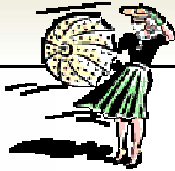


## “Let The Wind Blow”



By Mrs. Sojourner

Does it seem like there are spiritual storms blowing? Many people, believers and non-believers alike, wonder how they are going to survive everything that is spiritually, economically, and politically going on currently. Let us look at one of Jesus' parables:

**24“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”** Matthew 7:24-27 NIV

We believers are so blessed. All we have to do is to follow Jesus and his ways and we have his promise that we will survive. Not just his wish or his suggestion but

his PROMISE that our house will stand. You see:

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**19 God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?** Numbers 23:19 (NIV)

This being the case, we can rest—yes rest—assured that he will keep his word. When Jesus says that those who hear his words and put them into practice are protected because they have a sure foundation we can rest assured that this is true.

So, despite the fear and doubt that is blowing around all over the world, rest in the assurance Jesus has given us that we, as Believers, can and will, if we continue to walk according to his words, successfully stand in victory despite the storms.

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# Sojourning

Vol. 8 No. 41 October 18, 2009

...with The Sojourner

## “The Embattled Mind” (Teaching Sketch)

James 1:2-8



Some people may read these words of James and say, “Is he crazy? I am expected to be joyful when I face any kind of trial! You must be joking!”

Think about this with me for a moment. When you come right down to it, we are not troubled so much by what is said or done to us in the normal course of happenings but by our thought and response to them. If we feel weak and unable to cope then we will most likely become distressed. There are events or things which, when I was much younger and inexperienced, seemed overwhelming, but as I persevered, pressed on, and learned, they no longer bothered me. Therefore, you see it was not so much the event which had caused my upset but my inexperienced reaction to the event.

### Joyfulness

Many years ago when I was in college I enjoyed science courses, especially Biology. I

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excelled (perfect marks) in Biology class to the point that I found myself working in the Biology Department as the assistant to the professor. I enjoyed the test days most of all because I knew I would know the answers to every question. I do not say this to brag but to demonstrate how a testing can be a joyful experience. Full disclosure requires me to say there was at least one other class where this was not the case. Why? I was not prepared for the challenge upon arrival at college. I was, therefore, quite anxious when faced with testing in that environment.

### Submit

I had not submitted to the necessary remedial work to bring me to the same level of proficiency as in Biology. Oh yes, I know the word submit has become, to most, a four letter word with six letters to stretch out the agony. We in America think it odd to submit to anything or one. We become conflicted or double-

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Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

## Scripture: James 1:2-8 (NIV)

(NIV used to allow English speakers around the world equal understanding of the words used)

<sup>2</sup>Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup>because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. <sup>4</sup>Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. <sup>5</sup>If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup>But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup>That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup>he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

### NOTICE

A person with an experience is never at the mercy of a person with an argument.

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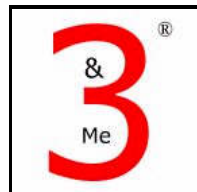
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**Just so you'll know:**

**Our service is informal.** We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
  - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
  - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**



## "The Embattled Mind" (Teaching Sketch)

James 1:2-8

minded as the scripture calls it. It is then we become unstable in a particular subject area.

### Perseverance

When dealing with God we must persevere. Anything worth doing requires sticking to it, pressing on—perseverance. Observing people in over 40 years of ministry I have noticed people fall short of where they could be with God because they simply think their showing up should be enough for God. They all too often think God failed them by not just imparting to them everything they needed or wanted to be happy here in this life, and then later going to heaven where existence will be even better in eternity. They actually seem to think God should be the one tested not they. The attitude being— God exists to serve them not they to serve God.

As long as this line of thought prevails the person vacillates between bipolar extremes, their mind embroiled and embattled in confusion. Our adversary, Satan, wins by deceiving people into thinking they themselves are free of being under submission to

anyone or anything.

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Earlier I said, "I enjoyed the test days most of all because I knew I would know the answers to every question." There was the key. I was prepared and that preparation brought me joy!

### Wisdom

Verse 3 of our scripture says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."

Please do not confuse wisdom here with knowledge. I may know something but not have the wisdom to know what to do with it. This is an issue today in many areas. Knowledge of God brings wisdom and an un-conflicted mind, un-embattled mind.

### Ask

We can ask just as Jesus said to do and we will receive, but we must do so within God's plan found in his "Read Me" file—the Bible. It is then we will find we see and understand clearly what has caused so many to live with embattled minds never coming to the knowledge of truth. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life!