

DEVOTIONAL

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""But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." ~John 20:31, NKJV

As I thought about the theme of this week's devotion, I couldn't help but also think about the short song based on this verse.

It's beautiful to think about how God works through his word. The Holy Spirit works through these words to bring us to faith. One of the things that's so beautiful about this is that many of these words to us are in the form of stories of the real lives of people who walked with God through their own struggles and storms and who have, in the process of that, discovered the Truth of the name Immanuel. That God was there, very present with them, in the middle of those trials.

The knowledge of this is important not just for us, but also as we share the gospel with others. Let's also remember how the Holy Spirit worked through these words and these stories in our own lives. Just as he did this for us, God chooses to work through us and the stories of his working in our lives. They are signals to an unbelieving world of his grace and the hope of the gospel. Even in the middle of pains that arise from one's experience as a member of a minority ethnic group, or social or economic status, God remains unshaken, walking with us through the storm.

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Prayer:

Dear Jesus, we thank you that you walk with us through each storm we face. We thank you also for the many stories in the Bible about others you've walked alongside and the beauty and encouragement we find in seeing you at work in their lives. As we look at the world around us, we see that there are many others who are also in need of the hope and encouragement of the gospel. Use our lives, Lord, as instruments that echo this message that those apart from you and those who feel lost and forgotten so desperately need to hear. You are truly the God of the storms. And though your answer to if you'll take the storm away might be "not yet", the answer to if you'll walk with us through the storm will always be, "yes".

In Your Name, we pray, Amen.

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