

ACTS 27:13–26

When a gentle south wind began to blow, they saw their opportunity; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete. 14 Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the Northeaster, swept down from the island. 15 The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along. 16 As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure, 17 so the men hoisted it aboard. Then they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Because they were afraid they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor[b] and let the ship be driven along. 18 We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. 19 On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands. 20 When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

21 After they had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: "Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. 22 But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. 23 Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me 24 and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' 25 So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. 26 Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island."

SERMON REFLECTIONS

- To be faithful is to live a life full of faith. We live what we believe. What does how you live say about what you believe?
- Paul trusted God's Word. Read through Psalm 119 and list some of the reasons why God's Word is so vital to living a faithful life with God.
- In Acts 27 and 28 what were some of the ways God used the circumstances in Paul's life to create opportunities to glorify God and preach the gospel? What circumstances in your life right now may God be trying to use for the same purpose?
- Describe your relationship with God. How do you think God would describe your relationship with Him?
- Paul remained faithful because he trusted the Word of God and the Person of God. He trusted God's Word because it is true. He trusted God because He is good and sovereign. What does your level of faithfulness to God say about your level of trust in God's Word and God's Person?

ACTS 27:25

"So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me."

- In light of all this, why do you think God brought the storm on Paul's journey to Rome? Why does He bring storms in our lives?