

## Psalm 107:28-31 New Living Translation (NLT)

"Lord, help!" they cried in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He calmed the storm to a whisper and stilled the waves What a blessing was that stillness as he brought them safely into harbor! Let them praise the Lord for his great love and for the wonderful things he has done for them."

I read a quote by Haruki Murakami – 'When you come out of the storm you won't be the same person who walked in. That's what the storm is all about". I don't know anything about the author but I do know from personal experience the quote is true. The storms we encounter leave an imprint on our lives and we're never the same.

My first real storm was the hemorrhaging and complications after I delivered our daughter. Then the storms seemed to roll in one right after another like continuous waves pound the shore. For several years, we were either going into a storm, already in a storm, or coming out of a storm, (only to go in again!) But just as the quote says, for better or worse, we definitely weren't the same when we came out of a storm. But just as the second part of the quote says, "that's what the storm is all about." So true. Especially in the life of a believer in Jesus Christ.

I may not understand the why of the storms we've experienced but I know God has used them to change me. I haven't always cooperated and I've complained a lot. I've stomped my feet and shed plenty of tears. And if you need some proof I've been in a storm, I have the ugly scars to show you.

I don't enjoy a storm. Who does? But God promises to be with us, even in the storm. He promises that something good will come from it. I can be honest with you and say I have yet to see the good from some of my storms but I know it's coming. God promises and he always keeps his promises. Our storms are never wasted.

The miscarriage of our boy was the biggest storm I had ever faced. And I will never forget the pain. It still brings tears to my eyes and left a permanent scar on my heart. We had come out of the storm and little did we know we would be going back in sooner than we'd like. We couldn't imagine what was coming. It would change the family, change others around us, and test our faith in our Sovereign God, the ONE who controls and allows the storm.

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