Daily Devotion #106

What A Mighty Storm

*Philippians 4:19 – “And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

Somewhere around the 1950s Nanci Griffith wrote a song about a storm the wiped-out Galveston, Texas, in 1900. The lyrics are nothing to be overly amazed by because they simply tell the story. “*Galveston had a seawall, meant to keep the water down. High tide from the ocean sent the water all over town. The year was 1900, fifty long years ago. Death came walking on the water. Death calls, you gotta go.”* Then the chorus, “*Wasn’t that a mighty storm? Wasn’t that a might storm in the morning?”*To which everyone agreed.

Storms are amazing. They can blow up in a moment’s notice or with less than a moment’s notice. The day can be going well, and then suddenly you are in the midst of a violent storm hopelessly watching at it rips and shreds everything in its path. And all you can do is hope to find shelter, so you don’t become one of its victims. Many of you can attest to the mightiness of a great storm, kind of like we had late yesterday afternoon.

As my wife and I began to assess the damage to our property and the neighborhood, I was reminded that the carnage is indicative of the soul of a person who is without Christ. What once looked so pretty and inviting on the outside often turns upside down at a moment, when Jesus isn’t the focus.

Satan’s goal is always to destroy. He wants nothing more than to wreak havoc on God’s people and whatever God does. But He is not like the storms of yesterday. He doesn’t usually cause sudden damage; usually he is subtle. Working in the heart of a person over time, he builds pressure and causes frustration until there is nothing that can happen except an explosion in a tirade of unrelenting fury.

Thank the Lord that the Lord’s work is sweet and gentle. He always comes to rescue His people with help that is often unnoticed until it becomes obvious who is at the helm of the gracious acts. In fact, the storm yesterday reminded me of God in that way as much as it reminded me of Satan and his work. When the storm was over, neighbors, who had never met, showed up to cut trees and make paths so everyone could get out from their homes and to the supplies they needed. I said to one of my neighbors, “It’s a shame we had to have a storm to get to know everyone.”

God’s work is that of building unity and oneness, where Satan wants to divide and destroy. God wants to make good of situations where Satan wants to cause distress and grief. God wants to show us that in the midst of violence and chaos, He is there working to make sense of it all, even if that means the only thing we can see is kindness and real love.

I guess the question is, “What is the normal reaction of your heart when the storms of life hit?” Is it peace? Is it joy, even though the power may be out for days? Is it thankfulness because God has kept you safe and your loved ones safe? Is it comfort because God gives you people in your life that care about you and want to see you succeed and be the best servant of God you can be?

If you were in the storm’s path yesterday, let that be a mirror to your heart. What do you see? Internal carnage or everlasting peace that passes all understanding?