

A scenic view of a beach with waves, a white cross, and birds in the sky. The cross is on the left side of the image. The text "Senior Bible Study Ministry" is centered in the upper half of the image.

Senior Bible Study Ministry

<https://www.seniorbiblestudies.org/>



The Power of Jesus' Presence

Matthew 14 (NIV)

22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, 24 and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. 25 Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.

Matthew 14 (NIV)

26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. 27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." 28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." 29 "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Matthew 14 (NIV)

31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. 33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

A dramatic sky with dark blue and black clouds, some of which are illuminated from below with a warm, orange-gold light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is intense and atmospheric.

PRAYING THROUGH THE
STORMS OF LIFE

Praying Through the Storms of Life

- Jesus regularly sought solitude to pray, finding strength & guidance through communion with God
- As Christians we can follow His example by prioritizing prayer, especially during challenging times

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed.” (Mark 1:35 NIV)

Praying Through the Storms of Life

- Despite the demands of His ministry, Jesus intentionally withdrew to pray, finding solace & strength in the presence of God
- Similarly, we can find refuge & renewal through prayer during life's storms

*But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.
(Luke 5:16 NIV)*

Praying Through the Storms of Life

- Jesus taught his disciples to pray for daily provision, trusting in God's faithfulness to provide for their needs
- Christians can find assurance in prayer, knowing that God is their provider even during life's challenges

“Give us today our daily bread.” (Matthew 6:9-13 NIV)

Praying Through the Storms of Life

- Before making important decisions, Jesus spent extended time in prayer, seeking guidance & direction from God
- We can follow His example by seeking God's wisdom & discernment through prayer during times of uncertainty

One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles.

(Luke 6:12-13 NIV)

Praying Through the Storms of Life

- Jesus encouraged His disciples to pray as a means of resisting temptation & overcoming trials
- As Christians we can rely on prayer to strengthen our resolve & seek God's help in times of testing

*Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.
The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.
(Matthew 26:41 NIV)*

Praying Through the Storms of Life

- In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed fervently in anticipation of his impending suffering, finding comfort & strength through communion with His Father
- We can find solace & courage in prayer, especially during times of grief & anguish

An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

(Luke 22:41-43 NIV)

Praying Through the Storms of Life

- Again, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus submitted to God's will through prayer, even in the face of His own impending death
- We can follow his example by surrendering our life & circumstances to God, trusting in His perfect plan

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.'

(Matthew 26:39 NIV)

Praying Through the Storms of Life

- Through prayer, believers can experience the presence & power of the Holy Spirit, receiving encouragement & support to boldly proclaim the Gospel and face life's challenges

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. (Acts 4:31 NIV)

Praying Through the Storms of Life

- Prayer is a powerful tool for healing & restoration, both spiritually & physically
- We can intercede for one another in prayer, trusting in God's power to bring about healing & wholeness

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. (James 5:16 NIV)



WHY DOESN'T GOD HEAL
EVERYONE?

Why Doesn't God Heal Everyone?

- God's will is for us to be healed
- He promises healing in many Old Testament prophecies
- Jesus commanded His twelve disciples to "heal the sick" when He sent them out (Matthew 10:8)
- There are a couple different ideas about why not everyone receives healing
 - Lack of faith in God or the presence of sin
 - God's sovereignty

Why Doesn't God Heal Everyone?

- Both perspectives try to explain the "why" without leaving enough room for mystery
- God cannot be put in a box
- We live in a fallen world & God sometimes allows natural factors to hinder healing
- God is perfectly sovereign & in that sovereignty He allows things like sin & its consequences to exist

Why Doesn't God Heal Everyone?

- God can intervene in any situation, but it is not always best that He does
- Though we do not always know why God does not heal everyone, we can trust that He will work everything together for the good of His followers (Romans 8:28–30)
- We also eagerly await the day of the new heaven and new earth when there will be no more sickness (Revelation 21:1–4)

Why Doesn't God Heal Everyone?

- We should pray in faith & ask God for healing (James 5:13–18)
- We see people in the Bible who were healed, and their faith was clearly important in that healing - the woman with the issue of blood
- We also see people who showed no evidence of faith themselves, but Jesus healed them - the man at the Pool of Bethesda

Why Doesn't God Heal Everyone?

- We also see people in the Bible who were not healed
 - Sickness kept Trophimus from traveling with Paul (2 Timothy 4:20)
 - Timothy had stomach problems (1 Timothy 5:23)
- Trophimus, Timothy, and Paul were all faithful servants of the Lord
- Their faith was not lacking
- It simply was not God's will to heal them

Why Doesn't God Heal Everyone?

- Even Jesus, who did God's will perfectly, did not heal everyone
- Throughout Jesus' ministry, as well as that of the apostles, miracles are used to confirm Jesus as Lord and validate the truth of the gospel message (John 7:31)
- Jesus' crucifixion made provision for our salvation and healing

Why Doesn't God Heal Everyone?

- We have a guaranteed "healing" here on earth in that our spirits can be saved when we submit to the lordship of Jesus
- Spiritual healing is our biggest need & God guarantees salvation when we put our faith in Jesus
- Physical healing is not a guarantee in this life

Why Doesn't God Heal Everyone?

- Joni Eareckson Tada was a paraplegic who said

"God may remove your suffering, and that will be great cause for praise. But if not, He will use it, He will use anything and everything that stands in the way of His fellowship with you. So let God mold you and make you, transform you from glory to glory. That's the deeper healing"

Why Doesn't God Heal Everyone?

- The Lord is always good & it is up to us to choose to remember His goodness & have faith in His way of doing things
- Though we may not see these physical benefits on earth, we have the comfort that we will be able to fully walk in & experience them when Jesus returns
- He will not always do a miracle – this is a mystery we may not ever be able to fully grasp until we arrive in heaven

Why Doesn't God Heal Everyone?

- We can trust that God knows what we need more than we do (1 John 5:14)
- God is more interested in the healing of our souls & hearts
- In time, those who are in Christ will be resurrected with new bodies & health perfected in every way (Revelation 21:4)

F E E R

A glowing figure in white robes stands on a dark, rippling body of water. The figure's arms are slightly outstretched. Above and below the figure, the word 'FEER' is written in large, glowing, white, sans-serif capital letters. The letters are reflected in the water below. The background is a dark, cloudy sky.

M A T T H E W 1 4 . 2 2 - 2 3

Fear Not

- As God's people, we are not to be fearful
- We have no reason to live in fear
- The Bible often says things like, "Do not fear," "Do not be afraid," and "Fear not"
- These commands do not contradict the command to "fear God" (1 Peter 2:17)
- The fear of God refers to having a deep respect, reverence, & awe for God's power & authority

Fear Not

- The fear of God keeps us from sin
- The fear of man leads to sin & that is what we are to avoid
The fear of man brings a snare (Proverbs 29:25 NKJV)
- The biblical command do not fear does not negate the need for prudence & caution in this world
- We are not to be cavalier but prayerful in the face of danger

Fear Not

- The fear that the Bible tells us to avoid is concern mixed with anxiety or dread
- It is the feeling of alarm we have when we expect trouble or danger
- Followers of Christ are not to live in a state of anxiety
- We have higher expectations than simply anticipating trouble

Fear Not

- We have the means to rise above fear

God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control (2 Timothy 1:7, ESV)

- God's command to "fear not" is applied in several ways in the Bible
 - Fear of what other people think should never prevent us from obeying the Lord (John 9:22)
 - We should not fear lacking provision in this world (Luke 12:6–7)

Fear Not

- God's command to "fear not" is applied in several ways in the Bible (cont.)
 - We are not to fear the plans of the wicked, even when they rise to power (Psalm 37:1–2)
- When the Bible tells us, "Do not fear," it means we are not to allow anxiety or fretfulness to rule our lives or take root in our hearts

Fear Not

- We are not to be people of panic
- We are to be people of faith
- Having been justified by God, we need not fear divine condemnation (Romans 8:1)
- Having been chosen by God, we need not fear His rejection (Ephesians 1:4–6)
- With Christ as our Shepherd, we need not fear the valley of the shadow of death (Psalm 23:4)

Fear Not

- With the Maker of heaven & earth watching over us, we need not fear anything (Psalm 121)

Main Idea

Jesus demonstrates the importance of unwavering trust in prayer, healing, and overcoming fear through faith in Him.

Question

In whom or what do you put your faith when facing adversity.



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