

HOW TO DEAL WITH DIFFICULTY

THE SIX PHASES OF FAITH, PART 5

Pastor Ken Ritz * November 24, 2019 * New Life Vineyard Church

Acts Chapter 27

(Jesus) *"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world."* John 16:33

(Paul) *In everything we do, we show that we are God's servants by patiently enduring troubles, hardships, and difficulties.*

2 Corinthians 6:4 (GN)

...the centurion, instead of listening to what Paul said, followed the advice of the pilot and of the owner of the ship. Acts 27:9-11

- **I have to make a decision: will I steer by my senses, or will I steer by the Spirit?**
- **Outcome is God's responsibility, obedience is mine.**

The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along. Acts 27:15

- **Am I being "driven along" because I ignored God's warnings?**

... the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands.

When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

After they had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: "Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed.

Acts 27:18-22

- **Sometimes our hope is in "Our Plan," for where we think God wants us to go. But if your hope is in your plan, then when your plan is interrupted, your faith fails.**

"So keep up your courage, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me." Acts 27:23-25

Wrong Responses To Difficulties

- **Don't Drift**
we gave way to it and were driven along. Verse 15
- **Don't Discard**
They began to throw the cargo overboard. Verse 18
- **Don't Despair**
They finally gave up all hope of being saved. Verse 20

The Right Response To Difficulties

- **Confess my part.**
- **Confront the problem.**
Now I urge you to take some food. You need it to survive. Vs. 34-40
- **Claim a promise.** Verses 22-25

He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6