

AFTER THE STORM

Day Two: Picking Up the Pieces

Scripture: *“The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; He gathers the exiles of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”* — Psalm 147:2-3

When the storm is over, the work of rebuilding begins. The winds may have stopped, but their effects remain. There may be broken branches, scattered debris, or even structures that need repair. Spiritually and emotionally, the same is true—storms leave behind things that must be faced, cleaned up, and rebuilt.

Storms don't always come in the form of hurricanes or tornadoes. Sometimes the storm is the grief of losing a loved one. Sometimes it is the struggle of battling an addiction and trying to break free from chains that keep pulling you back. Sometimes it's the pain of a friendship that has ended or the deep uncertainty of financial hardship after a job loss. These storms don't leave physical wreckage, but they leave scars on the heart.

In those moments, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. Where do we even start? Do we repair what was damaged? Do we replace what was lost? Do we have the strength to begin again? That's where God steps in as more than just our Protector—He becomes our Rebuilder.

The people of Israel understood this well. They knew what it meant to return home after exile to find their beloved city in ruins. Yet the psalmist reminds us: *“The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem.”* Restoration was

not something they had to do on their own—it was God’s work, accomplished through their hands, hearts, and obedience.

After your storm, God does not leave you standing in the wreckage alone. He meets you there, with healing in His hands and strength for the next step. He doesn’t just put things back the way they were—He rebuilds in such a way that what comes after the storm can be stronger, deeper, and more anchored in Him than before.

Think of it like a home built on a stronger foundation after a hurricane. The old walls may have crumbled, but in rebuilding, you add reinforcements you never had before. Spiritually, storms give us the opportunity to build back with greater faith, deeper trust, and stronger character.

It may be tempting to dwell on what was lost, but God’s promise is that what remains in His hands is enough for a new beginning. You don’t have to pick up every piece—He knows which ones matter. And He will bind up your wounds in the process.

 **Reflection:** What “pieces” in your life still feel broken or scattered after the storm? How can you invite God into the rebuilding process rather than trying to do it all yourself?

 **Prayer:** Father, I feel the weight of what the storm left behind—whether grief, addiction, broken relationships, or financial loss. But I know I am not rebuilding alone. Thank You for healing my brokenness and binding up my wounds. Give me wisdom to know what to rebuild, courage to start, and faith to trust that You will make all things new. In Jesus Name We Pray, Amen