

Storm Fatigue

Jason P. Hilburn

“Hurricane Katrina was the eleventh named storm and fifth hurricane of the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season. It was the costliest natural disaster, as well as one of the five deadliest hurricanes, in the history of the United States” (Wikipedia). “An estimated 1,833 people died in the hurricane and the flooding that followed in late August 2005, and millions of others were left homeless along the Gulf Coast and in New Orleans” (Zimmermann).

In an online article about lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina, a Fox News meteorologist explained why many people did not take proper precautions for the massive approaching hurricane. She said one reason was that people tend to get something called “storm fatigue,” which means “they are just tired of weather events disrupting their lives and don’t want to leave their homes over and over” (Dean). Many who were tired of fighting against hurricanes suffered and died during the storm, because they gave up the fight or did not take the problem seriously.

It seems that Christians can often get a type of storm fatigue when it comes to facing the “storms” of life. Problems are bound to arise in any Christian’s life or in any congregation of the Lord’s church. Christians may start out strong and zealous, only to lose that zeal and determination over time. No matter how many storms may come, Christians must always take each problem seriously and deal with it properly. It is too dangerous to become calloused to eternal matters (I Tim. 4:2).

A Christian may get weary fighting against a certain temptation he is facing and decide to let down his guard and give up the fight. If he does, he is lying down to die spiritually (Rom. 6:13; Eph. 4:19; I Tim. 5:6). A Christian may grow weary of evangelism after being rejected a few times, but his own soul and others are too precious to give up the God-given mission of evangelism (Mark 16:15-16). A Christian may get tired of helping others through the storms they face, but he must continue helping others or be condemned by the Lord (Matt. 25:31-46; Gal. 6:1-2, 7-10).

Another example is a Christian who decides to stop going to brothers and sisters who sin against them (Matt. 18:15-17; cf. 5:23-24). Some may do this the first couple of times it happens, and then get to the point of just giving up and ignoring God’s commands to do so. Christians must not become fatigued regarding this Scriptural process of handling sin. They should follow through, even to the end result of withdrawing fellowship to save the soul if necessary (cf. I Cor. 5; II Cor. 2:6-9; 7:8-16; II Thess. 3:6; 13-15).

There are certain times and situations in which false teachers should have their names and doctrines exposed, for the purpose of saving souls (Matt. 5:20; 15:12-13; 23:1-39; I Cor. 4:16-17; 11:1; Eph. 5:11; Phil. 3:2, 17-19; 4:9; Col. 1:28; I Thess. 2:14-16; I Tim. 1:20; 5:20-21; II Tim. 2:15-18; 4:10, 14-15; III John 9-10; Rev. 2:14-15, 20). Such should always be done from the motive of love for lost souls. However, some Christians

become weary of this Scriptural process and may even turn against those who rightfully oppose and expose the false teachers!

As some soldiers of the cross get older, they may get more liberal when it comes to God's Word and stop holding the Scriptural line. The Word of God has not changed, but they have, perhaps because of fatigue from past battles fought defending the Truth. Whether one is an elder, deacon, evangelist, or any other member of the church, the good fight of faith must be fought constantly until the end (II Cor. 10:3-5; Eph. 6:10-17; I Tim. 1:18; II Tim. 2:3-4; 4:6-8; I Cor. 9:24-27; Jude 3; Rev. 2:10). Precious, everlasting souls are at stake!

When Katrina hit land, many people who gave in to "storm fatigue" suffered or died because they did not take the problem seriously and react accordingly. If Christians succumb to storm fatigue when it comes to the storms of life, only suffering and death awaits. As Paul said, "...*let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not*" (Gal. 6:9).

REFERENCES

Dean, Janice. "Katrina: Lessons from the monster storm I will never forget."

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2015/08/27/katrina-lessons-from-monster-storm-will-never-forget.html>. Aug. 27, 2015.

"Hurricane Katrina." Wikipedia.org. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurricane_Katrina.

Zimmermann, Kim Ann. "Hurricane Katrina: Facts, Damage & Aftermath."

<http://www.livescience.com/22522-hurricane-katrina-facts.html>. Aug. 27, 2015.

Last modified Sept. 16, 2015

<http://www.TheBibleDomain.com>