

## **Standing Against the Fires with Faith, Power & Authority**

When you're trapped and surrounded by fire and there's no where else you can go. You only have one remaining option for staying alive and saving your home. Like myself and others around the world are praying, I'm sure you are praying as well. But on this matter of prayer, I want to point out that when it comes to the uncontrollable and life threatening forces of nature, praying for help or asking for Divine intervention won't be as effective as what I'm about to share with you and suggest you try.

**When it comes to the imposing forces of nature that threaten human life and property, Jesus teaches and demonstrates an alternative approach to what most of us understand as "prayer."** This is not theoretical and untested. If you'll hear me out, I want to show you not only what Jesus taught and demonstrated; but share with you a couple of similar real-life situations where myself and others I know we're spared from real and imminent danger, physical harm, and damage to property as the result of uncontrollable forces of nature. Then I want to provide you with some suggestions on how apply them to address the fires around you. I pray you find it helpful and effective and leads you to a greater knowledge of the God revealed in Christ.

I don't intend to offer you insensitive religious platitudes, a simple solution, guarantee, or "pie in the sky" hope to cling to. I'm offering something Jesus Himself taught, modeled, and instructed us to do. Neither is it theoretical. In a life threatening storm, in the threat of physical harm and violence, and in fire, such as your facing now, myself and those around me have witnessed powerful and unexplainable interventions by God to establish boundaries and protection from certain harm, death, and loss of property. If you need more than my own testimony or the words of God in the Bible, you may encouraged and motivated to act as a result this story that appeared in the Washington Post following the Tsunami that hit the coast of Sri Lanka in 2004:

Article: "Outracing the Sea: Orphans In His Care" <https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A35206-2004Dec29.html>

Now let's talk about what and how. First let's look at how Jesus handled the life-threatening forces of nature.

All 3 Synoptic Gospels record the account of Jesus calming a storm (Mark 4:35–41, Matthew 8:23–27, Luke 8:22–25).

1. The wind and resulting violent storm came out of nowhere. It was sudden and unexpected.
2. The experienced sailors aboard, several of whom were fisherman by trade, were terrified and feared for their lives on a body of water they spent much time on in various kinds of weather and storms.
3. Jesus has to be wakened from a dead-to-the-world kind of sleep to 12 guys freaking out, panicked, helpless, and in fear of their lives in the midst of an uncontrollable force of nature.
4. In addition to their justifiable fear, their initial prayer is “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?” That kind of prayer or “appeal” is the result of their resigning to fear, hopelessness, and self-pity. Jesus responded by scolding them for their lack of faith.
5. Jesus now alert to the situation, demonstrates how to deal with a threat to their wellbeing and an insurmountable obstacle on their way to the other side of the shore. Instead of saying a prayer or appealing to God in prayer, He speaks to or rather commands the storm to be “Quiet! And, “Be still!

Before you conclude that you can just pray like the disciples in the boat did and Jesus will stop the storm (or fire) for you, you might want to consider why Jesus was disappointed with their prayer. In fact, he scolded them for their lack of faith the same

way He did when they were unable to cast a demon out of young boy (Mark 9:14-29). The faith He expected was that they use the authority given them (Luke 10:19; Matthew 10:1-8; Luke 9:1-6) and 72 other disciples to drive out demons, heal the sick, proclaim the Kingdom of God, and even exercise power over nature (Luke 10:1-19).

**Plus Jesus instructed us to pray and use His power and authority when we face overwhelming and insurmountable circumstances** and obstacles in our lives.

*“Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins” (Mark 11:22-25)*

**Here’s How You Can Apply God’s Word with Christ’s Authority As You Face The Fire:**

Remember: In this case *it’s important to speak to both the wind and the fire!*

1. Gather 2 or more people besides yourself to pray in agreement (Matthew 18:??). You can gather people from your church, small group, or organize a gathering via social media.
2. If you can, go somewhere in view of the fire you’re closest to so you can monitor its response to your prayers. If you get to an area closed off to traffic do not enter. If you run into any first responders, pray for God’s favor with those in charge, that He may open the way for you to get where the Lord wants you to be. Minimize vehicle use and walk as far as you can.

3. Avoid hindering firefighting and EMS efforts and roadways in any way. Get permission to stand somewhere safe where you can see the fire's progression even if it's from quite a distance. Tell those in charge you're there to pray for them and to pray in regard to the fire. Then do what they tell you even it means leaving and going further away.
4. As you gather, audibly "speak to" the fire and the wind directly as if it were a personal intruder coming at you bent on destruction. Speak to it as one who represents God's purpose on earth as Christ's ambassador. For example, like Jesus did to the violent storm:

*"In Jesus' name, we tell the wind and fire to 'Be quiet!' Now, 'Be Still!'; we declare you will not pass further than the lines established by the Lord God Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and Earth and all that is in them. In the name and power of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you to be subject to the power of God by the authority He's given us in Christ Jesus and cease your destruction now so that all may know that there is a God in Heaven who delivers and saves. We declare according to God's Word and promise:*

*"If you make the LORD your refuge, if you make the Most High your shelter, no evil will conquer you; no plague will come near your home. For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go" (Psalm 91:9-12). Now may it be as the Lord has spoken, in Jesus' name."*

#### 5. Prayer Example #2

*Lord Jesus, thank you for providing us a home and the blessings of your provision. These things you've given us as a sign of your faithfulness and love. We acknowledge your provision and every good gift you provide as our Father. Lord, consider the threats against our home and all that it represents and means to us. According to your word and promise, "because we have made you our hope and shelter, you've said, "no evil will conquer us, no plague [harm or disaster] will come near our home; you will command your angels concerning us to protect us wherever we go" (Psalm 91). May it be just as you have promised.*

*We have no power or control over this threat but our eyes are on you. Set the boundaries for this fire in regard to our home, property, and wellbeing. And because you've given us your authority we speak to it just as you did to the storm that's now being manifest in this fire and tell you, "You will not pass or cross the boundaries the Lord has set in regard to the things He's given us, provided for us, and that we've set apart for His purpose, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. May it be so now, that all will know that you are Lord and that you take care of those who call on your name. As you have promised,*

*"Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble. I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation (Psalm 91:14-16)."*

*Lord, we put our trust in your unfailing love and thank you that you will never leave us, forsake us, or fail to provide for us in this life. Amen.*

You can also use the verses below a bring them before the Lord who is faithful and who said, *"All of God's promises are 'yes' in Christ"* (2 Corinthians 1:20). Use them and other passages of Scripture to audibly *speak to* the fire, secure God's protection, strength, and provision for first responders. Pray for God's wisdom as key leaders make tactical decisions and government leaders appropriate necessary resources and plan for the future. Contend in prayer for the Lord to send rain or whatever provision is necessary to vanquish the fire and protect life and property and bring restoration.

**Keep praying!** This isn't a magical prayer or something to just read or say in hope it will work. It requires faith like the kind Elijah demonstrated when he prayed on top of Mt. Carmel (1 Kings 18:41-45) First, he gave the word by speaking or declaring it aloud (verse 41). Then, he continued to pray 7-more times until he observed some change when a small cloud began to appear (verse 42) as the first sign of a downpour of rain.

Here are some other promises & verses you can use in agreement when you pray. You can also authoritatively declare them to speak to not only the fire you're facing but other obstacles and threats you're facing or may face in the future.

**Daniel 3:17** - If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us <sup>c</sup> from Your Majesty's hand. **18**But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

**Isaiah 43:2-3a:**

*When you pass through the waters,  
I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers,  
they will not sweep over you.  
When you walk through the fire,  
you will not be burned;  
the flames will not set you ablaze.  
For I am the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior*

**Psalm 32:6-7**

*Therefore let all the faithful pray to you  
while you may be found;  
surely the rising of the mighty waters  
will not reach them.  
You are my hiding place;  
you will protect me from trouble  
and surround me with songs of deliverance.*

**Psalm 34:7 -**

*The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him,  
and he delivers them.*

**Psalm 46:1-2:**

*God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble.*

*Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way  
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea*

Pray that God will open the hearts of believers and others in the SoCal area and in surrounding areas to open their homes to those in need. Be willing to do more than just pray! Reach out, volunteer, donate time, money, and resources, welcome others into your home and care for them. Let the People of God step up and step out!

Let us know your questions and share your testimonies for us and others to give praise and thanks to God. May the Lord be with you and deliver you from all harm.

\*For more info, resources, and training opportunities go to [kingdom-ministries.org](http://kingdom-ministries.org)

\*You can also watch the video teaching for this application on our YouTube Channel at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/@kingdomministriesintl5102>