

That You May  
BELIEVE

# God in the Storm



# **God in the Storm**

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**Identity, Authority and Invitation**

## **Introduction**

There are moments in life when everything seems calm on the surface, yet underneath there is a growing tension—questions about direction, identity, and purpose. In those moments, people begin searching for something greater than themselves, something stable, something true.

Throughout history, signs have always guided humanity. They establish standards and point the way forward. In the spiritual journey, these signs are not merely symbolic; they reveal truth. They show who God is and where He is leading.

In the Gospel of John, specific signs were recorded with intentional clarity. Each one was not simply a miracle, but a revelation—designed to answer two fundamental questions: Who is Jesus, and what does that mean for those who follow Him?

One of the most powerful of these signs is the moment Jesus walks on water.

This is not just a story about power over nature. It is a revelation of identity, authority, and invitation.

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## **Chapter 1 – When the Storm Reveals What You Believe**

The setting is critical. After feeding the five thousand, the crowd misunderstood the miracle. They saw provision and immediately tried to turn Jesus into a political king—someone who would meet their temporary needs.

But they had misread the sign.

Jesus was not there to become a king in the way they expected. He was revealing something far greater.

So He withdrew, and the disciples were sent ahead across the Sea of Galilee.

Night fell. The wind rose. The water became violent.

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The Sea of Galilee is known for its sudden and intense storms. Even experienced fishermen feared its unpredictability. In the darkness, far from land, the disciples found themselves exhausted, straining against the wind, making little progress.

This is where the deeper truth begins to unfold.

Storms have a way of exposing what comfort hides.

When everything is stable, belief feels easy. But when the waves rise and control is lost, the question becomes unavoidable: what is truly holding everything together?

The disciples were not beginners. They had already witnessed miracles. They had seen provision. Yet in this moment, surrounded by fear, those experiences were not enough to calm their hearts.

Because knowledge without revelation does not sustain faith under pressure.

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### **Chapter 2 – The God Who Walks Where You Cannot**

In the middle of the storm, something unexpected appeared.

A figure walking on the water.

Not struggling. Not rushing. Walking.

This detail matters.

This was not an attempt to overcome the storm. It was a demonstration of authority over it.

In the Old Testament, only God is described as the one who “treads on the waves of the sea.” This was not a random act. It was a direct claim.

Jesus was revealing that He was not just sent by God. He was God.

The disciples did not immediately recognize Him. Their first reaction was fear. They assumed it was something unnatural, something threatening.

This reveals an important truth: in moments of fear, even the presence of God can be misinterpreted.

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Fear distorts perception.

What is meant to bring peace can initially appear as something frightening when the heart is overwhelmed.

But then comes the defining statement.

“It is I. Do not be afraid.”

In its original form, this statement carries far more weight.

“I am.”

This is the same name God revealed to Moses. The declaration of eternal existence, self-sufficiency, and unchanging presence.

This was not just reassurance. It was identity.

The one walking on the water was the same “I AM” who had spoken from the burning bush.

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### **Chapter 3 – The Question That Defines Everything**

At this point, the situation shifts from external to internal.

The storm is still there. The wind has not stopped. The waves have not settled.

But now a decision must be made.

Who is Jesus?

Not as an idea. Not as a concept. But in reality.

The same question extends beyond that moment and reaches every life.

Who occupies the place of ultimate authority?

There are only two possibilities.

Either God is the “I AM,” or the individual attempts to take that position.

Self-sufficiency, control, and independence often appear strong, but they collapse under pressure. Storms reveal the limitations of human control.

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The declaration of “I AM” confronts that illusion.

It calls for surrender.

It invites a shift from self-reliance to trust.

Many who heard these teachings walked away. The message was too difficult, too confronting, too demanding.

But a few remained.

Not because they understood everything, but because they recognized something deeper.

There was nowhere else to go.

Because only one voice carried the words of eternal life.

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### **Chapter 4 – Inviting God Into the Storm**

There is a detail often overlooked in this moment.

The storm did not immediately stop when Jesus appeared.

Instead, something else happened.

He was invited into the boat.

This is the turning point.

The solution was not escaping the storm. It was allowing God into the situation.

And when that happened, everything changed.

The account reveals that as soon as He entered, they reached the shore.

This is not just about physical movement. It is about spiritual reality.

When God is invited into the center of a situation, direction is restored.

What felt endless suddenly has an endpoint.

What felt overwhelming becomes navigable.

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This does not mean the absence of difficulty. It means the presence of authority within it.

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### **Chapter 5 – The Reality of Faith in a Broken World**

Faith is often misunderstood as a life free from hardship.

But the disciples' experience reveals the opposite.

They were following Jesus and still found themselves in a storm.

Faith does not remove challenges. It transforms how they are faced.

Without God, storms define the outcome.

With God, storms become environments where His power is revealed.

The difference is not the absence of difficulty, but the presence of certainty.

A certainty that does not come from circumstances, but from who is present in them.

This is why the declaration matters.

“I AM.”

Not “I was.” Not “I will be.”

Present. Active. Unchanging.

In every storm, in every season, in every unknown.

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### **Chapter 6 – The Invitation That Remains**

This moment is not just a historical event. It is a pattern.

Life brings storms. Unexpected, uncontrollable, often overwhelming.

The instinct is to fight harder, control more, push further.

But the deeper invitation remains the same.

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Recognize who is walking toward you.

And respond.

The invitation is not to understand everything, but to trust.

Not to eliminate fear through effort, but to replace it with presence.

The same voice still speaks.

“I am. Do not be afraid.”

And the same decision still stands.

Whether to remain in control, or to invite Him into the boat.

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