

# Stillness in a Storm

By James D. Nickel

The stark contrast of the scene dawned upon my mind as I contemplated that solitary afternoon. The weather had been chilly and ominous all morning. Our little party of adventurers had been exploring the wet New Zealand bush and, at regular intervals, showers inundated us.

I returned to my lodgings in the mid afternoon. My hosts were gone, so I was alone in their beach resort house that was 80% windows. My hands were shivering as I made myself a cup of hot chocolate (“milo” in New Zealand). I strolled into the lounge, opened the window shades, turned on the small electric heater, reclined on an easy chair, took off my wet shoes, and directed my cold feet toward the warm air.

Reflecting upon an afternoon experience in Auckland, New Zealand, James Nickel penned these thoughts in July of 1982.



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Suddenly, a torrential gush of water slammed against the windows. Due to the gale force winds, the rain struck the glass in a near horizontal plane. I continued to sip my warm milo as the splattering sound of water against glass amplified in volume. My eyes and ears recognized the existence of turbulent fury a few feet from where I was comfortably sitting. What a difference these few feet made! ... cold tempest on the outside and warm tranquility on the inside.

Nearly 2500 years ago, amidst a turmoil that included roaring waters, God spoke through the psalmist, “Be still, and know that I am God” (Psalm 46). Many times, our minds are in confusion, our emotions in turbulence, and our bodies in cold pain. Yet, on the inside, in our spirits, *Christ is our peace*. We must learn the discipline of being still in our inner man even though a deluge of fury may be slamming against us. Through the window of our spirit we will certainly recognize the storm, but what a difference Christ in us makes!

In the midst of the stormy tempests of everyday life, let us listen to the still, small voice of our Master saying, “Peace, be still.”

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