



## HOW TO STAY CALM IN A CRISIS

*Acts 27:9-29 (New Living Translation)*

<sup>9</sup>We had lost a lot of time. The weather was becoming dangerous for sea travel because it was so late in the fall, and Paul spoke to the ship’s officers about it. <sup>10</sup>“Men,” he said, “I believe there is trouble ahead if we go on—shipwreck, loss of cargo, and danger to our lives as well.”

<sup>11</sup>But the officer in charge of the prisoners listened more to the ship’s captain and the owner than to Paul. <sup>12</sup>And since Fair Havens was an exposed harbor—a poor place to spend the winter—most of the crew wanted to go on to Phoenix, farther up the coast of Crete, and spend the winter there. Phoenix was a good harbor with only a southwest and northwest exposure.

<sup>13</sup>When a light wind began blowing from the south, the sailors thought they could make it. So they pulled up anchor and sailed close to the shore of Crete. <sup>14</sup>But the weather changed abruptly, and a wind of typhoon strength (called a “northeaster”) burst across the island and blew us out to sea. <sup>15</sup>The sailors couldn’t turn the ship into the wind, so they gave up and let it run before the gale.

<sup>16</sup>We sailed along the sheltered side of a small island named Cauda, where with great difficulty we hoisted aboard the lifeboat being towed behind us. <sup>17</sup>Then the sailors bound ropes around the hull of the ship to strengthen it. They were afraid of being driven across to the sandbars of Syrtis off the African coast, so they lowered the sea anchor to slow the ship and were driven before the wind.

<sup>18</sup>The next day, as gale-force winds continued to batter the ship, the crew began throwing the cargo overboard. <sup>19</sup>The following day they even took some of the ship’s gear and threw it overboard. <sup>20</sup>The terrible storm raged for many days, blotting out the sun and the stars, until at last all hope was gone.

<sup>21</sup>No one had eaten for a long time. Finally, Paul called the crew together and said, “Men, you should have listened to me in the first place and not left Crete. You would have avoided



all this damage and loss. <sup>22</sup> But take courage! None of you will lose your lives, even though the ship will go down. <sup>23</sup> For last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me, <sup>24</sup> and 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.’ <sup>25</sup> So take courage! For I believe God. It will be just as he said. <sup>26</sup> But we will be shipwrecked on an island.”

<sup>27</sup> About midnight on the fourteenth night of the storm, as we were being driven across the Sea of Adria, the sailors sensed land was near. <sup>28</sup> They dropped a weighted line and found that the water was 120 feet deep. But a little later they measured again and found it was only 90 feet deep. <sup>29</sup> At this rate they were afraid we would soon be driven against the rocks along the shore, so they threw out four anchors from the back of the ship and prayed for daylight.

Life is like a voyage—and often our ship encounters unexpected storms. From an actual storm that Paul faced at sea, we can see an example of how to stay calm in a crisis.

## I. WHY WE EXPERIENCE “STORMS” IN LIFE

\_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 11)  
*“...they followed the advice of the pilot and owner...”*

\_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 12)  
*“...the majority decided that we should sail...”*

\_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 13)  
*“When a gentle south wind began to blow, they thought they had obtained what they wanted...”*



**II. HOW “STORMS” TEND TO AFFECT OUR LIVES**

1. Storms cause us to \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 15, 17)  
*“...so we gave way to it and were driven along...”*
2. Storms cause us to \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 18-19)  
*“...they began to throw the cargo overboard...”*
3. Storms cause us to \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 20)  
*“...we finally gave up all hope of being saved...”*

**III. WHAT TO HOLD ONTO IN A “STORM”**

1st Anchor: \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 23)  
*“...an angel of God stood beside me...”*

Storms cannot hide \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Anchor: \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 24)  
*“...Don't be afraid...you must stand before Caesar...”*

Storms cannot change \_\_\_\_\_

3rd Anchor: \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 25)  
*“...I have faith in God that it will happen just as He told me...”*

Storms cannot destroy \_\_\_\_\_