

Reflections on Texas Winter Storm by Allison

The title of a friend's book hit home this month, "*When storms come, will you be ready?*" Darin has used this helpful study of **suffering** from Scripture with businessmen. The title's question could not be more true and was very applicable to most of Texas with the recent ice storm, or as some called it "Harvey on Ice"! Would we be ready?? It started with waking up on Feb 15th around 4:30 am and seeing that my digital clock was blinking and thinking, "oh man, the power is out and boy it sure feels cold in here!" [The power would stay out for the next 36 hrs: 15° outside made it interesting, too!] We tried to wait out the storm during the day, but when friends offered to have us spend the night at their home with heat, we jumped at the chance. That evening they graciously guided us through the steps of turning off our water, draining our pipes and protecting our home. We did our best to **physically** get ready for the storm. But as the regional electric power grid around us failed, the pipes burst. Fortunately, we caught the leaks quickly and not a lot of interior damage was done, unlike thousands of other residents who had horrific damage to their homes.

So, while we had readied our house physically, the point of this book is "readying" your heart **spiritually** for life's storms. Preparing for the discomfort, stress and anxiety that accompany storms! With power outages, came uncertainty. With pipes bursting, came anxiety. With rolling blackouts, came instability. My favorite passage to gain perspective on **suffering** is Romans 5:3-5. Trials bring about perseverance, "and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope". I kept repeating this to myself during that week. I had my moments, but God is faithful! Let's all keep preparing our hearts for when the storms, as they inevitably will, come! BTW, we have copies of Kristin Snyder's book mentioned above and would be happy to send anyone a copy, or the book can be found at this link: [When Storms Come: Will You Be Ready?: Snyder, Kristin P.: 9781940269535: Amazon.com: Books](https://www.amazon.com/When-Storms-Come-Will-You-Be-Ready-?ref=ast_seller) (Psalm 112:7 says, He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD.).

During the year everyone receiving this gets prayed for still by name at least once for each letter, so please request prayers about anything going on or others you know with needs whenever you'd like to have something special offered.

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