

TYPHOON POWER

Proverbs 1:24-25, 27 ... "Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, because you disdained all my counsel, and would have none of my rebuke...when your terror comes like a storm, and your destruction comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you."

The Philippines is hit by more Pacific typhoons than any other country. A hurricane and typhoon is the same type of storm. The only difference is where they occur. These fierce storms that start in the ocean and move to land are called typhoons in the Western Pacific Ocean; they are called hurricanes in the Atlantic Ocean. A typhoon cannot be controlled by man or science. Your only options when a typhoon is approaching are to: 1) Evacuate to a safer location, 2) take cover in a secure place above the high-water line, or 3) stand outside and watch it come. I cannot recommend option 3 as it could be the last thing you ever do.

There is another type of typhoon that can hit anyone of us without warning. It is a spiritual storm that can take you by surprise, fiercely robs you of your feeling of safety, leaves you fearful and frightened, and forces you to reassess your priorities. A spiritual typhoon can hit you when a son or daughter is arrested for using drugs when you knew nothing about their activity. A spiritual typhoon can knock you down when a spouse is killed, a parent dies, or a best friend commits suicide. A spiritual typhoon can shake the foundations of your heart when you lose your job, when your house is robbed, or when your reputation is unfairly attacked.

Such are events that we cannot prevent; things that happen that shock us and leave our hearts racing. You can expect to experience a storm if you are fired because you stole from your employer or customers, if you know your child is dealing drugs and do not stop it, if you do something deserving of an attack on your reputation, or if you cheat on your spouse. Those are preventable events that leave us with very painful consequences that we earn through our bad choices; a typhoon of our own making.

Today's scripture passage addresses the effects of ignoring God's warnings which are intended to keep us safe and free from the painful consequences of sin. The author provides us with God's message about the outcome of being unwise. He tells us that when we refuse to acknowledge God's sovereignty, if we turn away when he reaches to us, and when we ignore his counsel and correction, we may face the terror and destruction common to what we experience in typhoons. You can lose everything in a fierce storm – your home, your livelihood, even the lives of your family and yourself. I have known people who lost everything they own and the people they love, because of their sinful lifestyles. People who made liquor more important than family, dishonesty more important than integrity, laziness more than hard work. I urge you not to put God to the test. Do not play the game of trying to hide from or ignore God's warnings. The storms you may experience from that mistake, could cost you more than you care to lose.

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