shore (John 6:19). Jesus allowed the storm to continue while Peter began to sink beneath the waves (Matt. 14:30). Why would Jesus allow the storm to continue amidst their fears and anxieties? Consider these points:

There is a blessing that comes from weathering a storm. God can stop the storm in our lives, or He can go with us through the tempest. All Christians will face a storm in their lives. Some will face more than their fair share of troubles. Some storms will be in connection with chronic illnesses that have no real end in this life. Some storms might be bereavement or loss —whether it is death or loss of a particular situation in life.

Just as Jesus might have stopped the storm that made Peter and the other Apostles fearful, but did not, He allows us to face storms too. What sort of blessings might one enjoy who endures the storm faithfully to the end?

We are blessed by storms because it makes us stronger in our Christian walk. Paul took pleasure in his infirmities. Second Corinthians 12:9-10 says, “And he said unto

me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.” When a child of God faces a problem and navigates it successfully, he becomes stronger in his faith.

We are blessed by storms because it makes us focus on God. In Matthew fourteen, Peter started to sink because he took his eyes off Christ. Matthew 14:30 says, “But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.” When Christians face difficult situations in their lives, they are forced to pay more attention to God. Most faithful saints are driven to their knees in prayer when they deal with tribulations, bereavement, and infirmities.

We are blessed by storms because it makes us face our fears. While some are critical of Peter, he was the only one who had enough courage to get out of the boat. Jesus was critical of his “little faith,” because the Creator of the universe was right next to him, ready, willing, and able to pluck him from the tempestuous waves. Christ is near His people in a very real way (Heb. 4:14-16; cf. Matt. 28:20).

We are blessed by storms because we can see God’s providential working in our lives. Joseph had a terrible set of circumstances befall him through no fault of his own. Yet, he understood that the bad things help him in the deliverance of his entire family. Genesis 50:19-20 says, “Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.” From these passages and others, one might learn that the ability of God to accomplish His purposes in the face of evil is one proof of His power.

We are blessed by storms because we know that God is near in our times of trial. Paul was aware of this fact when he stood before the Lord. “Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen” (2 Tim. 4:17-18).

We are blessed by storms because our trials help us comfort others. If we lived a life free from problems, we would not be able to relate to others or help them in their times of need. Second Corinthians 1:3-4 says, “Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.” When we have already taken the journey of bereavement, pain, temptation, and tribulation, we can guide others as they struggle along the same pathway.

Storms in our lives are not always bad things, spiritually speaking. Just as rainstorms cause the foliage in the natural universe to grow, spiritual storms can cause one to grow spiritually too. James 1:2-4 says, “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.” -- Johnny O. Trail