

Hi, welcome to *Tablet Of My Heart* podcast. This is Beth Jones your hostess and we're going to have a great show today. I can tell you that because I had to start writing my notes all over today after spending a couple hours on it and then suddenly lost it all on my computer. Today's show is called "When storms come - and how satan uses them to try to destroy your purpose." You can see why he wouldn't be happy with a topic like that. But our God has the victory!

While you're online be sure to visit my website at www.bethjones.net where you'll find articles, blogs, podcasts, products and services to help you in your walk with God. If you're not already on my update list, be sure to sign up today at bethjones.net. It has all the latest updates on my upcoming ebook on women and spiritual warfare, and the latest news at my site.

Also this week I just did my first teleseminar and I am really excited about that. It went really good and I got some great feedback about it. One listener, Heather Hangar Wilson, said the teleseminar was just what she needed, that it confirmed for her what God has told her to do with His purpose for her life. If you missed the teleseminar, you can still get the replay in a bundle set with an audio, a video, and a pdf at www.bethjones.net/purposebundleprod.html

I want to go ahead and dedicate this time to God in prayer. (Prayer)

Well, today's podcast was inspired by the storms yesterday here in Kansas City and across the nation. We had some severe weather with lightning, a little hail, and high winds, and tornadoes were expected. I checked on www.weather.com this morning and the meteorologists are predicting severe storms today and throughout this week.

It amuses me that they come up with new terms to describe tornadoes to peak interest in weather, and their latest is the Gustnado, which is a smaller version tornado. They showed a video of the stormchasers out on the roads in Topeka, KS watching the black funnel clouds on the ground and debris flying everywhere. But storms can be deadly - both physically and spiritual, emotional, and mental storms in our lives. Satan wants to use storms to destroy your great purpose from God.

The worst tornado in US history was the Tri State Tornado on March 18, 1925 which started out in the southeastern Missouri Ozarks, through southern Illinois and lifting in southwestern Indiana after 3 1/2 hours. There were 625 deaths, over 2,000 people killed, 15,000 homes destroyed, and \$16.5 million in damage which would be close to \$2 billion today.

This tornado traveled at an average speed of 62mph which is about double the speed of an average tornado. The wind speeds of the funnel were 261 to 318 mph.

It was interesting to read why this was such a deadly tornado at <http://www.suite101.com/content/worst-tornado-in-us-history-a37716>

- In that era, the US Weather Bureau was not allowed to use the word "tornado" because they did not want to instill fear and panic.
- There was no warning system within the towns.
- Ineffective communication links with other towns because phone and telegraph service was immediately cut off.
- People didn't even realize a tornado was present until it was literally in front of them

First, the weather bureau weren't allowed to use the word tornado to avoid fear and panic. When a storm or tornado is coming our way, we need to be warned. We can't stick our heads in the sand and pretend that nothing is going on. Also, fear and panic are not from God.

In Luke 8:22-25, Jesus and his disciples were caught in a storm.

One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and started out. 23 As they sailed across, Jesus settled down for a nap. But soon a fierce storm came down on the lake. The boat was filling with water, and they were in real danger. The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and the raging waves. Suddenly the storm stopped and all was calm. Then he asked them, "Where is your faith?"

Where is YOUR faith? God wants you to trust in Him, to have faith and not doubt. If you are struggling with fear and doubt, just repent and ask God to fill your heart with faith. Renew your mind in His word because faith comes by hearing the Word of God. Meditate on God's truth and replace the lies with that truth.

Secondly, there was no warning system in the towns. God has given us His warnings in the Bible.

Deuteronomy 28:15-25 says, "But if you refuse to listen to the Lord your God and do not obey all the commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come and overwhelm you: ..The Lord himself will send on you curses, confusion, and frustration in everything you do, until at last you are completely destroyed for doing evil and abandoning me. The Lord will strike you with wasting diseases, fever, and inflammation, with scorching heat and drought, and with blight and mildew. The Lord will change the rain that falls on your land into powder, and dust will pour down from the sky until you are destroyed. The Lord will cause you to be defeated by your enemies."

But He says if you obey Him, you will be BLESSED - He will even GUARANTEE you a blessing!

"Wherever you go and whatever you do, you will be blessed. The Lord will conquer your enemies when they attack you. They will attack you from one direction, but they will scatter from you in seven! The Lord will guarantee a blessing on everything you do and will fill your storehouses with grain. The Lord your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.

If you obey the commands of the Lord your God and walk in his ways, the Lord will establish you as his holy people as he swore he would do. Then all the nations of the world will see that you are a people claimed by the Lord, and they will stand in awe of you. The Lord will give you prosperity in the land he swore to your ancestors to give you, blessing you with many children, numerous livestock, and abundant crops.

"The Lord will send rain at the proper time from his rich treasury in the heavens and will bless all the work you do. You will lend to many nations, but you will never need to borrow from them."

Third, there was ineffective communication with other towns because as soon as the Tri-State tornado hit, the phones and telegraphs were immediately cut off. We always have an open line of communication with God. As I share in my ebook *Walking With God*, which you can get at my website bethjones.net,

God never sleeps, never goes on vacation, never is too busy for you. He's always there for you. When the storms in our lives hit, all we have to do is call on the name of Jesus for help.

Joel 2:32 KJV says, "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered."

Several years ago Ray, our daughter Leah and I were in a tornado. The meteorologists had predicted severe thunderstorms and tornadoes all over the area. We were downstairs in our basement with a radio to listen to the weather. Leah and I were under blankets and pillows, and I was praying.

Ray had gone upstairs to look out the window at the sky when we started hearing loud wind and hail. He looked out the window toward our backyard and saw a black funnel cloud coming straight toward our house and the roar. Suddenly he came bounding down the stairs and shouted, "Lord God, I plead the blood of Jesus over me and my family and all our property!"

We waited a few minutes for the storm to pass and it soon became eerily quiet. When we felt it was safe, we went upstairs and went outside. All our neighbors were outdoors, assessing the damage, talking to people they'd never spoken to before. It's funny how a crisis gets people out of their comfort zone and opens hearts.

The tv satellite dish was bent badly on our roof, our car's radio antenna had snapped off, and large tree limbs were broken off and down in the yard. But we were alive and okay, thank God! Our neighbor's roof was partially torn off.

Suddenly one of our neighbors came running over to Ray and said excitedly, "Did you SEE that? I was watching out the window when I saw the funnel cloud coming straight for your house - and all of a sudden, it JUMPED OVER your house and went the other way!" The other way was our neighbor's house - resulting in his roof damage. Ray, Leah and I knew that it was because of God's mercy and Ray pleading the blood of Jesus and our prayers that protected us. No doubt satan tried to send the storm our way to try to kill or hurt us.

We always have that open line of communication with God in prayer. The fourth reason why this Tri-State Tornado was one of the worst ones in US history was because people didn't realize they were in a tornado until it was literally right in front of them. Dear friends, don't wait until the storm comes before you are ready. Get prepared now. Make sure that you have an intimate relationship with God, that your relationship with Him is right, that you are saved through Jesus. Make your peace with God right now because later may never come.

In Luke 12:16-20 NLT Jesus is telling a story to His disciples. "A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. He said to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have room for all my crops.' Then he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. And I'll sit back and say to myself, "My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!"' "But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?'

Be prepared now because those storms in life will come. Some of the storms we face may be:

- *Marriage problems
- *A child born with a defect or a child who is sick
- *Your own health issues

- *Your having struggles at your job
- *You having financial problems
- *You facing the threat of foreclosure or bankruptcy
- *Your business not doing well
- *You having conflicts with your family or origin or in-laws
- *Your weight
- *You or your loved ones having a car accident or other tragedy
- *You or loved ones being in a catastrophe like Japan's earthquake or tsunami - don't think it can't happen here in America because it CAN.

We can face any of these storms or others in our lives. Sometimes the storms can come suddenly, like when our friend Jim Maher recently had a sudden motorcycle wreck and died. Nobody was expecting it. Everyone was shocked.

But what do you do when these storms come? How do you cope? Satan will use these storms to distract you and throw you off.

Recently I was listening to a teaching by Robin Tramble, the Empowerment Diva. You can find her website at <http://robintramble.homestead.com/>

She was talking about pursuing your purpose and not getting distracted and she called them "Fatal Distractions." I thought that was really powerful. We don't think of distractions as being dangerous, but they can be. Her term reminded me of the movie from several years ago, *Fatal Attraction*, with Glenn Close, Michael Douglas, and Anne Archer, which was about the danger of adultery.

A married lawyer Dan meets a publishing editor through business, Alex, and has a weekend affair with her while his wife and child are away. He thought it was understood that it was over and Alex refuses to allow it to end and becomes obsessed with him, trying to kill his wife.

Distractions can pull you off course and hinder you or stop you from your purpose in life. Satan wants to shake your faith to its core. He wants to destroy your purpose.

When I am having problems with Ray, I can't think about anything else. I just can't even concentrate. It's the same thing with our kids. I shared in my first teleseminar this week, *The Power Of Your Purpose* - and if you missed that teleseminar, you can still get the replay in a bundle set for sale for \$27 - you get the replay, an audio, a video, and a pdf - go to bethjones.net/purposebundleprod.html .

I shared in that teleseminar how last year I did my first ladies' retreat here in Butler, with several anointed speakers, a great worship leader, a masseuse and a wonderful brunch. It was awesome and everyone loved it.

Our oldest daughter Heather, her friends and I were going to do a funny drama skit on Saturday afternoon for it. The week before the retreat Heather had a back injury. She bent over and suddenly her back went out. She is young and healthy and fit, so I believe with all my heart it was a demonic attack. She was in pain for months with her back and had to go to the doctor and the chiropractor and get lots of prayers. She is healed now.

But while she was in so much physical pain, I was very distracted. My kids are my vulnerable area and Satan knows that. He knows it distracts me when something is going on with our kids. But we can trust that God is in control and have faith in Him. Satan is a defeated enemy.

In Job, Satan wanted to kill Job because he was such a faithful servant of God. But God wouldn't let him do that. He only allowed Satan to do so much to Job. We read in Job 1 NLT,

"One day the members of the heavenly court[a] came to present themselves before the Lord, and the Accuser, Satan,[b] came with them. "Where have you come from?" the Lord asked Satan. Satan answered the Lord, "I have been patrolling the earth, watching everything that's going on." Then the Lord asked Satan, "Have you noticed my servant Job? He is the finest man in all the earth. He is blameless—a man of complete integrity. He fears God and stays away from evil."

Satan replied to the Lord, "Yes, but Job has good reason to fear God. You have always put a wall of protection around him and his home and his property. You have made him prosper in everything he does. Look how rich he is! 11 But reach out and take away everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face!" "All right, you may test him," the Lord said to Satan. "Do whatever you want with everything he possesses, but don't harm him physically." So Satan left the Lord's presence."

Satan then went and caused the Sabeans to steal all his ox and donkeys and kill his farmhands, all his sheep and his shepherds to burn up in a fire, all his camels to be stolen by Chaldean raiders, and a house to collapse from a strong wind, killing all his sons and daughters.

Job's response was amazing. He stood up, tore his robe in grief, and then bowed, worshipping God, saying, "I came naked from my mother's womb, and I will be naked when I leave. The Lord gave me what I had, and the Lord has taken it away. Praise the name of the Lord!"

Just one of these things happening was enough to distract or upset Job. But all of these happening the same day, including all of his children dying? Most people would have been overwhelmed with grief. Sometimes that happens in our lives – it's one bad thing after another until we feel like we can't take anymore. That's when we have to throw ourselves at the mercy seat of God and cry out for his help and deliverance, the way the people of Israel did when they were slaves in Egypt under hard taskmasters.

Satan wasn't content at that though. He went back to God and asked permission to attack Job again. God wouldn't let him kill Job, but did allow him to afflict Job with painful boils all over his body. Job still chose to worship God, despite his suffering and his not understanding why all this was happening.

Sometimes God allows the enemy to attack us for His purposes and His glory. In Luke 22:31-35, Jesus warned Peter of this.

"And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

God has given me this scripture personally many times in my life. From Strong's Concordance in The Blue Letter Bible, that word shift is the original word *siniazō*, which means to shake in a sieve or by inward agitation to try one's faith to the verge of overthrow.

In sifting, the first step is loosening the chaff from the wheat. You would spread the wheat onto a floor made of stone, concrete or tamped earth and beat it with a flail. Then you would winnow it, where the loosened chaff is removed from the wheat. This was done by throwing the grain in the air, where the lighter chaff would be blown away and the heavier grain would fall to the floor. Chaff in the Bible represents sin, but Satan wanted to "sift out" Peter's faith in Christ.

There may be times in your life where Satan has asked permission to sift you. The storm is not from God but God is using the storm to test your faith. He wants to teach you to trust in Him and rely completely on Him, the way He did when our daughter had seizures several years ago, which I share about in my ebook *Walking With God* at www.bethjones.net. You can find that under My Products. Jesus healed Leah and all glory and honor go to Him for her complete healing. But God used that terrifying time in our lives to teach me to not be afraid and to have faith in Him.

Satan wants to use the storms in our lives whatever they are – stress, health issues, financial problems, marriage problems, issues with our kids, coworkers, family or in-laws, our business not getting ahead like we want, crises like accidents or death of loved ones – to destroy our purpose. Look at Queen Esther. God raised up Queen Esther to be not only the queen but also the deliverer of her people the Jews. Have you ever watched the movie *Sleeping With The Enemy* with Julia Roberts?

Laura and Martin seem to be this perfect happily married couple. But he's a physically abusive and controlling monster. She finally escapes from him by running away after staging her drowning death. Martin finds out the truth and comes after her.

The movie ends with him dead and her finally safe. Queen Esther didn't sleep with the evil Haman, but he was in the palace near her and I'm sure his presence unnerved her. She probably sensed the evil around him. Satan wanted to use Haman to kill Esther and all the Jews, just as he did in the Holocaust.

What storms are you facing right now? Satan will use any number of storms to hinder or destroy your purpose, even tools like procrastination, perfectionism, fear, pride, depression, discouragement, crises, or fatal distractions as Robin Tramble said.

In a tornado The Federal Emergency management Agency gives this advice for when you're in a tornado or severe storm:

If you're in a building, go to a pre-designated area in the lowest part of the building like a basement or storm cellar. If there is no basement, go to the lowest level like a closet or interior hallway, putting as many walls as possible between you and the outside. Stay away from windows and doors because flying debris is the biggest cause of fatalities and injuries in severe storms. Get under a sturdy table and cover your head and neck with your arms.

If you're in a mobile home, get out to the nearest storm shelter or building because mobile homes offer very little protection in tornadoes.

If you're outside, go to a ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands.

Just as in a physical storm, you should go to the lowest level of a building or get on the ground at the lowest level, in a spiritual, emotional, or mental storm, we should get to the lowest position possible – that of prayer and worship of God. We bow at His feet. We worship Him, and ask for His grace and His

mercy, His help in times of the storms. He will hear our cries as we humble our hearts and deliver us. God is our covering, our storm shelter.

Psalm 91 is one of the greatest scriptures in the Bible on the secret place of prayer being our protection from God.

Those who live in the shelter of the Most High
will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

2 This I declare about the LORD:

He alone is my refuge, my place of safety;
he is my God, and I trust him.

3 For he will rescue you from every trap
and protect you from deadly disease.

4 He will cover you with his feathers.

He will shelter you with his wings.

His faithful promises are your armor and protection.

5 Do not be afraid of the terrors of the night,
nor the arrow that flies in the day.

God is your covering, your shelter in these storms of life. You don't have to be afraid. He is with you. Remember Jesus spoke peace to the storm when His disciples were in the boat and so afraid. God will either calm the storm or calm the sailor.

Right now I hear the wind outside as I'm preparing this teaching. The meteorologists are predicting severe weather today and the rest of this week. I don't know what storms are coming in my life in the future, and you can't predict yours either. We know storms will come. They are part of our life.

But no matter how severe the winds, the rain, the lightning, the hail, God is always with us. He will never leave or forsake us. He has the final word about our purpose, His great destiny for our lives. His word will go forth and won't return to Him void but will accomplish what he desires for us. He has the final word and His word is that He has great plans for you – Jeremiah 29:11.

God will help you to accomplish your great purpose. He won't send the storms into your life. The dark and frightening storms are from satan. But God can USE the storms for His glory, just as He has the time we were in a tornado and it jumped over our house, leaving us and our home alive and unharmed and we can give God the glory and praise.

[Storms make the oak grow deeper roots.](#)”

George Herbert quote

Thank you for joining me here today at Tablet Of My Heart podcast. This is Beth Jones, and while you're online be sure to drop by my website at www.bethjones.net. I want to encourage you to sign up on my ezine and update lists. I am now working on a new ebook about women and spiritual warfare called *The Hands Of a Woman: Everyday Women in Everyday Battles*.

It is about the storms that women have faced in their lives – spiritual battles, struggles they have gone through, and they share how God has helped them through these storms to victory. Sign up to get all the

latest updates about that ebook. It is a little behind deadline because I had to hire an attorney for the contracts with my contributor writers but I hope to have it ready for you soon.

If you're on that update list you'll be first to hear about when it's coming out. Also be sure to check out my other products under My Products at www.bethjones.net. I'd love to hear your comments on this podcast or other blog posts at bethjones.net. You can leave your comments below this podcast title or you can email me at elizabethdjones@gmail.com

Thanks for stopping by today. Let me close with prayer. The Lord bless you.

Copyright 2011 Beth Jones



Copyright 2011 Beth Jones
<http://www.bethjones.net>
elizabethdjones@gmail.com