

Jonah 1:16

Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the LORD and took vows.

When you read the book of Jonah, have you ever realized that it took a storm in Jonah's life to bring those around him (The other men on the boat) to come to know his God?

† **Jonah 1:6** *So the captain came to him, and said to him, "What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish."*

† **Jonah 1:9** *So he said to them, "I am a Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."*

Now, we know that the storm was brought upon Jonah because of his disobedience to the Lord.

† **Jonah 1:12** *And he said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this great tempest is because of me."*

Yet how many times have you read in the bible of how storms (trials) came upon the lives of other believers, and the end result was that those who saw them go through those storms, saw God at work in their lives and brought them to know their God.

Sometimes the same thing happens to us. Storms hit in our lives, and even others are sometimes caught up in that same storm, (Think Jonah and the men in the same boat). It could be something happening at work, like layoffs, or it could be in your neighborhood, or something going on in your church, or even a tragedy that is happening in your family. When they see us going through the same storm (thing) they are, and see us not wiggin out, but rather trusting in our God, then they too will come to want to know about our God.

One example was about 15 years ago I was diagnosed with Prostate Cancer. Also at the time the job I was at, I had a lot of friends because I had worked there for over 15 years, including those in upper management, who all knew I was a Christian. I also remember the day that I told them about it, several of them started to cry (including those in upper management), and most were crushed. But God (love those two words) gave me a peace about it, and with that peace I was able to comfort my friends. Which reminds me of what the bible says about that.

† **2 Corinthians 1:3-4** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*

The word “*comfort/comforted*” is mentioned in these two verses five times, which would tell us that we need to comfort others with the same comfort God has given us. And that was what I was doing with my friends. Some even said to me, “*Steve, you are the one with the cancer and we should be comforting you, but you are comforting us instead.*” Which is a 100% God thing, because it wasn’t of my own strength, but of the Holy Spirit in me that gave me that strength and comfort so I could comfort my friends. But not only comfort them, but to also show them my Awesome God.

So let me ask you, what has been going on in your life, be it work, home, school, even in church or in your neighborhood, that God has allowed to happen so that you could reveal Him (God) to those around you? But are you, or are you going through the same storm they are calling upon their god for help, or are you just sleeping, not showing them your God; Therefore, they can’t see your God in the storm?

- † **Jonah 1:5** *Then the mariners were afraid; and every man cried out to his god, and threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten the load. But Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep.*
- † **Psalm 66:16** *Come and hear, all you who fear God, And I will declare what He has done for my soul.*
- † **Psalm 71:16-17** *I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD; I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only. O God, You have taught me from my youth; And to this day I declare Your wondrous works.*
- † **Psalm 73:28** *But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, That I may declare all Your works.*