

Facebook Live
Winning in Hard Times
Lesson 1 – March 24, 2020

Acts 27

Storms are often part of God’s plan for our lives.

1 Peter 4:12: Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

James 1:2-3, 13: “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. . . Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

That test you’re going through caused by this pandemic is for a purpose—to supply something lacking in your life.

- What is lacking in your life?

How a Christian should face a storm:

1. Don’t give in to fear.

The Apostle Paul did not give in to fear. He got a message from God and he believed it!

Everything you need to get you through this storm is in God’s Word. And you can carry it with you everywhere you go, you can read it anytime you like, you can study it and memorize it and hide it in your heart, so that you have an anchor that is steadfast and sure, you have hope, you have courage, you have faith—and you aren’t a victim of fear.

2. Refuse to look at the circumstances; choose to look to God.

When you’re going through a storm, what do you focus on?

Talk about God’s goodness; give a sacrifice of praise—praising God even when you don’t feel like it. Do not let yourself go into that negative, fearful, complaining mode by focusing on the problem all the time. Refuse it; talk back to the Devil when he tries to fill you with fear and hopelessness.

3. Became an encourager, concerned more with others than with your own plight.

When we're in the midst of a storm, we tend to be very self-focused, very self-absorbed. More than at any other time, we need to get our eyes off ourselves and our problems, and start reaching out to others in need, even if their need is not as great as our own!

Proverbs 11:25: A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

Do you want to be counted as a winner when these tough times are over? Look for someone who needs your help, and give it generously.

Isaiah 58:6 – 9: Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to lose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to cloth him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

Philippians 2:4: Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Say with Job:

But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold
(**Job 23:10**).

Hebrews 12:2: Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Christian Working Woman ~ PO Box 1210 ~ Wheaton IL 60187-1116

Office: 630.462.0552

E-mail: tcww@christianworkingwoman.org

Website: christianworkingwoman.org