

Acts Part 23 He Is Standing By Your Side

Pastor John Carmichael

[Act 23:11 NASB95] 11 But on the night [immediately] following, the Lord stood at his side and said, "Take courage; for as you have solemnly witnessed to My cause at Jerusalem, so you must witness at Rome also."

- Acts 22-25 are all about Paul going from one trial to the next.
- It is very similar to our lives.
- In the middle of the narrative, Jesus appears to Paul. He speaks to him words that were a comfort and carried Paul through.

What does Jesus say to Paul that carried him that will carry and comfort us?

There are four aspects of Jesus' words to Paul that will carry and comfort us.

I. God is the reason for the trials.

- a. Paul is goes through the trials because of his obedience to God.
- b. [1Pe 1:6-9 NASB95] 6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, 7 so that the proof of your faith, [being] more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.
- c. [Psa 105:17-19 NASB95] 17 He sent a man before them, Joseph, [who] was sold as a slave. 18 They afflicted his feet with fetters, He himself was laid in irons; 19 Until the time that his word came to pass, The word of the LORD tested him.
- d. When you stand on the Word of God expect a fight.

II. God is with you during the trials.

- a. The Lord stood with Paul in the darkest part of the night.
- b. [Heb 13:5 NASB95] 5 [Make sure that] your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"
- c. [Dan 3:24-27 NASB95] 24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astounded and stood up in haste; he said to his high officials, "Was it not three men we cast bound into the midst of the fire?" They replied to the king, "Certainly, O king." 25 He said, "Look! I see four men loosed [and] walking [about] in the midst of the fire without harm, and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of [the] gods!" 26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the furnace of blazing fire; he responded and said, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, come out, you servants of the Most High God, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego came out of the midst of the fire. 27 The satraps, the prefects, the governors and the king's high officials gathered around [and] saw in regard to these men that the fire had no effect on the bodies of these men nor was the hair of their head singed, nor were their trousers damaged, nor had the smell of fire [even] come upon them.
- d. The most often repeated promise is that God is with you.

III. God expects/calls you to take courage during trials.

- a. Jesus said for Paul to take courage, be of good cheer, do not be afraid. All of these are good translations.

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- b. [Jhn 16:33 NASB95] 33 "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."
- c. [Heb 10:35-39 NASB95] 35 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. 37 FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE, HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY. 38 BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM. 39 But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.
- d. This is the most often repeated command. God calls us to trust Him.

IV. God will get you where you need to be despite the trials.

- a. Jesus tells Paul that just as he completed one part through trials, he will complete this part through trials. In other words, the trials will not stop him from completing his purpose.
 - b. [2Ti 3:10-12 NASB95] 10 Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, [and] sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium [and] at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! 12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.
 - c. You are coming out. This trial is the not end!
- **Though the trials come and are expected as normal, Jesus is with us and expects to trust Him because He will get us through to the fulfillment of His purpose on our lives.**