

WITHSTANDING THE WINDS OF LIFE

Building A Better Life
Rick Warren

"Storms can blow away unrighteous people, but the godly have a foundation that keeps them standing firm." Proverbs 10:25

WHAT KIND OF WINDS ARE BLOWING IN YOUR LIFE?

Winds of change?

Winds of opposition?

Winds of temptation?

Winds of conflict?

Winds of trouble?

Winds of testing?

"Put on the whole armor of God, so you're able to withstand in evil days, and when they're over, you'll still be standing!" Ephesians 6:13

HOW TO WITHSTAND THE WINDS OF LIFE

1.

*"God has given his church gifted apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, to equip God's people for their work of service, so that we, in the body of Christ, may be **BUILT UP** together until we're all **unified** in our faith . . . and we become **fully mature** and grown up in thinking like Christ. Then we'll no longer be babies, tossed back and forth, and **BLOWN here and there** by every **SHIFTING WIND OF TEACHING** from deceptive people who lead you into error **with lies they make sound like the truth.**"* Ephesians 4:11-14

2.

Jesus: *"Everyone who hears these words of mine AND **PUTS THEM INTO PRACTICE** is like the wise man who built his house on a solid rock. The rain came down, and the water rose, and **THE WINDS BLEW HARD** and **BEAT AGAINST** that house; **yet it did not fall!** Why? Because it had its foundation on the rock."* Matthew 7:24-25 (NIV)

*"Now that you **KNOW** these things, you will be blessed **if you DO them!**"*

John 13:17 (NIV)

Why do we use handout outlines and take notes?

1. Not everyone has a Bible.
2. It relieves embarrassment in finding texts.
3. We can cover more verses in less time.
4. We can read verses aloud together.
5. We can review what we learn later.
6. We can compare multiple translations.
7. We can emphasize key words by circling or underlining.
8. We remember and retain more!
9. We can use it for small group study and discussion.

*"Those who **look intently** into God's perfect Word that gives us freedom, and **continue to do this**, and **remember what they've heard**, and **then DO it**—they are the ones who will be blessed in what they do." James 1:25*

3.

*"Suddenly, without any warning, **a violent wind hit the lake**, so that giant storm waves swept over the boat and threatened to sink it. But Jesus kept on sleeping. So the frantic disciples woke him up shouting, 'Lord, you must save us! We're going to drown!' Jesus replied, 'Why are you so frightened? Your faith is so small!' Then he simply **spoke to the winds and the waves**, and everything became completely calm. The men were amazed and asked themselves, 'What kind of man is this? Even **the winds and waves obey him!**'"*

Matthew 8:24-27

4.

*"Another evening, the disciples were out in their boat in the middle of the lake, and Jesus was alone on land. But Jesus **saw his disciples were in trouble rowing hard** with their oars, because **the wind was against them**. So Jesus decided to walk out to them on the lake." Mark 6:47-48*

*"Peter said, 'Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you on the water!' So Jesus said, 'Come on!' So Peter jumped out of the boat and started walking on the water toward Jesus! But when Peter **looked at the wind**, **he became afraid** and he **began to sink**. So he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught Peter. 'Why did you doubt?' Jesus asked. When they climbed back into the boat, **the wind stopped**. Then those in the boat worshiped Jesus saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God!'"*

Matthew 14:28-33

*"After they **took Jesus into their boat**, they were **able to reach the destination** they'd been trying to head for on the shore." John 6:21*

"You Lord, use the winds as your messengers." Psalm 104:4

Next Steps

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