

Confronting the Storm

As a passenger on the S.S. *Constitution*, Norman Vincent Peale – longtime pastor of New York’s Marble Collegiate Church and author of *The Power of Positive Thinking* – once found himself skirting the edge of a hurricane. He wrote, “The ship was bucking like a demented horse. I was lying on my bed in my cabin, thinking pale green thoughts, when the door opened and in came a cheery fellow who had a cabin down the corridor. He said, ‘Let’s go up and look at the storm.’”

When Peale protested and asked the man to leave, the man took out a booklet and read him a passage about the importance of taking authority over weaknesses and fears. Peale wasn’t all that impressed, but asked, “Who wrote it?” The man replied, “You did.”

Shamed into going up on deck, Peale wrote, “Mountainous waves came racing at us like avalanches, the wind ripping the spray off their crests like smoke. Great streamers of spume lashed our faces and soaked our clothes. I could taste the salt on my lips. The deck heaved, the gale shrieked in our ears, but the ship was more than equal to it. I was lost in admiration of nature’s power and fury, and the courage and ingenuity of the puny creature called man who had built this ship and could drive it through the teeth of such a storm.”

Peale’s seasickness completely disappeared. Why?

Peale was able to get his mind off himself and onto God. It is a lesson that every one of us in Life Care, American Lifestyles and Life Care at Home should understand and follow. Each of us has storms that buffet us in our voyage through this life. The thunder rolls, the winds howl and the waves of fear and doubt threaten to overwhelm us.

But God calms stormy seas and gives us the courage to ride the waves.

--Beecher Hunter