A Storm Is Coming

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Bow your heads. Dear Father, I just pray that upon this day that you anoint my mind, my spirit and my words. And that every word that I shall speak be of you and from you. I pray that you open the hearts and minds of the people this day and forever more. To be able to receive this word that it may impact their hearts, change their lives and bring them closer to you. And thy Son Jesus his name, we pray. Amen.

Welcome to Brothers of the Word, because brother you need the Word. We're not trying to hide it. A national weather service meteorologist say it a few ours ago. What we're seeing in some of our models is a storm at in intensity that we have not seen in this part of the country in the past century. This hurricane which is already cause 40 deaths in the Caribbean is still on track to turn toward us tomorrow, that’s tomorrow. And if that happens, it will meet up with a winter storm coming from the west and a cold air coming down from Canada and in addition there's a full moon tomorrow. That affects the tides and storms surge is all along the coastal areas. The meteorologist recalling this hurricane a potential Frankenstorm. And I want to talk to you for a few minutes today from the subject, there's a storm coming. There's a storm coming. Now actually, this message today is taken from a message that Pastor James preached 12 years ago called the “Perfect Storm”.

And the perfect storm in that message, it was a message, a parable from the movie called the “Perfect Storm” that was actually a true documentary from the storm that had hit the eastern of the United States, kill many people and it was this fishing vessel that went out in the storm and all of the crew was lost. And James preached really as his first message after he was ordained the Perfect Storm. And God had told me to tell James to preach the Perfect Storm in four weeks. And four weeks after I told him that, a storm hit the U.S. As a matter of fact, on that day it hit snow two weeks here in Atlanta. And a snow storm hit the U.S. that was the worst snow storm in America in the past 104 years. That was 12 years ago. And God say it for today that just to take three points James to sermon the Perfect Storm and talked to you today because there's a storm coming. And I would advise all of you to go to brothersoftheword.com, click on sermon search and just put in the -- from 12 years ago and you can hear all of it and its entirety but people literally and figuratively, there is a storm coming. And an ocean hurricane is so powerful that all of the combined nuclear arsenals of the U.S. and the former Soviet Union, if you put all of our nuclear weapons, all of the United States and Russia, all of it together, all of it at it speak.

All of the nuclear weapons that the U.S. and Russia has ever possessed is not as strong as the energy in an ocean hurricane for one day. You can't fool with God. All of man’s stuff, all of its technology, all of its power, all of the years of research and science and nuclear armament build up, add it up together won't even power a hurricane one single day. And a ship was sinking in the middle of a storm and the captain called out to the crew and say it, “Does anybody on board know how to pray?
Does anybody know how to pray? The ship is going down, does anybody know how to pray?” And one man came forward and he said, “Yes sir, I know how to pray. I pray morning. I pray in afternoon. I pray at night. I know how to call on the Lord. I know how to pray.” And the captain said, “Wonderful, wonderful, wonderful. You pray while the rest of us put on our lifejackets we’re one short.” And I want tell you today how to put on a real lifejacket because people a storm is coming.

Now, I'm not particularly talking about the Franken storm that all of the weather channels are talking about. I'm talking about the storms of life. And they call these storms “Perfect Storms” because often there's more than one meteorological element that combines. Here we've got one front coming from the west and we've got one front coming from the north and we've got one coming out for over the Caribbean, and there we got the moon that's full, that's will have the tides rolling. We've got basically -- you've got something coming from every area. A real true storm often times, you got stuff coming at you and this coming from more in one direction. It's coming from the left, and the right, from the top, from the bottom, from the front and from the back. You've got some tides with a perfect storm, all of the three major areas of life, all of them appears to go to wrong, all at the same time. Your money messes up, your health messes up, your relationship messes up, all of that stuff can sometimes go wrong at the same time. So even though there is a real physical storm on the way that's due here tomorrow. Some of you are in the midst of life storms right now. And I want to just give you three of the lessons that came from James’ sermon 12 years ago called the “Perfect Storm” and hopefully these three lessons will help you have a real lifejacket in life. So you will not drown and you will not be destroyed.

Lesson number one of surviving a storm, is that you must be sensitive to the spirit and the will of God. Even in the movie, the perfect storm, three of the sailors who had given, who was called premonitions. Two had premonitions where they one said when he got on the ship, he just felt a cold wind coming and blow through him, he knew something was wrong because of that wind and he stepped off. See sometimes, God will send you a warning if something didn’t feel right in your spirit. It's too late for you to get and say, “I knew some wouldn’t write with that rascal.” God sends you the warning in your spirit before you step on the ship. And if you do step on it, he sends you the warning and the warning of the premonition is the sign for you to step back and to step off, and to get off, and to get out of the way. You've got to be sensitive to the spirit. In the movie, one of the man’s girl friend had a dream and she told them the dream but he ignores the dream and still wants to head on the ship and ended up perishing.

God will send you signs but you have to be sensitive to the spirit. He'll send you a sign. Sometimes my mother, a couple of weeks ago, called me and she said, “Son”, she said, “I woke up this morning without knowing that I’d needed to get up and walk.” I said, “Well, mother, did you hear God’s voice?” She said, “No, no, no.” I said,
“Did you have a dream?” she said, “No, no, no, no.” I said, “Did it open to his script?” She said, “No, no, no,” She said, “I woke up and I had a knowing, I just knew it.” Sometimes God -- you’ve got to be sensitive to the spirit and mama got up. And mama went to walking, and mama still walking, and mama said, “Now, I've got on me a program where several times a week because God put the knowing in my knower.” And when God put a knowing in my knower, I got up and got to walking. And you see, mama nearly 80 years old and she can just about out walking about in this church.

And she’s going stay in good shape because God gave her a premonition. He put a knowing in her knower. You got to be sensitive to the will and to the spirit of God. And when you are sensitive, God will protect you from a lot of stuff. This is a brother point, a lot of stuff God won't bring you through. He will let you avoid it all together. See, it's one thing and it's good for God to bring you through, but to be honest about it, people I'd rather not have to go through the mess to begin with. And when you can listen and understand and hear the spirit and voice of God, he will keep you from a lot of things. I used to fly a plane and they were always two things they told you to keep out a weather mess because weather will kill a lot pilots. Two things they always told me to keep out the whether mess. The first thing is number one, always check the weather before you fly. See, just playing all wisdom of checking what's out there, what's in there using some plane discretion, using some plane isn't always you do a thorough weather analysis before you ever take off into plane. And the next thing they said that can save your neck is what's called a 180.

Now, 180 is simply this, if you're flying alone no matter what altitude you fly in air. And you see a storm up ahead, the thing that can save your neck is a 180. See sometimes, we have too much pride. We got too much macho. We got too much stubbornness and we see a storm. And we went right on in to the storm and a 180 and so many life situations, you just need to -- just do this. Now they have military maneuvers and you know with military you do a sharp and you do this and you turn around and you will snap. I don’t care how you turn around. I don’t care that whether you do a smooth, crisp, military turn around. I don’t care what you do a Holy Ghost turn around. I don’t care whether you just spin around. I don’t care whether you have to crawl around. There are some situations in life people that will save your neck, it’ll save your money, it’ll save your relationship, it’ll save a whole lot of stuff on your life, if you just did a 180 turn completely around. That’s what Joseph had to do when he was in -- wife. He couldn’t sit argue would attempting woman who was trying to get him in the bed. Joseph of had to do a 180, he had to run out the house naked and to be leave his clothes do a 180 and get out of the storm so that it would not destroy him.

You’ve got to listen to the spirit even in business. As we had our revival, a few days ago, I was sitting there and I heard God speak to me. We have the business
anointing every January 1st at eight o'clock. And we'll sometimes anoint up to a thousand business people and God says for this year, “I don’t want you to anoint like you've anointed in the past years. I want you to anoint people this year for survival.” Now, some will say “look, I'm in business, I don't want to be anointed for survival. I want to be anointed from prosperity.” That’s why you’ve got to be sensitive to the will and to the spirit of God. Sometimes, what you want -- people sometimes when you're getting rid and going to a storm, there's no time for fishing. You got to survive. God says, “I want you to anoint people this year for survival because there are some people in business right now that won't be in business this time next year.” And they need to be anointed just for survival it's everybody won't solo the prosperity but you’ve got understand there are seasons in life.

And people, I'm here to tell you, God has sent me here today, there's a storm coming, and in the midst of a storm you need a different type of anointing then, you need in the midst of harvest time. So he said, “For this year, you shall anoint them for survival.” Point number one, you must be sensitive to the spirit and will of God. When Jonah was on the ship in the midst of a storm, Jonah was running from God. He was sensitive to God’s spirit, he just didn't want to what God said. And this is another brother point. Disobedience leaves us powerless before the storms. When we've run from God -- and do you know when you read the Book of Jonah and then talk about Jonah, everyone on the ship was praying to their God but Jonah. Jonah knew he had messed up. He knew he was running from God. It even takes your prayer ability away from your people when you're not sensitive and when you're not going to obey the will of God. There's some but you can't pray right because first thing God will ask you to do, “Well, get back in obedience to me. Come back to me. Do what say as right.” And see, one of the science that we may have, that we maybe running from God is if we don’t pray anymore. Maybe even you're mad at God because some stuff that has happen in your life or maybe you just don’t want to give your sin.

Regardless of the reason, the result is the same. Disobedience leaves us powerless before the storms of life. Lesson number two, is to be in the right kind of boat. Now, if you notice in the movie there was a coastguard ship was -- that ship was in the same storm that destroyed other vessels but it went out and rescue because it was built for the storm. I recently watch the television program called “Hurricane Hunters” and hurricane hunters was a story of group or division of the U.S. Air Force and they actually -- their job was to fly in the hurricanes but they were in a big C130 special six-bladed turboprop full engine plane, it was design and built to handle the riggers of a hurricane. So, they would actually go out looking for a hurricane, go right in the middle of it, they won't be shaken around in the plane but the plane was built for it. People, you got to be in the right kind of a ship to be able to handle a hurricane. I had a boat once called the “Stainless.” It was two engine twin engine boat but it just with worth of a quarter. And we took it down the Florida when they had drove way out by 25 miles in the ocean. I wouldn't worry
about because it got two engines. Both engines went out, I mean both engines went out, I had to jump out in the water in the middle of the ocean and get try to work on the motor.

I finally got one motor crank that got back got stuck in the Mars because it wouldn’t have run out. James and I were out I the boat but people to wrong kind of boat. Even in good weather, the wrong kind of boat can mess you up. But let me tell you, you see people, this is a vessel. These are vessels of clay. A boat is called a vessel, an airplane is called a vessel, the cars of vessel, these are vessels of clay. When our vessel is Christ-strengthened, you’ve strengthened us to go through the storm. And if you're vessel is not hurricane-ready, you can't handle a storm. I want to be like in that big C130 that if I have to deal in the coastguard cutter. I want to be in a ship that is capable and designed and strengthened to handle the storm. So when the storm comes, and people that is one thing about life that’s one thing about nature. Storms will come and sometimes you can't even run from the storm. You have to endure and go through the storm. You got to make sure that you got -- that you vessel is prepared. I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me. He can have you prepared for anything that you have to go through.

When you're sensitive to the spirit, God will have you ready for the storm. And often times we don't even understand those leadings. Within my company, God has given me a certain set of guidelines that we must follow. One of the guidelines is everything we create has to be the best on the market, has to be the best value on the market. We can't make any medium products. I didn't understand that command until we saw the market collapsing but we were still growing. And it wasn't until I analyzed and I saw that the reason, we were still growing was because there were no products like ours. They were the best. So even when stuff was collapsing, we were still doing well. This year has been one of the worst economic years in the field that my company is in. It is been our best year in the history of the company. Because when you listen to and you're sensitive for the will of God, God says “Boy, a storm is coming.” And he didn’t even tell me this is what you need to do to prepare for the storm. He just said, “This is what you need to do.” It’s not till you get in the middle of the storm that you begin to understand. This is why God told me to do this. God will keep you from some things if you were simply sensitive to his spirit.

Lesson number three, choose your captain wisely. Be careful who you choose as a captain of your boat because wherever the captain of your ship is going, guess where you were going. In your job, choose the captain of the company carefully because whatever that captain takes you that’s where you were going. In your church, choose the captain of the ship carefully because wherever that captain takes you, you would have tendency to drift there. In your family, before you may release, you need to really choose your captain well. When a man asks a woman “Will you marry me?” What he’s really saying is, “Will you get on the ship where I am the
captain? Will you get on the ship where I am the captain?” Now, women, when you get on a man ship, you got to remember he is supposed to be the captain. Because if you reverse the order then it’s no longer a ship according to God spirit and will. And then you get in some real dangerous waters. This is another brother point. When your boat doesn’t have the captain as God has instructed, your boat isn’t built to God specification. And when the crew rebels against the captain orders that’s called mutiny. How many of us has mutiny against God? Whoa! My goodness, I mean you’re might well going to raise your hand, I mean you have mutiny against, you have just rebel against the instructions that God has given.

I don’t know what’s going to hit the United States tomorrow. I don’t know whether it’s going to be the true Franken storm that so many of the weather analyst or predicting. Well, I don’t know whether just completely blow past us but what I do know is that a storm is coming, and I do know we need to get prepared. I do know we need to become sensitive to the will and to the spirit of God. I do know we need to choose our boat carefully. We need to choose our house carefully. Jesus says -- he gave the parable of the man who built his house upon the sand. We need to choose or vessel carefully and unless God build a house. It will not stand when the storm has come. And we need to choose the captain wisely. People, a storm -- a storm is coming. I want to just show you, you put up the picture of the album cover from years ago. This is a picture from an album 25 years ago. This was our last album cover. I’m telling you about being sensitive to the will and spirit of God. Now, that’s the picture of the album cover 25 years ago. On my left is my brother Bernard, on the right that’s me.

Notice what I’m standing in front of. Notice what I’m standing in front of now. Now I did not design this redesigned sit. We broth in an expert who did that and he put a brick wall there. And for some reason, I did design that album cover 25 years ago, and somehow I had a leading to put myself in front of a brick wall. Now we had another big -- it was called the -- it’s a big light box that we have behind and they just went working on video, we had to take them down, they just didn’t look right on video. And they wouldn’t work and they couldn’t work because that was not the vision of the will. And God gave a vision 25 years ago. And even when I did that album cover, it’d look funny for me to be in front of a brick wall but it was premonition. It was a knowing of what would be 25 years later. So God sometimes would give you a glimpse and a leading and a knowledge and when puts this into you, follow it, less you perish in the storm. All storms are called “Acts of God” all of them are acts of God. But God has always protected his people. He always leads us away either through the storm, around the storm or over the storm. God will take you through. God will lead you through. God will protect you and even when you hear all of the weather reports, don’t be afraid because there's a storm coming, but make sure you are in the house, in the will and the way of God.
We thank you for joining us today at Brothers of the Word. You can go to brothersoftheword.com, listen to this sermon and it's entirely and listen to the original sermon “The Perfect Storm” preached 12 years ago and its entirety absolutely free of charge. Thank you for joining us today at Brothers of the Word, because brother you need the Word. Amen, amen and amen.

And this actually was deviation from the series in which I have been preaching called “The Nine Parts of Covenant.” But obedience is a part of that covenant and there’s a part of a covenant of God that when you are in covenant with the creator of the storm. He knows where every storm is going to be, when it's going to be, how intense it's going to be. When you are in covenant with the creator of the storm, there's the peace that comes just because you are in covenant, just because you're in the will of God and I can go anywhere. And in any storm some people got terrified in the middle of a storm. When it begins to lightning and thunder -- now I don’t advise you being stupid. I was out on the lake one day and boat and a storm came up and my children were there.

I wouldn’t really worry about that I was headed in and we had parked the boat at the dock and tied it up, and we were slowly getting off. I wouldn’t worry about it, the storm was coming. I had come in but there was a big flash of lightning and I heard electricity ripple across the water. I said, “Boy, let's hurry up.” Now see, God -- I had no question that I was under the protection of God but I said “Boys, let's hurry up.” There are situations in life and I have no doubt unprotected, but sometime I got to hurry up. I have to get out of harms way. God gives you a natural wisdom. My mother is protected but God gave her a natural knowing to get up and walk. And when we follow God’s way no matter what the storm is. Because there are so many areas in life we don't have control over. One area you do not have control over is another person. You don't have control -- that you don’t have control over the economy. There are so many things would coming up with a political election and a lot of talk and focus is on the politics. To be honest about it, you don't have any control to that either.

When you really boil it down and true -- yes, do your responsibility to vote but you don’t have any control all over that. This state is already going to go but a particular candidate and nothing you can do about it. This state is not one of the swing states then you can’t do about it. Don’t worry about stuff you can't do anything about. Our God is going to hold you responsible for this stuff, you can't do something about it, and that's a big long list. That's why I don't too much worry about too much in the political stuff because I got enough of my own stuff one to be honest about it. I really do, and I want to stay in the graces and the protection of God, and I want to stay out of the destruction of storms. And people, there is just a peace that comes. When you walk in hand in hand with the man of who makes the storms because he will tell you, “Son, this is about to come and I want you to get out of the way.” or “Son, this is about to come bend down the hatches.”
And God will tell you one or two things about those storms. He leads you to get out of the way of it or bend down the hatches because some stuff you got to go through. You just read some stuff you absolutely must without question. One thing after storm everything is cleaner. It will blows all the loose stuff out the way. So if something is not solidly grounded, storm will blow it away. Sometimes, God has to send storms into our world to clean up some mess. To blow some stuff away, to destroy some stuff that has gotten corrupted. Sometimes, the storms must come and you in the middle of it but God will protect you and he will whisper into your ear “Peace, be still.” This is the vessel and within this vessel, often the storm ranges. That’s why it’s so similar to what happens on a real storm. The wind begins to blow it and the waters begin to rise. The minute you get a storm in your body, in your world, your blood pressure will rise and your breathing rate will increase. The minute you lose control and it’s called a tempest. The minute you lose temper, the temper ranges. And Jesus was able to say “Peace, be still.” And you say, “Well, I can't calm to ocean.” No, but you can calm this vessel. Peace, be still. Calm your breathing. Calm your pressure. A storm is coming and when you have got peace -- well I could tell some stories about some. I don't know whether I told you the story. I wrote a mountain this issue about it when God just had me going out and ride my motorcycle one day.

And I looked up because motorcycles are very much like flying a plane. You got to be cognisant of the weather. And I looked up that morning and I go, “Lord, it's going to rain.” He just, “Ride your motorcycle.” I said, “It's going to rain.” Ge said, “Ride your motorcycle.” And I heard it’s just that clear and I got on my motorcycle and I drove it to work, because I would rather be on my motorcycle in the rain, in the will of God that in my car dry out of the will of God. And when I left work that day, it wasn’t raining but on my way home the bottom fell out of the clouds, fell out of the clouds. And there I am riding along and after about fifteen seconds it just didn’t matter because just soaked, it's like I just literally got in a pool and step to hours to just soak. And I heard God began to speak to me as I'm riding along. He said, “Understand this always. I ride the storm. I create the storm and as long as I am with you, no matter what the weather is like, you'll be all right.” And once I got that revelation -- first of all, I was already soaked so I couldn’t get any wetter. I just began smiling, just driving along just as comfortable in the rain on that motorcycle as could be.

Some of you all end so deep, you can't get any wetter. You can't get anymore in deep. Your relationship you can't get any worst, you just soaked. So, sometimes if there's nothing you can do about it, I mean, do I was heading home to get out of the rain but till I got home, there was nothing I could do about it. So, I just roll with a smile on my face and the protection of God all around me, and once the revelation came, the ride became enjoyable because I was riding in the rain with the one who loves me. And it changed my whole perspective. People, there's a storm coming, but
you don’t have to be destroyed or disrupt by the storm. When you hear all of the stuff going around, when you see the economy going -- I don’t care who is in office where, peace is in you, it’s not in Washington. Washington will never mandate your peace. It will never mandate your prosperity. It will never -- there was big controversy about prayer in the schools, that ain't where supposed to be first. That’s not even to be honest about, that’s not the school’s responsibility. It's really not, that's not the school's responsibility. Where is the main responsibility of prayer? It's in your house. It’s in your house.

And if parents would have the children praying at home everyday, we don’t have to worry about school that mom and dad are not praying. So, if mom and dad are not praying, why in the world are you going to mandate it on a teacher, and mom and dad are not prying. But that’s maybe controversial to some folks but you know it’s true. People, we have got to strengthen our vessels because a storm is coming, and I'm here to declare to you don’t worry about the storm as long as you are with and following the rider and the maker of the storm.