

WHEN THE BLIZZARD COMES

Webster's defines a blizzard as , a violent windstorm accompanied by intense cold and driving winds.

While we expect nature to occasionally make us deal with weather related blizzards, there are spiritual blizzards that we all have dealt with or will have to face. No one escapes the consequences of having to deal with a blizzard. Some handle it more maturely than others but all have to handle it

Let's look at the characteristics of a blizzard.

1. Who is affected (Christian and non-christian alike). Hopefully Christians are better prepared for the event because the information they get from their weatherman is always dead on.
2. Where does it strike? It can strike nearly anywhere and normally you will have little control when it does strike. It is impossible to place yourself in a situation where a spiritual blizzard cannot reach you.
3. When will it strike? Typically when you are least prepared for it or suspecting of it, although you can always be sensitive to the signs of its coming and make preparations.
4. What affect does it cause? Hardship-physical, emotional, materially, and most importantly spiritual.
5. How does it affect us? It may give us the sense that we are totally isolated and that no one can come to our aid or is even aware of our condition.
6. Why does a blizzard occur? God uses spiritual blizzards to:
 - a. Bring glory to Himself (as a snow blizzard is a tremendous force of nature)
 - b. Get our attention to a specific issue
 - c. Get someone else's attention through our predicament
 - d. Give us an opportunity to put on our work clothes and "dig out" of some spiritual snowpile
7. What does God word say about such events
 - a. James 1:2-4"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your

faith develops perserverance. Perserverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lack anything.

- i. This tells us that we must allow God to use hard things to allow us to grow and that wishing for the storm to be over too soon defeats the purpose of the storm itself.**
- ii. As difficult as the storm is, and it is, finding the spiritual fruit of (joy) should be one of the outcomes.**
- b. II Corinthians 8-9. "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed, persecuted but not abandoned, struck down, but not destroyed**
 - i. This tell us that as Christians we need to realize that hard times will always surround you (especially if you place yourself out in the elements of the conflict.**
 - ii. As violent as the wind is, if we remain faithful, it can only result in strengthen us, not crushing us, and**
 - iii. We never have to be worried about being abandoned along side the road- He is always present, especially in the hard times.**