

# Storm watch with prayer

By Elise L. Moore, C.S.

Whenever a storm warning or watch crosses the TV screen or is announced on the radio, I think of Elijah.

Elijah was a powerful prophet with God. But on one occasion when his life was threatened by Queen Jezebel, Elijah fled in fear. Traveling into the wilderness, he hid in a cave. Elijah fled because he lost his faith in good. He began to doubt that God, the power of good, could protect him from evil.

So God set about proving the power of good to Elijah. It is described in I Kings 19:11,12 “And (God) said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.”

God was not in the destructive forces of earth; the hurricane, earthquake, fire, tornado or flood. God is constructive not destructive. Material forces may roar in seemingly uncontrolled savage fury, but God can keep man safe from harm. The display of earthly forces did not harm Elijah. Instead he realized that the power of good, although quiet in comparison to the roar of evil, reigns supreme.

Elijah regained his faith in the supremacy of good, God, and returned home. Indeed, he was kept safe and went on to perform tremendous proofs of God's power.

When hurricane or tornado warnings come, I think of this experience of Elijah's. We can turn to God and know that the power of good can protect us from evil.

Many years ago, tornadoes were sighted in the neighborhood where we lived. The sky was dark and eerie. It was pouring rain. I turned to God and prayed. The inspiration that came to me was not to hide in the house (like

Elijah hid in the cave) but to stand at the window, face the storm and know the supremacy of God, good over evil. I remembered a story of how Mrs. Eddy, the founder of the Christian Science church, saw a tornado coming straight toward her house. She stood at the window and prayed along with the other people in the house, and the tornado veered into a woods doing no damage to anyone's home.

So I stood praying and knowing that God did not make a tornado. Also that the power of God, good, could dissipate a storm as Jesus had stilled the stormy seas. I prayed for maybe 20 minutes until a sense of peace came over me.

In the morning, we discovered there had been two tornadoes in our neighborhood. One cut through a farm field in back of our house, but did no damage to homes or people. The other went harmlessly through a field across the street from the office complex where I worked, skipping over homes and buildings.

There may be occasions where God's inspiration is to run, to hide, to seek shelter and take cover. But if we hear from God the command to face a storm and pray, we should not be afraid to be obedient. Such prayer is effective.

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