

Weathering the Storms

“I would hasten my escape From the windy storm and tempest.”

Psalm 55:8



When I see a **storm** approaching my first impulse is to flee. I run around my yard, picking up toys, putting away bikes, closing the doors to the shed and workshop, moving small potted plants into the garage, and bringing my border collie, Daisy, into the house. Before I go inside, I shut the garage door.

Once inside, I watch the **storm** in all its fury play out across my yard. The wind blows leaves and branches everywhere. Lightning lights up the sky and sometimes strikes a tree close to my home. Thunder booms and makes me jump. The rain beats relentlessly against my windows.

Despite the destruction of the storm, I've noticed that storms also bring good things.

- No matter how much I run my sprinkler on my vegetable garden (especially this year in the drought), my plants always seem to be stronger and healthier and grow faster after they have been watered by a storm.
- Storms clear the air and bring a refreshing breeze.
- The sun returns after a storm.

Perhaps the same thing can apply to the storms we experience

in our lives. Nobody likes bad things –accidents, illnesses, death, divorce, job loss—all of these things are difficult to walk through. Yet just like my garden plants, I find that my times of strongest **spiritual growth** come from weathering the storms in my life. After I have suffered through my storms, God brings a refreshing breeze of peace. The depression lifts and joy or contentment returns.

What do you notice about the storms in your life? Can you see any good come out of them?