

## **The Storm**

This past Friday, the kids and I had spent the day together playing, swimming, laughing and just enjoying the beautiful day. Evening came and after "good night" stories, hugs kisses and prayers, they were down and asleep and I was settled on the couch to watch Texas Rangers baseball. The weatherman broke in to say that there were very sever storms headed this way and we need to keep an eye on them. I began to flip between local stations getting weather updates and the strongest of the cells were head right for Denton. About 9:00 o'clock the meteorologist showed a map of Denton and the storm and said that there was one particular area of the storm that had tornadic activity and softball size hail in it. He enlarged the Denton map to show street of the city and drew an arrow to where worst was going to hit. He drew a line over the top of my house and said expect to be hit in about 5 minutes. It's different being in something like this alone or with a mate or a friend, but when kids are involved a weird protective panic can happen, and it did. I called some people to pray for our safety, gathered the kids and headed for the hall closet. We sat there, kids reading book and having a ball, for what seemed like hours. I waited and waited and waited with nothing more than a little hail and some rain. I finally got up and went back to the TV only to see that the cell had split around us and dissipated. I literally sat there and wept with emotional relief. I put the kids back to bed, they thought it funny that daddy would get them up for playtime in the middle of the night, and called my friends to say that we were fine, they said they had prayed for the storm to go away!

I could talk about the power of prayer or Gods protection, both of which took place, but that is not what hit me at the time. The thing that occurred to me is how we often panic in the storms of life. Most of you probably have some storm in you life right now that is causing you spiritual or emotional panic. It is such our nature to have a troublesome situation come up and for us to immediately go into a tail-

spin of confusion and fear over it. The interesting thing is that God never promised that life storms would not come our way, in fact He sort of says expect them and grow from them. When Martha and I got married, God never said that He promised a life long healthy relationship, instead, He allowed a life storm of cancer and death for Martha, leaving me here with two children and lonely. What He did promise, is that HE IS IN CONTROL and there is no safer place to be, than in the center of His will, even if that means being in the center of what ever storm come along. May I encourage you to rest more peacefully in your life storm knowing that GOD IS IN CONTROL and He will not give you more than you can handle.

(1 Cor. 10:13)

Like a child, read a book and have a little playtime!

Ps. The Rangers won!