

REACHING OUT FOR CHRIST

2

**PROBLEM - OPPRESSIVE SURROUNDINGS
ENVIRONMENTAL DIFFICULTIES
THE INCONSISTENT
DISCIPLE**

"Immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand" Mat 14:22-33

*Result - An Inner strength
Christ as - The Powerful Saviour
"The wind and waves ceased"*

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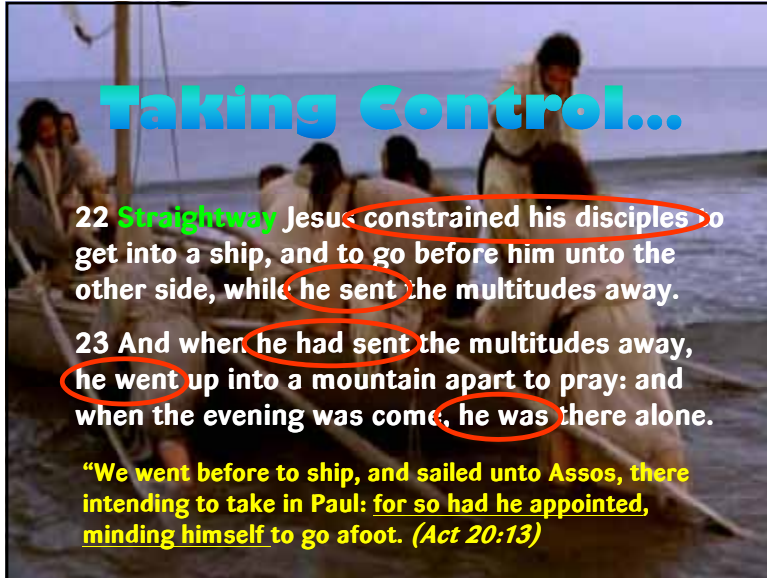
"Immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand" Mat 14:22-33



How to handle storms

The eagle flies through storms while other birds seek shelter and animals run and hide. With just a slight adjustment of his wings, the eagle can fly almost motionless even in the face of great winds. He uses the strong winds of the storm to lift himself higher and higher until he rises above the clouds.

The eagle has no power to stop a storm, but he knows how to overcome without fear.

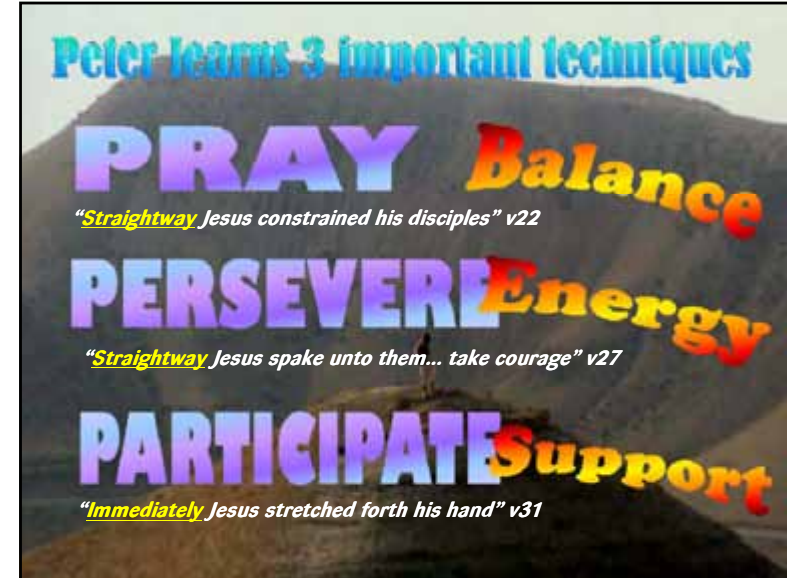


Taking Control...

22 **Straightway** Jesus **constrained his disciples** to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while **he sent** the multitudes away.

23 And when **he had sent** the multitudes away, **he went up** into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, **he was there alone**.

"We went before to ship, and sailed unto Assos, there intending to take in Paul: for so had he appointed, minding himself to go afoot. (Act 20:13)"



Peter learns 3 important techniques

PRAY *Balance*

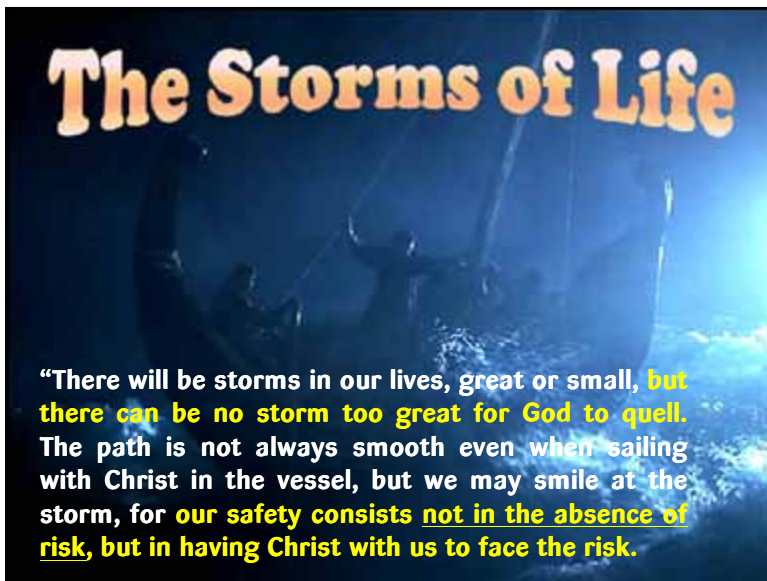
"Straightway Jesus constrained his disciples" v22

PERSEVERE *Energy*

"Straightway Jesus spake unto them... take courage" v27

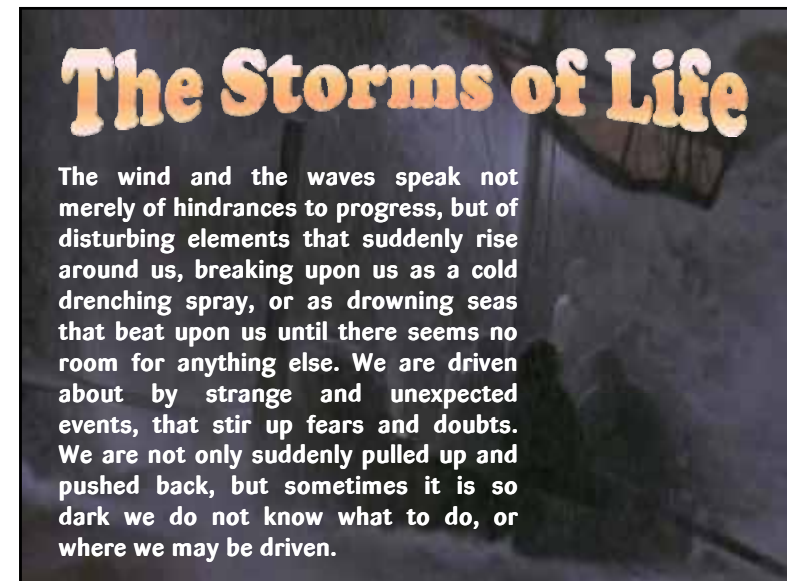
PARTICIPATE *Support*

"Immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand" v31



The Storms of Life

"There will be storms in our lives, great or small, but there can be no storm too great for God to quell. The path is not always smooth even when sailing with Christ in the vessel, but we may smile at the storm, for our safety consists not in the absence of risk, but in having Christ with us to face the risk."



The Storms of Life

The wind and the waves speak not merely of hindrances to progress, but of disturbing elements that suddenly rise around us, breaking upon us as a cold drenching spray, or as drowning seas that beat upon us until there seems no room for anything else. We are driven about by strange and unexpected events, that stir up fears and doubts. We are not only suddenly pulled up and pushed back, but sometimes it is so dark we do not know what to do, or where we may be driven.

Often from the deck of a vessel may be seen some object or dark spectre, or the flashing gleaming lights of the phosphorescence, which strikes awe into the hearts even of the mariners.

In the same way Christ is often mistaken by us *when he comes in a shape we do not expect* – in afflictions, bereavements and other troubles; but if we only realised his tender love, how much lighter the burden of the sorrow would be!”

Pg 317 Lessons from Nature. Sis Alice Hopkins

