

WHAT FEELS LIKE *BREAKING* IS OFTEN
THE BEGINNING OF *BECOMING*.

PRAISE FOR STILL WATERS DON'T MAKE SAINTS

“There are voices that preach from platforms, and then there are voices like Chari’s, formed in the hidden places, refined by storms, and anchored in lived experience. *Still Water Don’t Make Saints* isn’t just a devotional; it’s a companion for the fiercest battles of the soul.

THESE WORDS AREN’T THEORY. THEY’VE BEEN WALKED OUT, WRESTLED THROUGH, AND SOAKED IN PRAYER.

With uncommon vulnerability and unshakable truth, Chari invites us to meet God not beyond the storm, but within it. Not once we’ve cleaned up, but exactly where the chaos rages. And she writes with the authority of someone who has stayed when it was easier to run, trusted when the outcome was unclear, and led with faithfulness when no one else was watching.

This devotional is for the weary, the wondering, and the ones still wading through. It will meet you in the middle and gently, powerfully, walk you toward healing, hope, and holy formation. Chari has lived these words. And because she has, we can trust them.”

TRACY LILLEY

Author, Speaker, Co-Founder of Coach Aligned

“Who knew you could find so much treasure amongst the storms of life? Chari helps us find gold in deep and dark waters through revelation, clarity, and biblical insight. Chari doesn’t just talk about what to do with the storms of life, she walks us practically through them. She’s allowed the storms of life to shape her, and now we get to eat the redemptive fruit from lessons she’s learned..it’s barely fair.

THIS BOOK IS A FLASHLIGHT IN THE DARK NIGHT, A COMPASS TO THE ONE FEELING A LITTLE LOST, AND HOPE FOR THE WEARY SOUL.

Thank you Chari for putting these words on paper. It’s a privilege to know you and an honor to walk with you. Carry on good friend.”

DEANN CARPENTER

Director of Refuge W.I.L.D. And Author of “Throwing Confetti.”



“Chari Orozco has a unique gift for bringing biblical truth to life with authenticity and wisdom. Chari has a gift in how she can put language to what we all feel. In her latest venture, she invites readers into a deeper walk with Jesus—the only One that will keep us grounded during the storms. This devotional is one marked by honesty, healing, and hope.

Each page is filled with Scripture-rich insights and Spirit-led encouragement that speak directly to the heart. Whether you’re navigating a season of storms or seeking fresh joy in your faith, this devotional will help you anchor your soul in the unchanging love of God. Chari’s voice is one this generation needs.”

PASTOR ANDREA SCHWARTZ

Co-Lead Pastor, Life Church

“Chari lives in a rhythm that’s rare—nurtured by quiet surrender and prayer, yet showing up in the world with boldness and passion. Her life is marked by both vulnerability and deep conviction, and she carries the weight of her platform with humility, honoring God and people in every step.

Still Waters Don’t Make Saints is a reflection of her journey—honest, raw, and full of grace. These pages will stir your soul and remind you that true transformation often begins in the struggle.”

PASTOR DARLENE PARTIN

Co-Lead Pastor, Shoreline Church



“The voice you hear in the pages of “*Still Waters Don’t Make Saints*” is the same one I’ve witnessed in Chari’s life—honest, compassionate, marked by integrity and her commitment to Christ. This devotional carries the weight of both wisdom and experience.”

KRISTIN LIPSCOMB

Executive Director of Ministries, Liberty Church



Copyright © 2025 by Chari Orozco
Cover and Interior Design: The Nómada Group

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or otherwise—without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in brief quotations used in connection with reviews, articles, or teachings.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Any websites, addresses, or contact information contained in this book are provided for the reader's convenience and are accurate at the time of publication. Neither the author nor the publisher assumes responsibility for errors, changes, or future availability.

This book is written in the personal voice and experiences of the author and is intended for devotional, inspirational, and educational purposes only. The content is not intended to replace personal study of Scripture or pastoral counsel.

ISBN 979-8-31781-936-1

For permissions or inquiries, please contact
Chari's Team at [Hello@ICryInCorners.com](mailto>Hello@ICryInCorners.com)
This project is Nómada Venture.

Printed in the United States of America

To Elaine Owens, even when the storm has looked
overwhelming, you have modeled what it means to remain
anchored in faith and hopeful in the midst of the waves.
Your steady trust in Jesus shines as a testimony to all who
watch you weather life's storms.



Saints

In Scripture, the word “saint” refers to those set apart, holy not because of behavior, but because of belonging. In this book, saints are those who let the chaos refine them, the waiting humble them, the grief deepen them, and the storms shape them. They’re not made by still waters. They’re made by the STORM and the SAVIOR who walks with them through it.

Table of Contents

Hey Friend i

A Reader's Guide iv

DAY 01 1

DAY 02 8

DAY 03 15

DAY 04 22

DAY 05 29

DAY 06 36

DAY 07 43

DAY 08 50

DAY 09 57

DAY 10 64

DAY 11 71

DAY 12 78

DAY 13 85

DAY 14 92

DAY 15 99

DAY 16 106

DAY 17 113

DAY 18 120

DAY 19 127

DAY 20 134

DAY 21 141

Now What? 148

Resources for the Journey 155

Hey Friend, —

If you're picking up this devotional, let me start here: I see you.

I may not know the storm you're currently facing or the one you're bracing for but I know what it's like to feel the wind rise, the waves swell, and the ground beneath you give way.

Some storms crash in like hurricanes, obvious, loud, and impossible to ignore. Others come quietly, like a slow drizzle of disappointment that never lets up. Some storms are named betrayal. Grief. Illness. Transition. Loneliness. But whatever shape they take, storms change us. They shake what we thought was steady and they test everything we once clung to.

I didn't write this as someone who's figured it all out. I wrote it as someone who's cried in corners, screamed into pillows, and still chosen, sometimes through gritted teeth, to believe that Jesus meets us right in the chaos. Please note that this isn't a "how to escape your storm" manual. It's not filled with polished answers or tidy resolutions.

What you'll find here is 21 days of honest reflection, raw Scripture, and simple spiritual practices rooted in the truth that God does not avoid our mess. He steps right into it. And sometimes, He speaks most clearly in the middle of it.

Each day, we'll walk through a storm in Scripture not just a weather pattern, but a divine moment where heaven collided with human fear. These storms reveal things: what we believe, what we've buried, what God is forming. They remind us that even when life feels upside down, God never wastes a single wave.

And here's what I need you to know: I didn't write this from dry land. Since 2020, it's felt like one storm after another. From the unraveling of the world as we knew it to deeply personal battles — health, heartbreak, betrayal — it's been a stretch of years that's left me both marked and moved. As I write this letter in the early hours of the morning, I'm also preparing for tonight, when we'll announce the closure of our church. That sentence alone feels like a wave I never wanted to write.

The last five years have been soul-crushing. Leaving the safety of my shore.

Losing safe places.

Watching dreams shift.

And in the middle of it all, I've heard Jesus whisper the same thing over and over: **Stay in the boat.**

But like the disciples, I've panicked. I've forgotten what I knew. I've questioned everything. Even with Jesus still present, still calm, somehow still asleep in the boat I was sure was sinking.

And while there have been moments of joy and breakthrough, the lows? They've been Mariana Trench low. I'm writing this in 2025, and I wish I could say the storm has passed. That things are settled. That the waves have stilled. But they haven't. If I'm honest, it feels like an Acts 27 shipwreck is looming.

And yet, here's what I've come to believe:

JESUS IS NOT AFRAID OF STORMS. AND HE'S NOT LEAVING JUST BECAUSE IT'S GETTING DARK.

If you're asking yourself why I'd write this before the storm has even cleared, it's because most books come with polished endings. But storms aren't polished. They don't hand you a certificate of expertise. They just show you how much you need Jesus. And once you see that, you start to understand that storms aren't random at all.

Storms happen because we live in a storm magnet of a world, one desperately in need of a Savior. In this storm magnet, clouds will gather and winds will rise. Storms are simply part of earthly life.

Full disclosure: this topic has left me with scars I never asked for and skills I never thought I would need. Instead of waiting for the skies to clear, I chose to write from the middle of it all — war-torn, worn-out, but still standing here. Because while storms are guaranteed, so is this: **Jesus is always in the boat.**

Storms have also been some of my greatest teachers.

They have scarred me, shaped me, and given me wisdom I never would have chosen but desperately needed.

These devotionals are my reflections from the middle of the waves, but more than that, they are an invitation for you to let God meet you in your own storm, to form in you gratitude, faith, and wisdom that will last beyond the storm itself.

Wherever this devotional finds you, whether you are gasping for air, clinging to faith, or watching the forecast, I pray these words help you name your storm, anchor your soul, and remember this truth. You are not crazy, you are not alone, and you are certainly not forgotten.

See you on the other side.

Onward.

a reader's guide to the devotional



Welcome to *Still Waters Don't Make Saints*, a 21-day devotional journey through some of the Bible's most defining and disruptive storms. This book isn't just meant to be read. It's meant to be lived. Storm by storm. Day by day. Layer by layer.

STORMS DON'T JUST HAPPEN AROUND US. THEY HAPPEN IN US. AND IF WE LET THEM, GOD WILL USE THEM TO SHAPE US INTO WHO HE'S CALLED US TO BE.

HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL:

Each day follows the same rhythm: a sacred cadence to help you process, grow, and become.

1. The Storm: We begin with a real moment in Scripture. Whether it's disobedience, betrayal, weakness, or rejection. These aren't just ancient stories. They're mirrors. They show us what it means to walk through chaos with God still near.

2. Why It Happens : Storms don't just show up for no reason. Here we'll look at the spiritual roots of fear, calling, delay, pruning, obedience and why God might allow or use the storm to stir something deeper.

3. What It Reveals in You: Storms shake things loose. They expose the lies we have believed, the comfort we have clung to, and the control we refuse to release. But they also surface what is sacred: surrender, courage, hope, and truth.

4. What God Is Forming in You: This is the becoming. Every storm forms something in us if we stay long enough to let God work. That's why each day has a Becoming Focus — like Trusting, Forgiving, Rooted, or Patience. These are meant to remind us what's being forged in the fire.

HOW TO READ THIS DEVOTIONAL:

This devotional is not meant to replace your Bible. It is meant to push you deeper into it. My reflections are here to guide you, but they are not the final word. They are simply my revelations from the storms I have walked through. Yours may look different, and that is the point.

Each day begins with Scripture because I want you to open your Bible, read it in context, and see it with fresh eyes. Read it slowly. Read it as if you were standing with the ancient people who first lived these moments. As you read, ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart and show you something new.

These pages are a launching pad, not a landing place. I am not trying to make you a theologian or a scholar.

I am inviting you to be a real person with a real hunger to hear God in the middle of real storms.

THE GOAL IS NOT TO FINISH A DEVO. THE GOAL IS TO ENCOUNTER GOD AND TO LET HIS WORD READ YOU AS MUCH AS YOU READ IT.

EACH DAY INCLUDES:

- **Scripture:** A storm moment from the Bible and a grounding verse.
- **Devotional Teaching:** Spirit-led reflection with biblical context, insight, and real-life grit.
- **Becoming Focus:** One word or phrase that captures what's forming in you through this storm.
- **Reflection Question:** A prompt to help you engage honestly with what God is doing.
- **Prayer:** A guided prayer to speak what you may not yet have words for.
- **Spiritual Practice:** A simple but powerful action step to help truth take root, like silence, journaling, worship, confession, or rest.
- **Journal Pages:** Whether you have your own space to capture your thoughts or want to jot them in the margins of this book, I've included pages for you to do just that. Let these pages be a testament to your journey.

3 WAYS TO JOURNEY WELL:

- **Go Slow:**

Don't rush this. Transformation doesn't happen on a deadline. It happens in the lingering. In the returning. In the wrestling.

- **Write It Down:**

Use a journal to respond to each Reflection Question. Let your pen become your prayer. What you name, God can transform.

- **Bring God All the Way In:**

This isn't about surviving the storm. It's about meeting God inside of it. Invite Him into every moment—the messy, the mundane, and the miraculous.

FINAL WORDS BEFORE WE BEGIN

You don't need to fix yourself before you start. You just need to show up, open, honest, and willing. Because storms are messy. But they're also holy.

Let the rain fall.

Let the waves crash.

Let your guard down.

**GOD IS NOT AFRAID OF YOUR STORM.
AND HE'S ALREADY IN IT WITH YOU.**

Let's begin.



DAY 01

THE STORM OF DISOBEDIENCE

Jonah 1:1–4, Psalm 139:7–10



The Storm

Jonah was a prophet with a calling, but instead of obeying, he ran in the opposite direction. God told him to go to Nineveh, and his immediate response was to book a ticket to Tarshish. Like most of us who try to outrun obedience, he ended up in a storm. Literally. This wasn't just a weather pattern, it was a divine interruption.

THE STORM WASN'T PUNISHMENT, IT WAS PURSUIT.

But let's be real: Nineveh wasn't just a hard place. It was the worst place. It was the capital of Assyria, a violent empire that terrorized Israel with brutality, torture, and fear. This wasn't a quick mission trip or a gentle conversation. It was a terrifying, risky, and deeply personal ask.

God asked Jonah to walk straight into the center of pain and extend mercy. It was too much. So Jonah didn't just flee the assignment, he tried to flee from the presence of the Lord. That's what the text says.

Because when God calls us to do the uncomfortable, the unthinkable, the non-easy ask, everything in us wants to run.

Why It Happens

Disobedience is rarely loud and rebellious. Most often, it's subtle, quiet, justified. It's saying, "I'll go, just not there." It's, "I'll do it, just not now."

The storm of disobedience comes when our will collides with God's word.

When we love our comfort more than our calling.
When we try to outrun what God already told us to face.
But God doesn't send storms to crush us.

He allows them to confront us.
To reorient our hearts.
To call us back.

What It Reveals in You

Running exposes where you don't trust God. It reveals what you're afraid of, what you're protecting, and what you're not yet ready to surrender. For Jonah, it was Nineveh, the very people who had hurt and oppressed his own. He didn't want to see them saved.

He didn't want to offer grace to the unworthy. For you, it might be something else, an apology you don't want to make. A boundary you don't want to set. A city you don't want to go back to.

A “yes” that feels like too much.

The storm forces this question: What have I been avoiding that God already assigned to me?

What God Is Forming in You

Surrender — Not just the external, “Okay, fine, I’ll go.” But the internal, “God, I trust You more than I trust me.”

BECAUSE SURRENDER CAN'T HAPPEN IN COMFORT. IT ONLY HAPPENS IN THE DISCOMFORT, WHERE FAITH HAS TO STRETCH, AND CONTROL HAS TO DIE.

God isn't after begrudging obedience; he's after willing surrender. Full obedience always leads to deep transformation, and sometimes the only way to reach it is through a storm.

Becoming

Say it out loud: “I am becoming surrendered – I am letting obedience reshape my path.”

Reflection Question

Where have I been running from what God asked of me?

Prayer

Lord, I've run but You pursue. Today, I surrender.

Not because I feel brave, but because I trust you're better.
Reorder what I've resisted. Redeem what I've run from.
Amen.

Spiritual Practice:

Find a quiet space. Write a letter to God confessing the places you've resisted Him.

Be honest.

Be specific.

Then, at the end of the letter, write these words: "I'm done running. I surrender."