

Wind and Waves...

This one is short and sweet, but mighty in power, just like the wind and waves

By: Lori Schaffer

There is no place on this earth that I love more than walking on a beach and staring out at the ocean. Ask anyone who knows me, they know that most every trip I take involves the ocean. The ocean has this unexplainable hold on me. I love everything about it. From its ever changing colors of blacks, blues, and greens; to its ferocious waves, its beautiful white caps, oh, and its incredible sound. That sound is just so calming to me. I can just sit on a beach for hours on end watching the waves crash in, the pelicans and birds diving for fish, the dolphins paroling the shore line. It never gets old. It's always magnificent, always new. One of my most favorite memories was sitting on the beach with my daughter. She was probably about 15 years old at the time, and we jokingly said, "God, if you are real let a dolphin leap out of the water." Moments later, you guessed it, the most amazing dolphin show happened right before our eyes. I'm not talking about a dolphin just appearing, I'm talking about a dolphin that came in riding the waves and then leaped out of the water- just like what you would expect to see at SeaWorld. It was truly incredible, and just a small example of how God proves he is real by answering a simple prayer from a mom and her daughter sitting on the beach.

God placed this writing on my heart back in June as I walked the ocean shoreline praying. Praying for my storm to end. I remember walking with tears streaming down my face, listening to the song, Lost in Your Love, by Brandon Lake. The song is about drawing close to God, being drenched in His love. My favorite line is, "Cause your power's found in the roughest waters, where I have no choice but to trust you father." When I returned back to my favorite place again this past October, I walked that same shoreline. This time, my heart was filled with praise and gratitude. Praising God for ending the storm and his miraculous answer to prayer. God brought it back to my mind that he wanted me to complete the vision for this writing that he gave me back in June, about the wind and the waves.

The ocean can be ferocious, wild, even dangerous at times. At other times, it can be calm, peaceful, serene. I relate this to our lives. When the storms of your life come,

and they will come, you feel as if you are being tossed and churned, like being hit by a huge wave. Have you ever been taken out by a wave? It's absolutely terrifying. As much as I love the ocean, you won't find me in it when it's too rough. Your body has no power to stand against the sheer force of that wave slamming into you. In an instant you are tumbling, being sucked under, struggling to get your footing, trying to right yourself, gasping for air. In life, when the storms come, you already have an anchor ready to save you. Isaiah 43:2 says, "When you pass through the water, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire you will not be scorched, nor will the flames burn you. For I am the Lord your God." God is with you through it all. Allow him to carry you through. It may feel like your storm is never ending, the wind and the waves are raging against you, but you are safe in God's hands.

I like to think of the storms in our lives as a cleansing process. Just as those ocean waves go in and out, bringing in and taking out something new with each churn of the sand, the same is true for your personal life. Going through rough waters is not easy. Have you ever found a piece of sea glass? That piece of glass has been refined by the rolling in and out of the waves, sanded down to a beautiful piece of treasured glass. Allow God to use whatever you are going through to refine you, to change you, to make you more beautiful, more faithful, and more trusting in Him. Perhaps you are like me, and always want to fix things, to be in control. When you find yourself in a situation where the only choice you have is to trust God, will you trust Him? When a situation is completely out of your hands, beyond your control, the best choice for you to make is to simply pray, and trust God. Isaiah 26:3 says, "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you."

I will leave you with this final thought. God is no less present and no less powerful in your storm, when the waters are raging, than he is in a beautiful, serene, sunrise. Just because your situation doesn't look the way you desire, doesn't mean that God isn't in it with you. Do not allow your circumstances and fear to distract you from the promises and truth of God.

Scripture Verses::

Isaiah 43:2

When you pass through the water, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire you will not be scorched, nor will the flames burn you. For I am the Lord your God

Isaiah 41:10

So do not fear, for I am with you, do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.