

*A Dedication to Harvey and all other impacted hurricane survivors.
Written & Dedicated on The National Day of Prayer!*



"O This Storm!"

What alarm? What harm? No charm; only the devastation and unrest of a tumultuous storm.

From whence came the winds and rain that ushered in the loss and pain?

Who said: "storm you may befall to wreak havoc upon us all?"

For your appearance who called?

"O This Storm!"

I would it never saw the light of day; but we have not charge over the storm in any way.

We live on earth; a place where many things are birthed.

Nonetheless, my neighbors and I we wish not to die; at least not today, not this way.

Storm, we avow to stay alive and your destruction survive and thrive.

Yes, my chair is no longer there! Yes, my bed now hangs over the ledge.

Yes, my shoes I can no longer use; and yes, I confess: "at the moment I don't feel my best."

But No, I will not cower low; with this storm I'll go toe-to-toe.

No, I refuse to lose and allow the storm to change my attitude.

No, I will not become litter to bitter. No, I won't be rude or with courage feud.

"O This Storm!"

You have come up to my face, destroyed my home place. The foundation is erased and the curtains unlaced. Nevertheless, I will not falter at the altar but retain and remain in God's grace.

"I Will Stand!"... "I Will Make New Plans!"... "I Will Rebuild!"... "I Will Heal!"...

"I Will Recover!"... "Hope I Will Not Smother!"... "I Will Cleave!"... "I Will Believe!"...

"I Will Work!"... "I Will Not Shirk From My Works!"... "I Will Not Rest!"... "I Will Work At My Best!"

"I Will Preserve" & "I Will Not Fear!"

"O This Storm!"

Arise my soul and take control! Hope, do not flee away from me!

Courage stand still! I am sealed! Until...Until...Until...The rebuilding is fulfilled!

Storm, you've had your turn. Now it's my turn to return and from your presence learn.

Let the waters rescind that the people may go home again to see a hopeful end.

My heart will not be faint. Discouraged by hopelessness I ain't.

Here's my saw! Here's my hammer! And, here's my paint! Lifelessness won't taint!

Storm, we're both about to go. My hopes go high and your aftermath goes low.

Willfully determined I will move ahead while by ambition I'm led and fed.

And now storm without any further ado may I say to you:

God has the power to make all things new.

And that's exactly what I plan to let him do!

And now I rest in this test as I promise myself to live the rest of my life at my best.

Storm, just let me be! I'll return whole and with total victory!

"O This Storm!"

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This dedication is written for the storm victims of Harvey and all other recent hurricanes. I'm Cindy, one just like you. I've experienced enough personal storms to know how surviving a natural storm can be. A hill has a tip. A mountain has a top. And neither are insurmountable to climb if you're determined not to stop! Today, Sunday, September 3, 2017, God spoke just a few words into my spirit as I read through some of my personal journals with some of my personal writings and he whispered these words: **"Dreams don't stop!" "We stop dreaming!"** And it's true, sometimes life overwhelms to the degree that we are saddened and deeply discouraged by our reality. I personally understand. It's during these low and challenging times when our minds are bogged and anxiety becomes so tempting that we want to give up. Nothing feels worthwhile. Losing hope is inevitable. But may I encourage you: "Don't give up!" God taught me what's been lost is ahead of us if we continue to move ahead of our losses. Be encouraged! Keep your head up high towards the sky! Don't let fear overtake you in no wise. I believe in you! Now you should believe in yourself and do what you know you need to do. "Dream" and "Pursue!" God Bless You!

The above dedication was written for the survivors impacted by Harvey and other hurricanes by Cindy J. Stiggers on Sunday, September 3, 2017. The words and contents are the sole property of the author and protected by U.S. Copyright laws and provisions as prescribed by the U.S. Copyright Office. Use prohibited without written permission of the author.