

## Difficulties and hardship are good to us

Good morning, teachers and students. Today, the topic that I want to share with you is: Difficulties and hardship are good to us.

First of all, I would like to share with you Bible scriptures from the Gospel of Mark Chapter 4 Verses 35-41

4: 35	That day when evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side."
4: 37	And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.
4: 38	Jesus was in the hinder part of the ship, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"
4: 39	He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.
4: 40	He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"
4: 41	They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

For these Bible scriptures, I want to share three main points with all of you.

**Firstly, Jesus deliberately brought the disciples to the sea and face the storm and difficulties.**

Although Jesus knew that there was a storm ahead of the disciples, he intentionally brought the disciple there. Normally, being elder brothers and sisters, or being father and mother, if we know that there are dangers and difficulties ahead, we will ask our kids, friends and relatives to stay away from them. But now, Jesus deliberately and intentionally brought the disciples to face the storm and difficulties. Why? This is because Jesus knows that difficulties and hardship are good to us. As Bible says, hardship and difficulties will

make you mature and complete, not lacking anything. Hardship and difficulties can also help you building up a strong character.

**Secondly, there are two storms in these Bible scriptures.** The first storm is the **physical storm** in the sea. The second storm is the **storm inside the heart of the disciples**. The disciples faced two storms, both the physical one in the sea and the spiritual one inside their heart. But surprisingly, although Jesus faced the same physical storm as the disciples did, Jesus was calm inside his heart and he even slept. Boys and girls, I sincerely hope that you can experience what Jesus did. You may face physical storm, difficulties and hardship in your daily life, but I sincerely hope that you can experience quietness and calmness inside your heart, just as what Jesus did.

Thirdly, how can we experience quietness and calmness in times of difficulties and hardship? The key point is: **Come to Jesus, rely on Jesus and have faith in Jesus.** When you rely on Jesus and have faith in Jesus, you will not be afraid because difficulties and hardship will die down before Jesus, and even the wind and waves, difficulties and hardship have to obey Jesus. Boys and girls, do you still remember the song in the Music Day, namely “You raised me up”. Yes, Jesus can raise me up.

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains;  
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas;  
I am strong, when I am on your shoulders;  
You raise me up: To more than I can be.

Similarly,

Jesus raises you up, so you can stand on mountains;  
Jesus raises you up, to walk on stormy seas;  
You are strong, when you are on Jesus’s shoulders;  
Jesus raises you up: To more than you can be.

In conclusion, difficulties and hardship are good to us. When you are facing difficulties and hardship, come to Jesus, rely on Jesus and have faith in Jesus. Then, even though you are facing physical storm outside, you will experience quietness and calmness inside your heart.