

# Spiritual Calligraphy

Steve Husting



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# Does God care if we are Suffering?

*And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, "Master, carest thou not that we perish?" (Mark 4:38).*

When a fierce storm threatened to overturn their boat, the disciples looked for Jesus – who was asleep in the stern. They awoke Him and asked, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

Does God care if we are suffering? Scripture interprets itself: "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (1 Pete 5:7). What God cares about is how we handle the suffering. When we suffer, do we believe that God will be with us in the suffering? Do we believe that God is using the suffering to perfect our character and prepare us for places in the kingdom?

He will not keep us from suffering, but with the trial will provide grace. To a suffering Paul He said, "My grace is sufficient for thee" (2 Cor. 12:9). We must go through the storms, not around them, to get to the other side: "We must through many tribulations

enter the kingdom" (Acts 14:22).

Some sufferings terrify us, such as being in a dangerous storm in a rickety boat; at other times a trial angers us because a foolish act by ourselves or others got us into the mess to begin with. If we feel anger, we are not to internalize it as though nothing happened, but pray about it and investigate what went wrong, and correct it. (As it says in *I Quit!*, a terrific book by Geri Scazzero, anger is God's way of telling us that boundaries have been crossed, and action needs to be taken.)

Whether we are terrified or angered by our circumstances, Peter encourages us, "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps" (1 Peter 2:21). His steps were the steps of bearing suffering patiently, and they lead to a throne.



Frequently, we try to express the story in calligraphy. Opposite, the words, like the disciples, are drowning, submerged in stormy waters. Out of it all comes the beautiful Peace Jesus gives to those who trust Him.

AND THERE AROSE A GREAT  
STORM OF WIND AND THE  
WAVES BEAT INTO THE SHIP SO  
THAT IT WAS NOW FULL AND  
HE WAS IN THE HINDER PART OF  
THE SHIP ASLEEP ON A PILLOW  
AND THEY AWAKE HIM AND  
SAY UNTO HIM MASTER CAREST  
THOU NOT THAT WE PERISH?  
AND HE AROSE AND REBUKED  
THE WIND AND SAID TO THE SEA.

PEACE

B · E · S · T · I · L · L

AND THE WIND CEASED AND  
THERE WAS A GREAT CALM

# Author's Note



The devotional writer and calligrapher have a difficult job to do. Picture, if you will, looking over some vacation photos shot by a neighbor recently. You gaze at the wonders that they visited and enjoyed, and they fill you with the desire to go there yourself to experience it firsthand.

You did not examine the photographs and consider what fine paper was used or how square they were cut. No; you instinctively recognized that these images are a record of something that happened, and the owners enjoyed it for a season.

But when it comes to the written word, or, in the case of calligraphy, the hand-lettered word, the works are often seen as a product. The viewer admires the skill of the artist to combine text and beauty, or appreciates a clever turn of phrase of the writer. However, the writer/artist communicates the beauty of the word Peace, for example, not to please the ear or eye, but to encourage the viewer to reach for the real thing that only Jesus, the Son of God, gives.

As a photo of a breathtaking flower can't compare with the scent and texture of God's creation, even so the true, spiritual realities embodied in a devotional or calligraphic treatment outshine the work on the page.

Don't stop with admiring the view. The realities behind the words and drawings are much greater. They beckon you to enter into a rich experience that others are already enjoying daily. The creations you see here are author snapshots of experiences the author invites you to enjoy, too, through a deeper life through faith in Jesus Christ and repentance to God.