

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
James M. Duncan, Pastor

MAY 3, 2020

Series #5 - LIVING ABOVE OUR FEARS

“SURVIVING THE STORMS OF LIFE”

ACTS 27:13-29

My “mission statement” for many, many years has been: **“Preaching, Praying and Plugging away.”** I have added to that mission statement for my life and ministry which is: **“Aspire to Inspire before you Expire and Don’t Mess Up”** and I hope that is what I can do this morning; **INSPIRE** and **NOT MESS UP.**

In **Acts 27** when the Apostle Paul was caught in a life threatening storm. Now remember that - *A storm does not make a person - a storm shows what a person is made of.* Here we are in this global and national storm called – Covid 19 and I believe we have an opportunity to show our faith and what we really believe about the Bible as the Word of God.

We all face the storms of life and it is not **IF** we will, but **WHEN** we will. Some are *physical* - some will be *personal*. Storms are a part of life. The right question is not whether they will come, or when, but **how we will respond to them.**

There are three universal truths about the storms of life that we all experience:

- 1. Life’s Storms Are Times of Despair *Vs. 14-17, 20***
- 2. Life’s Storms Are Times of Decision *Vs. 18-19***
- 3. Life’s Storms Are times of Deliverance *Vs. 29***

How then do we survive the storms of life? We survive with these four anchors that were used to save Paul and this ship.

I. YOU WILL SURVIVE THE STORMS OF LIFE - WHEN YOU ANCHOR YOUR HEART IN GOD’S PRESENCE *Vs. 23*

The scriptures teach us about God’s Divine Presence:

Hebrews 13:5, Matthew 28:20, Psalm 23:4.

Vs. 25 Paul says, **“I BELIEVE GOD.”** He knew God was with Him and everything was going to be all right in this storm.

II. YOU WILL SURVIVE THE STORMS OF LIFE - WHEN YOU ANCHOR YOUR SOUL IN GOD’S PROMISES *Vs. 24-25*

As Paul weathered that long, terrible storm, the Lord came to him with a precious promise. He reminded Paul that he would stand before Caesar, and that all those on the ship were to be spared as well. For Paul, just having a word from God was enough to anchor him and give him blessed assurance. Why? He knew God was a **PROMISE KEEPING GOD!**

III. YOU WILL SURVIVE THE STORMS OF LIFE -WHEN YOU ANCHOR YOUR LIFE IN GOD’S PLAN *Vs. 24*

“...fear not Paul thou must be brought before Caesar...” *V-24 Jeremiah 29:11* *“For I know the plans I have for you says the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans for hope and a future.”*

Now the last anchor we need to survive the storms of life is:

IV. YOU WILL SURVIVE THE STORMS OF LIFE –WHEN YOU ANCHOR YOUR HOPE IN GOD’S POWER – *Vs. 44*

“...and it came to pass that they all escaped safe to land.”

God is able to work it all out! He will get you through your storm and land you safely beyond it! It may look like your boat is going to sink. It might look like the storms of life are going to prevail. But, when the waves have all settled down, when the winds have ceased their blowing, when the rains have abated, when the storm clouds have moved off from the horizon; you will see that God was in control all along! I can promise you this, no storm in this life will be able to blow you off course if you are holding on to the strong anchor of God’s power! Again, I remind you of what the Bible says about God’s Power. For in: *Luke 1:37; Jeremiah 32:17; Ephesians 3:20.*

This morning Beloved you need to make sure in your heart of hearts that you are **ANCHORED** and **steadfast in the One who Paul said about in *Eph. 3:30-31***; *“Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”*

BELOVED BRETHREN MAKE SURE WE HAVE:

- ◆ Our Hearts are anchored in **GOD’S PRESENCE**
- ◆ Our Souls are anchored in **GOD’S PROMISES**
- ◆ Our Life is anchored in **GOD’S PLAN**
- ◆ Our Hope is anchored in **GOD’S POWER**

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