



Go for God!

“We Believe God!”

ACTS Chapter 27

> (v1-20) A Word of Knowledge!

(v1-8) Observe four travel insights:

(i) Time of voyage: September/October

(ii) Paul’s Traveling Companions: Aristarchus (Col. 4:10; Philem. 24) & Dr Luke, “us” (v2)

(iii) Geographical insights: Caesarea to Sidon - 80 miles; Myra to Cnidus - 130 miles.

(iv) Weather conditions: Every sailor knew that sailing was difficult from mid-September to mid-November, and impossible from mid-November to February.

(v9) The “Fast” - This *fast*, or *feast*, was the Jewish *Day of Atonement*, commemorated on the tenth day of the seventh month (Heb. *Tishri* - September/October; Lev. 23:2, 27).

(v10) A “word of knowledge” - 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 - *There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*

(v11-20) The results of listening to the word of man, rather than the Word of God. (Remember Jonah. How about the Titanic - “Not even God could sink this ship.”)

Ephesians 5:11 - *And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.*

2 Corinthians 6:14-15 - *Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?*

1 Corinthians 15:33-34 - Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God-I say this to your shame.

> (v21-38) A Word of Encouragement!

(v21-25) Encouragement comes from God! - Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:19 - And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 13:5-6 - For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

~ Author and Bible teacher Jim George gives us three courage growth points in his book "A Leader After God's Own Heart":

- Growth point #1 – Courage grows from God's character!
- Growth point #2 – Courage expands with God's guidance!
- Growth point #3 – Courage multiplies with God's presence!

(v26-34) Jesus challenges our courage in Luke 8:22-25 - Now it happened, on a certain day, that He got into a boat with His disciples. And He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side of the lake." And they launched out. But as they sailed He fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm. But He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another, "Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!"

~ Jim George also gives us a profile in courage:

- Courage starts in the heart!
- Courage takes risks!
- Courage attempts the impossible!
- Courage takes a stand!
- Courage seeks justice!
- Courage does the right thing!
- Courage is not selfish!
- Courage does not compromise!

- Let us remember the courage of Peter and the apostles in Acts 5:29-32 - *But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."*

(v35-38) Victory comes through prayer and thanksgiving! - **Victory over death!**
John 11:41-44 - *And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."*

- Insight: Paul started as a prisoner and ended as the captain!

Wiersbe writes, "A crisis does not make a person; a crisis shows what a person is made of, and it tends to bring true leadership to the fore. . . . Storms can give us opportunities to serve others and bear witness to Jesus Christ. Paul was the most valuable man on that ship. He knew how to pray! He had faith in God, and he was in touch with the Almighty."

> (v39-44) A Day of Salvation!

(v44) Grab your boards, surfs up! Cowabunga dude!

Acts 4:12 - *Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

Romans 1:16 - *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes,*

Romans 10:9-10 - *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*