



Storms Of Life

Storms knock down, uproot,
and destroy trees!



Some Trees have Rotten Cores

- ◆ Trees fall because they are weak and decaying from the inside out.
- ◆ Many Christians fall because their core is decaying.
 - ◆ They are lured to the easy path of *outward* actions without *inner* faith and spirituality – Matt. 23:27-28
 - ◆ Paul prayed that God would strengthen his brethren's "inner man" – Eph. 3:16-19
- ◆ We need to be sure that our inner man, our core, is alive and growing in the grace of God in Christ!



Some Trees have Shallow Roots

- ◆ These trees look like other trees until they are uprooted.
 - ◆ Storms reveal their inadequate root foundation.
 - ◆ While the weather is good, they grow. But, the storms reveal what is lacking.
- ◆ Many Christians fall because they have shallow roots!
 - ◆ Jesus warned of this reality and its consequences – Matt. 13:5-6, 20-21
 - ◆ Problems arise when we do not cultivate the soil of our heart – 1 Pet. 1:22-23; Acts 8:20-21; 2 Tim. 2:20-22






Some Are Felled by Falling Trees

- ◆ Storms cause trees to fall and hit other trees, causing them to fall.
- ◆ When a Christian falls there is always collateral damage!
 - ◆ Satan tries to convince us otherwise, but he is a liar – 1 Cor. 8:9-12
 - ◆ Causing a fellow Christian to fall is a serious matter – Matt. 18:6-7
 - ◆ We do not live or die to ourselves – Rom. 14:7

The Destructive Forces of Storms are Indiscriminately Applied





Storms do not Discriminate

- ◆ A tornado will twist and maul one tree as well as another.
- ◆ Christians are not exempted from the *storms!*
 - ◆ Sin has made it terrible mark on this world – Gen. 3:16-19
 - ◆ It may not seem fair, but the righteous have always suffered – Mk. 4:41; Heb. 11:35-38
 - ◆ If you are not prepared, the storms will devastate you, your life, and your faith – 1 Pet. 5:6-9; Phil. 4:12-13

We Must Not Despise the Storms

- ◊ We may hate them, but they have a purpose, a pruning effect.
- ◊ God allows trials and suffering to prune our lives to make us strong **children of faith**.
 - ◊ I do not understand it all!
 - ◊ **I do know** that a life lived without trials is a life that will struggle to be a strong life of faith! – Jas. 1:2-4
 - ◊ **I do know** we have a God and Savior who loves us and wants the best for us – Lk. 12:4-7; 1 Pet. 1:5-7; Heb. 12:5-8



Conclusion

- ◆ Trees fall because the forces against them are stronger than they are.
 - ◆ Tornadoes and ice are stronger than a tree and will bring it down.
 - ◆ If you are trying to live life by your own strength outside of Christ, Satan's forces will destroy you!
 - ◆ With Christ there is the power to overcome! – 1 Jn. 4:4
- ◆ Will you come to Christ and receive His strength to stand against the storms and receive eternal life?

