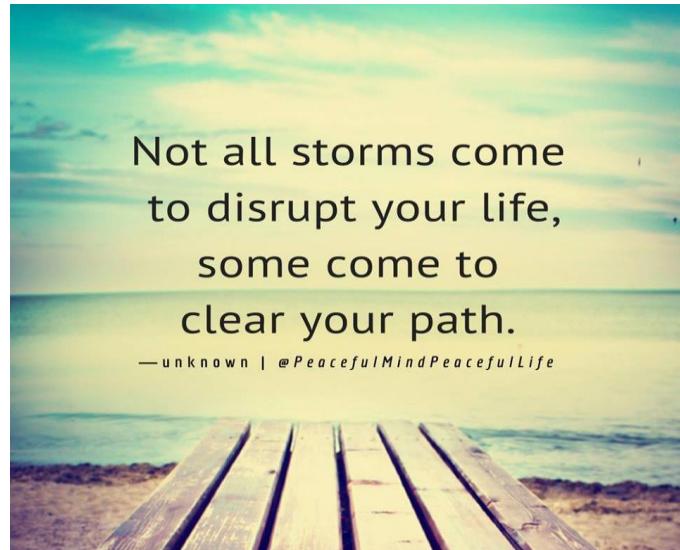


Reflection



God has given me so many really powerful examples of this. Being blown out of New Orleans by Hurricane Katrina seventeen years ago is just one. The experience was traumatic in many ways. Lives were irrevocably changed both physically and spiritually.

Looking back, I am still learning new faith lessons from this experience, and I already have lived several of those lessons. Homes and jobs were lost, family was scattered, it was truly a day-by-day existence. All those changes thrust me into a new life and career, which allowed me to care for my husband during his last years. (Blessings in disguise?) After teaching for many years, I became a manager for a home care company and was able to work from home and care for Bill. As an evacuee and then as his caregiver, I learned the meaning of complete and utter dependence on God. I remember asking God to not let my life get so comfortable that I would lose this newfound closeness and dependence on Him. Be careful what you pray for—I think he took me up on that!