

## Acts Part 25 – Surviving The Storm

Pastor John Carmichael

[Act 27:21-26 NASB95] 21 When they had gone a long time without food, then Paul stood up in their midst and said, "Men, you ought to have followed my advice and not to have set sail from Crete and incurred this damage and loss. 22 "[Yet] now I urge you to keep up your courage, for there will be no loss of life among you, but [only] of the ship. 23 "For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me, 24 saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.' 25 "Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe God that it will turn out exactly as I have been told. 26 "But we must run aground on a certain island."

- Broken record... skip, skip, skip. Storms. Problems.
- Yet, the plight of the human condition is storms of some type.
- In Acts 27, Paul was on his way to Rome. He told them about something he perceived, likely in the spirit. They did not listen to him. A hurricane type storm came. They did everything they could to save the ship. They were going to kill the prisoners. Paul stands up and delivers to them the message from the angel.

What is the Holy Spirit saying to us about surviving storms from Acts 27?

These are four things the Holy Spirit is saying to us about surviving storms.

### I. Surviving the storm starts with understanding storms happen.

- a. This storm was bad but it happened before.
- b. The leaders did not listen to Paul. Paul went through the storm because of other people.
- c. Adam & Eve – original sin. Disease, disaster, decay, and death.
- d. Sometimes other people's choices will cause storms in your life.
- e. [Mat 7:24-27 NASB95] 24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and [yet] it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. 26 "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 "The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell and great was its fall."
- f. Storms happen. They are not just something that happens to you.

### II. Surviving the storm means you know God is working.

- a. Angel delivered the message. Why did he not end the storm? Why did Paul not speak to the storm and command it to be still?
- b. Deliverance does not always look the same way.
- c. [Rom 8:28 NASB95] 28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to [His] purpose.
- d. God is working even when you don't see Him or feel Him.

### III. Surviving the storm requires you to not give in to fear.

- a. Three times (v. 22, 24, 25) a version of take heart or don't be afraid.
- b. How do we get to the point that we deal with our issues and not be afraid.
- c. Renew your mind.
- d. [Rom 12:2 NASB95] 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

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- i. [Tit 3:5 NASB95] 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,
- ii. [Pro 4:20-22 NASB95] 20 My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. 21 Do not let them depart from your sight; Keep them in the midst of your heart. 22 For they are life to those who find them And health to all their body.
- e. By the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, we need to renew are mind against fear.

**IV. Surviving the storm knows that you will be delivered.**

- a. Paul knew he was going to be delivered. He did not know all the specifics. (v. 25-26)
  - b. “So how am I to respond? I’ve decided that I really don’t care about their motives, whether mixed, bad, or indifferent. Every time one of them opens his mouth, Christ is proclaimed, so I just cheer them on! **And I’m going to keep that celebration going because I know how it’s going to turn out. Through your faithful prayers and the generous response of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, everything he wants to do in and through me will be done.** I can hardly wait to continue on my course. I don’t expect to be embarrassed in the least. On the contrary, everything happening to me in this jail only serves to make Christ more accurately known, regardless of whether I live or die. They didn’t shut me up; they gave me a platform! Alive, I’m Christ’s messenger; dead, I’m his prize. Life versus even more life! I can’t lose.” Philippians 1:18:21 The Message
  - c. [Phl 1:18-20 NASB95] 18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, 19 for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 20 according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but [that] with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.
  - d. You have to know... God is going to deliver you!
- **God wants you to survive the storms of life by understanding that they come, knowing God is working, refusing to give in to fear, and believing He will deliver you**