

The Anchor in the Storm

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Acts 27:1- 44, is a very interesting passage of Scripture that unfolds like scenes in an adventurous movie. Paul was a prisoner at this point, with some other 276 people in a ship sailing for Italy. On the way, they ran into bad weather and Paul advised the captain not to sail further for there was danger ahead. They ignored his advice and sailed any way, but soon they got into a fierce storm. Paul encouraged them with a word from the angel of the Lord who told him that everyone would be saved, but the ship would be destroyed. After fourteen days of being in the storm, everyone had lost hope of surviving except Paul. In their despair, they stopped eating and waited for the worst to happen. Paul believed fully what God had told him. He knew that he would live; the other people only acted on what they saw. With the storm getting worse by the day, they doubted every word Paul had told them.

Now, see the difference between a man who knew and trusted fully that his God would come through for him compared to people who did not trust God. Paul had life and was enjoying himself in the midst of a ferocious storm, the others had an inward “*storm*,” and they were so distressed that they could not eat. The circumstances around them caused them to despair and with all hope lost, they waited to die.

Which lot are you and I in? It's easy to believe God's promises when everything is going well, but the true test of our faith comes when trials hit and the fulfillment of the promises takes longer than we thought. At this point, we can either trust God that whatever we are going through will be for His glory. However, we can also let doubt take over and the enemy will start us on a downward path that only leads to despair. I have been down that path before and I can tell you it's paved with a loss of peace and lots of fears. Like Paul, we can choose to hold onto God's promises, allow His peace to keep us strong through the storms of life. When doubt crosses your mind, stop, pray and allow God to strengthen your faith.

Back to Paul's account in Act 27:44b *"And this is how all the people made it safely to land."* These people finally believed Paul; they ate and were able to swim to shore. Everyone made it alive just like God had promised. You too will live to tell of God's grace through whatever storm you may be experiencing. Victory is yours, keep trusting in the One whose promises never fail, He is the anchor in the storm.