

What To Do When You Hit Rough Waters Acts 27

Introduction:

1. Here in our text, Paul commences his long trip to Rome where he will ultimately stand trial before Caesar.
2. On this trip, Paul encountered a great storm on the Mediterranean Sea which resulted in a violent shipwreck experience. Paul was about three-fourths of the way to Rome, and on the second ship of the voyage.
3. Paul had warned the crew **not** to set sail, but nobody would listen. vs. 9-13
4. They sailed in a large ship that could carry at least 276 people (vs. 37), and it was caught in the storm very suddenly. vs. 14-20
 - Things didn't look good at all. Death looked certain and imminent.
5. How does the apostle Paul respond to these turbulent circumstances? There appears to be no fear or panic. His soul was at total peace. He was calm and cool-headed.
6. Rest assured, this doesn't happen by accident. Paul walked close to the Lord, and it showed. The depth of our relationship with God will be revealed when we hit rough waters. Every believer **can** navigate victoriously through the rough waters of life.
7. Let's look at Paul's response and learn some valuable principles that will help us to come through rough waters victoriously.

First, you must stand firmly on the promises of God. vs. 21-26

1. When things looked hopeless, God provided Paul with a precious promise that his life would be spared, as well as the lives of everyone on the ship.
2. Paul then stood up and shared this promise with everyone on the ship. vs. 21-26
 - Paul couldn't resist saying, "I told you so." vs. 21
 - When Paul said this (vs. 22), every head on the boat must have turned.
 - Can't you just see these hardened soldiers and sailors saying, "Yea right, Paul's personal angel appeared to him. Are you crazy? Sit down and shut up!" vs. 23-24
 - Yet look at verse 25. "*I believe God.*"
3. When we hit rough waters, we must stand firmly on the promises of God.
4. God has given to us "**exceeding great and precious promises.**" 2 Peter 1:4
 - Because they are "*exceeding great,*" they give us limitless hope when going through problems.
 - Because they are "*precious,*" they provide us enormous hope when encountering trials.
5. There are four excellent reasons to stand firmly on God's promises.
 - God cannot lie. Titus 1:2 (A promise isn't any good if the one making the promise is a liar.)
 - God's power knows no bounds. Romans 4:21 (He is able to keep His promises.)

- God is faithful. Hebrews 11:11 (It's one thing to have the power to keep a promise, but it is another thing to have the character to keep a promise.)
 - Standing on God's promises demonstrates our faith. Romans 4:20
6. There is no way to please God without faith. When you read the Bible and pray, quote God's promises back to Him. He loves this.