



Power From on High

Series: Power From On High

Text: Acts 27:1-20

Title: Anchored in the Storm, Part 1

Date: October 25 2026

Lesson: 142

Five ways God's providence strengthens our faithfulness:

1. He _____ us through trials.

A. He provides _____ to strengthen us.

Acts 27:1 When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, they proceeded to deliver Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan cohort named Julius.

“we”

2 And embarking in an Adramyttian ship, which was about to sail to the regions along the coast of Asia, we put out to sea accompanied by Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica.

“Adramyttian ship” - a commercial merchant ship based in a prominent seaport called Adramyttium

“Aristarchus” - Col. 4:10 “fellow prisoner”

**We should never assume that faithfulness requires
facing trials _____.**

**B. He provides _____
to refresh us.**

3 The next day we put in at Sidon; and Julius treated Paul with consideration and allowed him to go to his friends and receive care.

“Julius”

“friends”

**Don't forget that God's grace frequently comes wrapped
in the community that God places around us.**

C. He provides _____ despite obstacles.

4 From there we put out to sea and sailed under the shelter of Cyprus because the winds were contrary.

5 When we had sailed through the sea along the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we landed at Myra in Lycia. **6** There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing for Italy, and he put us aboard it.

7 When we had sailed slowly for a good many days, and with difficulty had arrived off Cnidus, since the wind did not permit us to go farther, we sailed under the shelter of Crete, off Salmone; **8** and with difficulty sailing past it we came to a place called Fair Havens, near which was the city of Lasea.

“Fair Havens”

“sailed slowly and with much difficulty” “difficulty”

_____ progress is still progress.

Difficulty does not necessarily mean we are

_____.

2. He exposes the _____ of human control.

A. He exposes the limits of our _____.

9 When considerable time had passed and the voyage was now dangerous, since even the fast was already over, Paul began to admonish them,

“the fast was already over” (Day of Atonement)

10 and said to them, “Men, I perceive that the voyage will certainly be with damage and great loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives.”

“perceive”

11 But the centurion was more persuaded by the pilot and the captain of the ship than by what was being said by Paul.

“pilot”

“captain”

12 Because the harbor was not suitable for wintering, the majority reached a decision to put out to sea from there, if somehow they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete, facing southwest and northwest, and spend the winter there.

B. He exposes the unreliability of favorable

13 When a moderate south wind came up, supposing that they had attained their purpose, they weighed anchor and began sailing along Crete, close inshore.

14 But before very long there rushed down from the land a violent wind, called Euraquilo;

“Euraquilo” - a violent northeasterly wind “nor’easter” ‘

15 and when the ship was caught in it and could not face the wind, we gave way to it and let ourselves be driven along.

“We gave way to it and let ourselves be driven along”

C. He exposes the inadequacy of our

16 Running under the shelter of a small island called Clauda, we were scarcely able to get the ship's boat under control.

“ship's boat”

17 After they had hoisted it up, they used supporting cables in undergirding the ship; and fearing that they might run aground on the shallows of Syrtis, they let down the sea anchor and in this way let themselves be driven along.

18 The next day as we were being violently storm-tossed, they began to jettison the cargo; **19** and on the third day they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands.

D. He exposes the fragility of human

20 Since neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small storm was assailing us, from then on all hope of our being saved was gradually abandoned.

“Neither sun nor stars appeared for many days”

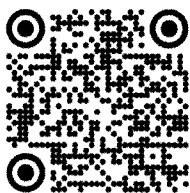
Implications

**1. God's providence cannot be derailed even when
_____ fails.**

**2. Stormy trials that exceed all human resources drive us to
greater _____ on God.**

Discussion Guide

1. Looking back at a difficult season in your own life, where can you spot "quiet provisions" or unexpected support that God placed in your path right when you needed it most?
2. Why is it so easy to equate comfortable, favorable circumstances with being in the center of God's will? How can we better discern genuine divine guidance from temporary ease?
3. How do you personally react when life or spiritual growth feels like it has ground to a snail's pace? How does knowing that Paul was in God's will while struggling change your view of difficult seasons?
4. In what areas of life (finances, health, planning, control) do we most naturally rely on our own "resources" first? What does it look like practically to reach the end of our own strength and lean entirely on God?
5. How does the biblical truth that God remains sovereign even over our unwise decisions bring you comfort or challenge you in your current choices?



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ANSWERS: sustains, companions, alone, unexpected kindness, progress, Slow, out of God's will, illusion, wisdom, circumstances, resources, confidence, human wisdom, dependence