

Prerequisites for a Storm

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Luke 8:22-23 (NIV)

One day Jesus said to His disciples, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So, they got into a boat and set out. As they sailed, He fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.

"Everyone you meet is either coming out of, or headed into, a storm." That's not the most encouraging quote I've ever heard, and maybe that wasn't the originators intention when they said it. What the quote does offer is a reminder that life comes with storms. I would like to suggest that since we know they're coming, we can fulfill what I'll call some "prerequisites" – a thing that is required as a prior condition for something else to happen or exist (the *coming* storm)

In a storm is where we encounter Jesus and the disciples in this familiar biblical text. It's unclear whether the skies looked intimidating when everyone got onto the boat, but consistent with that quote I used to introduce this devotion, the disciples were heading into a storm." Whether you're coming out of a storm or heading into a storm I want to offer some prerequisites "for life's storms."

Here's the first one: **simply KNOW Jesus**. You've likely already fulfilled this requirement. The disciples knew Jesus. They had to. The only reason they were on the boat was based on the invitation from this "Savior they knew." Just "knowing Jesus" is a great prerequisite for handling life's coming storm.

Here's another prerequisite: **closely hold onto the knowledge that the Lord is always with you**. He was on this boat when the storm came, and He is with each of us when our storms come. "Where can we go," the psalmist declares, "from God's presence" – up, down, in trouble, good, and bad times – He's always there. Walk confidently in the knowledge that The Lord is always with you.

A final prerequisite might be the toughest one to fulfill: **never let go of your faith**. That's how this scenario ends with Jesus calming the storm and reminding the disciples to "never let go of their faith." I call this the toughest prerequisite, because we can KNOW JESUS, realize HE IS WITH US, but overlook the fact that handling storms requires FAITH.

Everyone you meet, yourself included, is either coming out of a storm or headed into a storm. Hold closely to these prerequisites for your STORM EXPERIENCE.