

Remaining Calm in a Crisis

Acts 27:8-10

Life is like a voyage where we experience storms and crises.

Paul's example teaches how to remain calm throughout a crisis.

Acts 27:14-17

The storms of life can cause us to drift aimlessly.

The relentless battering of adversity can knock us to the point where we lose hope of a brighter and better future.

*18: So we took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to **throw the cargo overboard**. 19: And on the third day, they **threw the ship's tackle overboard**.*

The storms of life can cause us to panic and to forget what is important.

Physically, we may stop eating properly, stop exercising, and sleep less, causing our health to suffer.

Emotionally, we may become drained, anxious, worried or stressed.

Spiritually, we may spend less time seeking the Lord, we may reach out to the lost less, we may give less, we may serve less, and so on.

The storms of life can drive us to the point of despair.

20: When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

Paul's response: he was calm.

*22: But I urge you to **keep up your courage** because not one of you will be lost, only the ship will be destroyed.*

The test of our faith is how we handle the constant waves of adversity.

- **Our character is revealed in a crisis.**
- **The strength of our relationship with God is revealed in a crisis.**

The depth of our trust and confidence in God's provision and protection is revealed when we are battered by life's uncertainties.

In a crisis, we need to put down some anchors for stability.

29: Fearing that we would be dashed against the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern and they prayed for daylight.

The first anchor in a crisis is to know that **GOD IS PRESENT.**

23: Last night, when an angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, stood beside me.

Wherever we are, God is there!

God promises, *to never leave us nor to forsake us.*

The second anchor in a crisis is to remember the **PURPOSE OF GOD.**

24: ...he said, `Don't be afraid, Paul, for you will surely stand trial before Caesar! What's more, God in His goodness has granted safety to everyone sailing with you.

God has a purpose and a plan for each of us. Storms are temporary setbacks to fulfilling that purpose.

When we only focus on our problems, we will start drifting and lose sight of the bigger purpose God has for our lives.

The third anchor in a crisis is to **KNOW GOD'S PROMISE.**

25: So, keep up your courage men, For I have faith in God that it will happen just as He told me.

What do we do while waiting for God to fulfill His promise? **We do what Paul did**

*29: Fearing that we would be dashed against the rocks they dropped four anchors from the stern. And they **prayed for daylight.***

Keep praying and believing until God's promise eventuates.

Acts 27: 39-44 (msg)

God gave them a promise of safety, and everyone made it safely to shore.

Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.

Hebrews 6:19 "Hope is the anchor of the soul."

Where do we get that kind of hope?

We get hope from the Lord Jesus who injects hope into our hopeless situation!