

Extreme Family Makeover

Storm proofing your home

Psalms 127:1

Winston Churchill spoke these powerful words during World War II. He said, “We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing ground, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the fields.” Does that sound like your family at times? We all go through seasons of fighting as a family.

If you are facing storms in your family today I want you to know you’re in good company. Listen to this:

Adam and Eve were kicked out of the Garden of Eden for disobedience and one of their sons murdered their own brother. Isaac and Rebekah played favorites with their kids. Joseph lived in a family plagued with so many problems that his own brothers sold him into slavery and told their father that wild animals killed him. And you thought you had problems. All of these issues can be traced back to a sin issue.

And then there is Job. Job lived close to the Lord. You might even say he was at church every time the doors were open. But in one day he lost all of his children, all his wealth and his health.

The Bible is full of stories just like this who suffered through the storms of life. No family is immune from the storms of life. They are simply a fact of life. Every family here today is facing a storm or can see it coming. It could be financial storm, or your wondering how much longer you can hang on in your marriage. It may be that you are burdened with having to take care of a family member that cannot take care of themselves. There are so many families that are operating on such a high level of stress that many are going up in flames.

Storms come in all shapes and sizes. Some are near misses on your home, but others make direct hits and do a lot of damage.

So with that said, what can you do to storm for proof your home?

1. Accept that storms are a reality.

- Storms are going to come, and anyone who thinks they can escape them is living in a dream world. In Matthew 7:24-27 Jesus spoke about the way storms hit a house.
- The difference in this passage was not in the storms, but where the homes were built. What I'm amazed at is the denial that so many of us live in when it concerns these storms. Can the storm of divorce threaten your marriage? Our first thought is, NO!!!! NEVER. We have a healthy marriage. But it's happening every day across our nation. Can financial stress take out your marriage? You bet it can.
- The reasons for our denial may vary. Some are too proud to admit they are in the storm and instead of reaching for help they revert to covering it up.
- The first and best way to prepare your family for storms is to accept their reality. Ecclesiastes 9:2-3 "All share a common destiny, the righteous and the wicked, the good and the bad, the clean and unclean, those who offer sacrifices and those who do not. As it is with good men, so with the sinner; as it is with those who take oaths, so with those who are afraid to take them. This is the evil that happens under the sun: The same destiny overtakes all. The hearts of men, moreover, all full of evil and there is madness in their hearts while they live, and afterward they join the dead."
- So what does this mean, it means that your faith, big or small is NOT immune from trouble. Christians get cancer. Christians still die. Christians have car accidents. Christians lose their homes. Christians have kids that get hooked on dope. Christian people will struggle, suffer, will weep, will worry and feel the depths of despair and all of this can happen to you. The very best thing you can do is accept their reality. Once you do that then you are ready for the next thing which is:

2. Be proactive.

- To be proactive means we are responsible for our lives. It means that you're not going to be controlled by your feelings and emotions. Our behavior is a function of our decisions, not conditions. In other words, you choose what you do.
- Look at the word "Responsibility" It's the ability to choose your own individual response. Look at the people who live up and down the coast. I'm sure they are careful watchers of the weather. If they see a hurricane coming they respond by getting their house ready for the storm by boarding the windows turning the gas off and evacuating. Or you could choose to completely ignore it all and roll the dice. Sadly this is the choice so many families make.
- How are you preparing your kids this year for a new school year? What potential storms do you see that by preparing for them now will help avoid the storm all together? Be proactive and get them prepared.
 - Being proactive means that you're not going to ignore your family problems, you're not going to try to escape them, run away or deny them. It means once you accept that they are a reality you're going to do what is in your power by the aid of the Holy Spirit to do what God wants you to do.

3. Lastly, the thing we must do is keep the faith.

- Let's look at Job again. Job 1:13
- Now I don't know about you but if that happened to me, I'm sure I would be asking some questions, but Job didn't. In Chapter 2:21 he said, "The Lord gives and the Lord takes away, blessed be the name of the Lord." In other words through everything Job kept his faith.

Isn't that the first thing we throw down when things like this happen? We throw our faith out the window because, God, how could you??!!!!

- Some of you demonstrate great faith. But it is not faith that is as important as the object of your faith. For example: when your family comes under attack, you suck it up and double down on your efforts to pull it all back together, but the faith that is not grounded in solid on the rock of Jesus Christ is destined to fall when the winds and storms blow in. You've got to keep the faith!!!! Don't rely on what you can do; rely on what Jesus can do.
- I know that some of you today are going through some very troubling circumstances. Maybe you're dealing with kids, finances, or maybe you're just checking out on your family and you have not given them the attention they need and you know that the next storm will be the one that will take you out. Wherever you are at today, confess your inadequacies or your feelings of hopelessness, do everything you can do and let the Lord do what only He can do, and whatever you do, keep the faith!!! Stay true to Him and don't give up!!!!