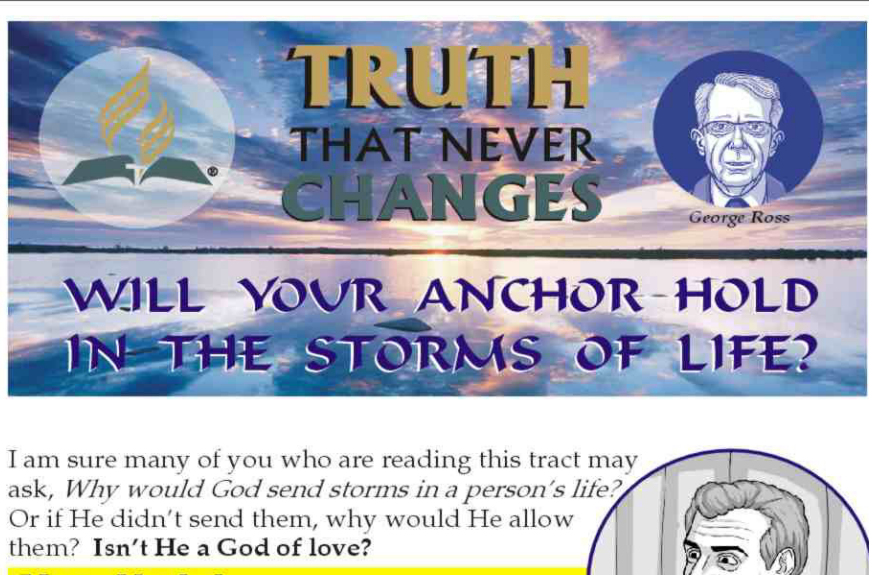


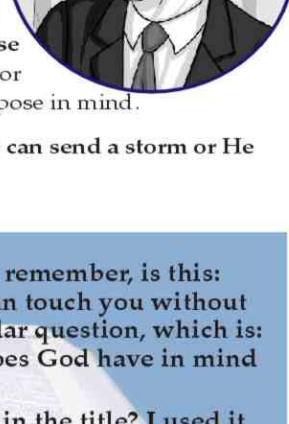


I am sure many of you who are reading this tract may ask, *Why would God send storms in a person's life?* Or if He didn't send them, why would He allow them? Isn't He a God of love?

Yes, He is!

Yet the reason I'm bringing this up is because God is always in control, therefore, God always has a purpose in whatever He does, or allows. So, when God starts or allows a storm in a person's life, He has a specific purpose in mind.

What, then, is God's purpose? Always remember: He can send a storm or He can allow one at any time He chooses!

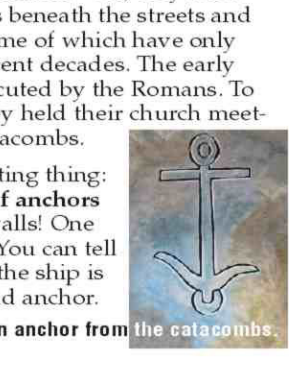


Yet what is encouraging, and important to remember, is this: When you're one of His children, nothing can touch you without His express Will. But back to the million-dollar question, which is: What is God's purpose in all of this? What does God have in mind for you and me?

Well, firstly, why did I use the word *anchor* in the title? I used it simply because I want you to have an intelligent, logical and truthful answer to God's purpose for you and me - as found in the Bible! Put another way, what is it about the Bible that reveals this? And then, what is the Bible anyway? And how is it that the Bible anchors you in times of storms?

In simple terms, the Bible is the written record of God's unfolding revelation of Himself, through His Word, in nature, in history, by the prophets, and ultimately through the coming of his Son Jesus Christ into the world. This anchor in the life of the believer is the Bible, the Word of God.

I trust that this short tract will help you to understand what the Bible really is. It's not just paper printed with black ink. So, what is this book we call the Bible? What is this anchor?



And how does this anchor help you and me walk through the storms in life, that, whether we like it or not, we are going to meet?



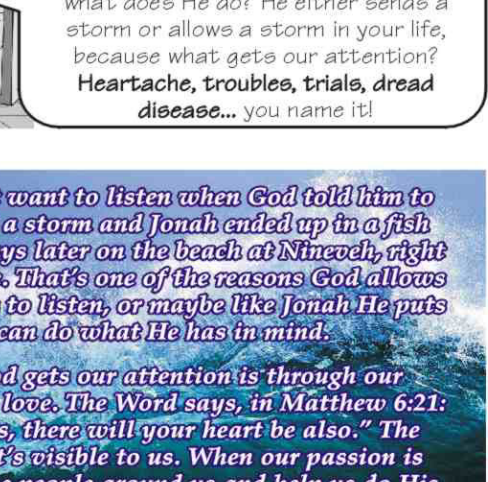
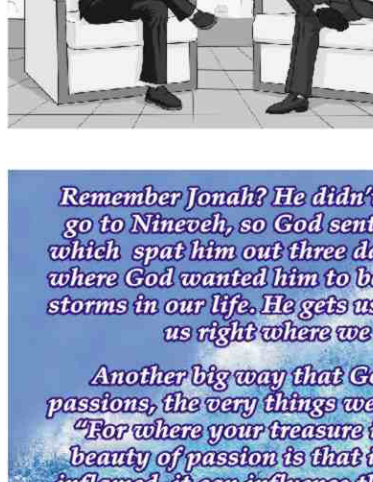
A tunnel in the catacombs.

Heard of the catacombs? Yes, they are a maze of burial tunnels beneath the streets and buildings of Rome, some of which have only been discovered in recent decades. The early Christians were persecuted by the Romans. To evade the soldiers, they held their church meetings secretly in the catacombs.

And here's the interesting thing: there are 66 pictures of anchors carved into the rock walls! One picture shows a ship. You can tell a storm is raging, but the ship is safe, kept so by its solid anchor.



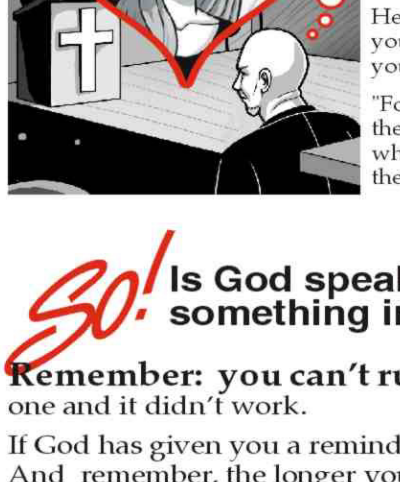
A carving of an anchor from the catacombs.



TO REALIZE THE WORTH OF THE ANCHOR WE NEED TO FEEL THE STORM.

What does God have in mind for you and me when storms enter our life? Well, the first thing that comes to mind is:

#1 He wants to get our attention

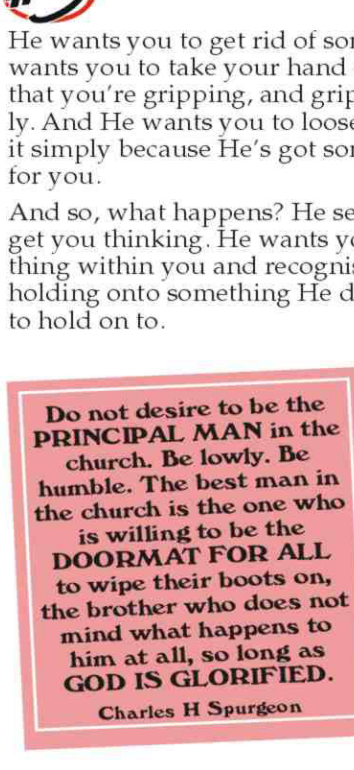


That is, everything can be humming along just fine. Let's say that you're a member in good standing in a Bible-believing church, and you're just sort of drifting along and everything's hunky-dory. Yet God has a purpose for your life, and so what does He do? He either sends a storm or allows a storm in your life, because what gets our attention? Heartache, troubles, trials, dread disease... you name it!

Remember Jonah? He didn't want to listen when God told him to go to Nineveh, so God sent a storm and Jonah ended up in a fish which spat him out three days later on the beach at Nineveh, right where God wanted him to be. That's one of the reasons God allows storms in our life. He gets us to listen, or maybe like Jonah He puts us right where we can do what He has in mind.

Another big way that God gets our attention is through our passions, the very things we love. The Word says, in Matthew 6:21: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." The beauty of passion is that it's visible to us. When our passion is inflamed, it can influence the people around us and help us do His Will using the talents He gave us.

#2 Because God wants to address some sin in our life



You've enjoyed something to develop in your life... You know it doesn't belong there, you know it's not pleasing to God, you know it doesn't fit who you are, and so what happens? He sends a storm to get you to listen, to look at your life, and to recognise what's going on in your life that shouldn't be there.

"For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit." (Romans 8:5)

SO! Is God speaking to you about something in your life?

Remember: you can't run from God! Jonah tried that one and it didn't work.

If God has given you a reminder, He wants you to deal with it. And remember, the longer you hang onto whatever He wants you to get rid of, the stronger the storm is going to become. It may begin with a minor event, but it just may end up as a tsunami, for the simple reason that you refuse to acknowledge that God is up to something in your life.



Some people experience their storms deep in themselves, without telling anyone. It's not so much that it's a secret, it's just that there are some things you simply don't talk about. People face those storms, and they face them privately and silently. And yet they're suffering, whether they tell anybody or not.

Some storms last for a brief moment; some just go on and on. The question is: how do you respond? How do you ride through the storms in your life? Just hear what God is saying to you!

You must be DIVORCED from your sin, or you cannot be MARRIED to Christ.

Charles H Spurgeon

#3 God wants you to surrender something

He wants you to get rid of something. He wants you to take your hand off something that you're gripping, and gripping very tightly. And He wants you to loosen your grip on it simply because He's got something better for you.



And so, what happens? He sends a storm to get you thinking. He wants you to look at that thing within you and recognise that you're holding onto something He doesn't want you to hold on to.

Do not desire to be the PRINCIPAL MAN in the church. Be humble. The best man in the church is the one who is willing to be the DOORMAT FOR ALL to wipe their boots on, the brother who does not mind what happens to him at all, so long as GOD IS GLORIFIED.

Charles H Spurgeon

ALL OF US HAVE BEEN THERE. So you can sit there and think that doesn't really apply to me. YES, IT DOES.

We've all been there. The sin of pride for example is an excessive preoccupation with the self and one's own importance, achievements, status or possessions. This sin is considered rebellion against God, because it attributes to oneself the honour and glory that only God is due.

What are you holding onto that God doesn't approve of?

#4 He wants to conform us to His image



In Romans 12:2 God tells us to stop being conformed to the likeness of the world: "And be ye transformed by the renewing of your heart that you may prove what is the good and perfect will of God".

That is God's ultimate goal: to shape us in the image of his Son.

In his letter to Roman Christians, Paul writes: "For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son." (Romans 8:29) In 1 Timothy 1:5, Paul adds: "The goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."

Divine Guidance will never come to those whose primary goal is not first and foremost to conform to the image of God.

So what does God do?

- One He gets our attention.
- Two He deals with our sin.
- Three He brings us to surrender.
- Four He inspires us to conform to His image.

#5 He has a Purpose: He wants to equip us to serve Him

So, I ask, what storms are you going through in life? What is giving you a real hard time right now? What is it that you'd like to change if you could? What is bringing you, pain, heartache, suffering and disappointment? And maybe even anger? Maybe you're even angry at God about something that He has allowed in your life.

Then ask God: If these are Your Purposes, are You trying to get my attention? If so, You've got it, I'm all ears! Is there sin in my life? Show me exactly what it is. What is it You want me to surrender? Or maybe: What do You need to change in my life? God, are You trying to equip me for Your Purpose, to serve You?

Usually, we don't have to ask Him to show us. We usually know what is the matter. Humble yourself before God, talk less and give God time to speak to you. God wants to speak to you personally, just give Him a chance - and listen!

My dear friend! God has created us for a reason, and there is a meaning and purpose for your life. And because we believe that, there is nothing more important for you than finding out what that purpose is! God's purpose is one and the same, whether He revealed it during His earthly life, speaking to the paralysed or the disciples, or whether He is speaking to us today. **Get busy for the Lord!** (I'm paraphrasing James 1:22.) *Life is about letting God use you for His Purposes, not you using Him for your purpose.*

Here is some gentle encouragement from God's Word. It is from Hebrews 6:19.

We have this HOPE as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.

The Conclusion

You've read this tract and hopefully understood it alright, because Jesus does not allow His hearers to make of His Words what they will, picking and choosing from them whatever they find helpful, and testing them to see if they work. Jesus knows only one possibility: **simple surrender and obedience.** Not interpreting it or applying it, but doing and obeying it. That is the only way to hear His Word.

The storm can rage over the house, yet our Anchor will hold in the storms of life which His Word have created.

Jesus has spoken, His is the Word, ours is the obedience.

Why not contact Gideon and learn more about this Blessed Hope and our anchor in the storms of life?

WhatsApp/Signal/Telegram:

+27 82 444 8189

Gideon Pelser

AWR Evangelism Trainer

Gideon@awr.org

The Bible, and the Bible alone

TRACT (R) GEORGE ROSS, GIDEON PELSER

Got a question? Check: Gideon@PleaseConsider.Life