

Acts 27:23-25 (nkjv) For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, ²⁴ saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.' ²⁵ Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me.

The story...

- Paul had been arrested and was on a ship bound for Rome.
- They had encountered a terrible storm and were potentially doomed.
- Paul had received a specific word from the Lord.

Faith for a Mediterranean Cruise

How do we exercise or operate faith in real life situations?

Paul's cruise commenced with hope and anticipation

- A very long story about one trip across the Mediterranean. *Acts 27:1 - Acts 28:16*
- A very human story.
- A story about the ferocity of nature.
- A story of God's intervention and promises.

- A response of personal believing in a powerful God.

A story full of wonderful lessons!

Observations...

- They began with hope and anticipation...

Acts 27:2 So, ...we put to sea, meaning to sail along the coasts of Asia.

- They hit stormy weather.

Acts 27:9 ...and sailing was now dangerous...

Acts 27:14-16 But not long after, a tempestuous head wind arose...So when the ship was caught, and could not head into the wind, we let her drive...we secured the skiff with difficulty.

Acts 27:27 Now when the fourteenth night had come, as we were driven ...about midnight the sailors sensed that they were drawing near some land.

- Their circumstances changed very quickly.

Acts 27:17-18 When they had taken it on board, they used cables to undergird the ship; and fearing lest they should run aground ... they struck sail and so were driven. And because we were exceedingly tempest-tossed, the next day they lightened the ship.

- They worked hard to resist the storm.

Acts 27:19-20 On the third day we threw the ship's

tackle overboard with our own hands. Now when neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest beat on us, all hope that we would be saved was finally given up.

- Their values were rapidly re-aligned.

Acts 27:18-19 ...because we were exceedingly tempest-tossed, the next day they lightened the ship. On the third day we threw the ship's tackle overboard with our own hands.

- They gave up hope.

Acts 27:20 ...all hope that we would be saved was finally given up.

- God's word imparted faith.

Acts 27:22-25 (nkjv) And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship.²³ For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, ²⁴ saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.' ²⁵ Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me.

I Believe God

*Acts 27:25 (nkjv) Therefore take heart, men, for **I believe God** that it will be just as it was told me.*

I = Personal believing.

- Believing cannot be outsourced.
 - *Not your parents*
 - *Not your grandmother*
 - *Not your pastor*
- Jesus often looked for ‘personal faith.’
 - Woman with the issue of blood.*
Luke 8:43-48 “Daughter your faith has healed you”
 - Blind Bartimaeus.*
Mark 10:46-52 “...Your faith has healed you”
 - Centurion and his servant.*
Matthew 8:5-13 ”...just as you believed”
 - Four men and their and paralytic friend.*
Luke 5:17-26 “...when Jesus saw their faith...”

Believe = Active believing and faith.

- Faith is not passive.
 - ‘Believing’ is ‘verb’ - a doing word.*
 - Woman with the issue of blood.*
Luke 8:43-48 “...she came up behind him and touched the hem of his garment...”
 - Blind Bartimaeus.*
Mark 10:46-52 “...he shouted all the more...have mercy on me...”
 - Centurion and his servant.*

Matthew 8:5-13 “...speak the word only and my servant will be healed...”

Four men and their and paralytic friend.

Luke 5:17-26 “...they lowered him in front of Jesus.”

God = Directed believing.

- Whose word am I believing?

The politician?

The economist?

The scoffer/ungodly/non-believer?

Social media?

Urban myths?

Entertainers?

Influencers?

Agnostics and atheists?

- Am I believing the Word of the Living God?

By understanding the character and nature of God.

By reading and learning from the great stories and history of the Bible.

By learning about the purposes of God.

By learning, memorizing, speaking and rehearsing Gods promises.

By aligning our language and conversations with Gods language

- Listening to and knowing God's Word.

Woman with the issue of blood.

Luke 8:43-48 "...a woman had been subject to bleeding for twelve years..."

Blind Bartimaeus.

Mark 10:46-52 "...when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth..."

Four men and their and paralytic friend.

Luke 5:17-26 "They tried to take him into the house."

Centurion and his servant.

Matthew 8:5-13 "...speak the word..."

- On the mount of transfiguration with Peter, James and John.

*Luke 9:34-35 While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were fearful as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. **Hear Him!**"*

- **I** = Personal believing
- **Believe** = Active believing
- **God** = Directed believing

*"Therefore take heart, men, for **I believe God** that it will be just as it was told me."*

We can operate in overcoming faith in all of life's situations!