

Question: What Are Contrary Winds?

Answer:

In Scripture, *contrary winds* refer to opposing forces that hinder forward movement—either physically or spiritually. Let’s explore this using Matthew 14 and a few related passages.

Biblical Context: Matthew 14:23-24

“And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.”

(Matthew 14:23-24)

The disciples were trying to cross the Sea of Galilee, but they were struggling. The phrase “*the wind was contrary*” means the wind was blowing *against* them—resisting their progress.

This wasn’t just inconvenient; it was dangerous. The waves were crashing, and the disciples, some of them experienced fishermen, were

overwhelmed.

Opposition as a Test of Faith

In biblical theology, contrary winds often symbolize trials that test our obedience and trust in God. These can be natural circumstances (like storms), human opposition, or spiritual warfare. Such moments reveal the depth of our faith.

In James 1:2-4, we are reminded:

“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.”

Just as physical winds pressed against the disciples’ boat, spiritual winds—trials, doubts, or demonic resistance—can push against our spiritual journey.

Example: Acts 27:4

“When we had put to sea from there, we sailed under the shelter of Cyprus, because the winds were contrary.”
(Acts 27:4)

Paul’s ship faced similar opposing winds. This delayed their journey and eventually led to a shipwreck—yet God used even that situation for His glory.

Spiritual Meaning of Contrary Winds

Spiritually, *contrary winds* represent every obstacle that attempts to slow, hinder, or reverse your walk with God. They can come in many forms:

- Unexpected financial hardship
- Repeated temptations
- Discouragement in ministry
- Opposition from others when doing God’s will
- Spiritual warfare or demonic interference

As Paul writes in Ephesians 6:12:

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age...”

These spiritual forces are often the source of these „contrary winds.“

Christ's Power Over the Wind

When Jesus walked on the sea toward the disciples (Matthew 14:25), they were terrified, thinking He was a ghost. But:

“But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.’”
(Matthew 14:27)

When He entered the boat, the wind ceased:

“And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.”
(*Matthew 14:32*)

This demonstrates Jesus’ divine authority over nature and the unseen realm (see also Colossians 1:16–17).

How Should We Respond to Contrary Winds?

1. Recognize the Source – Some winds are from God (to redirect or refine), but others come from the enemy (to oppose or destroy). Discern through prayer and the Word.
2. Call on Jesus – Just like the disciples, invite Christ into your situation. His presence brings peace and stills the storm.
3. Stand Firm in Faith – The enemy uses opposition to wear you down. But as James 4:7 says:

“Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

4. Keep Going – Contrary winds may slow you, but they cannot stop God’s plan unless you quit.

If you’re facing contrary winds right now, know that you’re not alone. Even the disciples, in obedience to Jesus, faced fierce opposition. But when Christ came near, everything changed.

So hold fast, keep your eyes on Jesus, and keep rowing in faith.

“He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”
(1 John 4:4)

God bless you as you press forward in faith.

The Lord is coming!

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