Trust God in the Storm

Acts 27 | Al Williams | November 15, 2026

START OF SERMON MANUSCRIPT

Acts 27:20-22
20 When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.
21 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. 22 But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed.

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PRAY

Ill never forget it was years ago when Aubrey and I lived in Miami. It was hurricane season and we had never heard of or been there during any major storms ever but this year we were in quite a shock because it was the time when we were looking out for the storm called hurricane Irma. The storm was predicted to be one of the top four largest cat five storms to strike land since the 1930s when this storm finally struck land and ended up doing damage that cost upword of $77 billion dollars in damage. Our House at the time was in an evacuation zone and the church that I worked at was in the evacuation zone so you have the option to leave town. But my wife works for the hospital and since a hospital, should not close down due to a storm, the employees had to draw straws on who is going to have to stay for a team a who was gonna have to make sure they could come in right away for B team to relieve the team a, that would be there for the storm they did this by drawing straws, casting lots. My wife was amongst a few other coworkers who drew the short straw I needed to stay during this treacherous storm that we were awaiting to hit land. The day finally came when the storm was going to touch land and it was time for Aubrey to check into the hospital, and I was going to check in and the spouse area for those who had to stay during the storm. We pulled up to the hospital and I think I was just expecting that we would walk in and check in and be taken to where we were going to stay for the next few days, but that was not the scene that we saw the moment that we got to the hospital. It was total chaos police officers were out front, creating a barricade and stopping mobs of people from getting in but the closer we got, you could see that all the people that were mashed in the lobby on the inside we got up to the door and a police officer noticed my wife in her badge that she was an employee there, and they grabbed her by the arm and pushed her inside and escorted her inside, and they pushed me outside and said that I could not stay when I had to argue with the man and told him that I am the spouse of someone who works here who just got pushed inside and that I had filled out the form and did my part so that I was able to have a place to stayI was simply met with that. We don't have room here. You cannot stay here and I asked the man what am I going to do and he said I don't know, buddy figure it out. And I'll never forget standing there as the gentle breeze turned into a hard wind, which turned into hard rain and it got very dark quickly, and I'll never forget standing there not only was I in an external storm an Actual literal storm, there was a storm going on on the inside of me and that exact moment of time. I spare you the details I was able to find shelter and I survived ha ha.

I bring that story up because this is exactly what we see in our text today. Paul along with 275 other passengers find themselves on a boat in the middle of a storm and not only do we see these men in an actual literal storm, but there's a storm taking place within their souls. Maybe there's some of you in here today and you're in a storm right now. I'll never forget hearing from an older man when i first got saved he said there are three kinds of people in this world one who is going into a storm one who is in a storm and one who was just coming out of a storm and he said this to say have mercy on everybody you don't know what they're going through. But scripture tells us that storms are going to happen in life, doesn't it? I think about James chapter 1 when he says to count it all joy when you encounter various trials, knowing that it produces something within us. But don't read it all fast he said when you encounter trials, don't you wish it said if but it doesn't he says when you encounter them because in the fallen world Things get broken People are broken Situations can be broken. And even out of the mouth of Jesus he said in this world you will have trouble!! And just by looking across some of our faces here in the crowd, I could see there are some of us in the room who are not entering into a storm who are not coming out of it, but you're smack dab in the middle of it right now and you don't know what to do. I wanna encourage you right now to encourage your soul. Here's the sermon in the nutshell, brother sister trust God.

So you may be sitting there and asking yourself man this sounds good and but what do I need to do? What are the things that I have to do when I'm in a storm how do I make it through the storm and if I'm not going through a storm how do I prepare myself for a storm? What are the things that I need to do and keep into mine and remember when going through a storm great question glad you asked. That's what we're going to find out from our text today. If you're taking notes in here today, that's the big idea that that you need to trust God through and in the storm. And we're going to see this in three simple ways.

How to Trust God in a Storm

1. Recognize your storm (vv.13-19)
2. Refocus your soul (vv.20-22)
3. Remember your savior! (vv. 23-26)

Let's take a look at the first one. Write this down this point number one.

1. Recognize your storm (vv.13-19)

Acts 27:13-19
13 When a gentle south wind began to blow, they saw their opportunity; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete. 14 Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the Northeaster, swept down from the island. 15 The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along. 16 As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure, 17 so the men hoisted it aboard. Then they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Because they were afraid they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship be driven along. 18 We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. 19 On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands.

Before I dive into verse 13, I need to give us a little background to catch us up to speed. There is a lot to talk about in this chapter that we just won't get to today but I pray and I hope this encourages you to just go back and read this chapter on your own and to study on your own, it is truly a fascinating chap, especially when it comes to the providential hand of God on Paul's life. But up to this point as you guys have been tracking along, whether she'll know that Paul has been in prison this entire time this is almost a two year span as he's making this trip to Rome and so last week we saw that he stood before Flavius and they then dismissed him to then be delivered to roll, but if you can remember a few chapters earlier in chapter 23 got up here to Paul, and he told him the same way that you were standing in preaching the gospel in Jerusalem is the same way you will stand in Rome and preach the gospel and so Paul has a promise from Jesus himself that He will make it to Rome. So now the time has come when Paul and Artis and Dr. Luke are going to make their way to Rome as prisoners and there's a man by the name of Julis Centurian. I wish I had more time to explain about him, but I do think that he came to know God the way he recognized the man of God and listened to the man of God. Julius ends up taking a liking to Paul and really he's his advice. We know this because Paul and the prisoners ride with Julius on the smaller boat and they make it to this area where now they're gonna transfer to an Alexandria boat, which is making its way back to Rome, many scholars believe it is carrying grain. There was boats coming all the time back-and-forth bringing things into the port of Rome, but we know that Julius really trust Paul because there is a scene a set earlier a few verses in this chapter where Julius the owner of the ship and the captain of the ship are having a discussion about whether or not they should continue on or they should just make port in Fairhaven where they are the owner, and the captain, obviously are thinking about the bottom line and truly believe that they can make it and set sale, but Paul, who, on the notes to them has been on the sea a few times according to second Corinthians Paul talks about how he was shipped wrecked not once not twice but three times and on one of those occasions, he was a drift at sea all day and all night could you imagine and so Paul knows a thing or two about the sea and many scholars believe that this time is mid October and because they don't have weather forecasting like we do today no one could look and see hurricanes coming. These men are looking for the bottom line as where Paul knows. This is not the time to be on the water. We should stay here in winter here, but Julius persuaded by the majority signs with the group and they decide to set sale for Rome because verse 13 tells us that they saw an opportunity. Look again at 13.

Acts 27:13-
13 When a gentle south wind began to blow, they saw their opportunity; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete. 14 Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the Northeaster, swept down from the island.

Can I just stop and make a practical comment here. Often times this is how trials begin or how storm start off. Everything is cool and smooth and easy breezy and then before you know it, the storm shows up. You just got married you guys never fight you get along about everything you don't disagree about anything. This is going to be a breeze. Oh man, we're having kids and our kids are gonna be the smartest and not gonna have any troubles at school. You know they're already doing so well right now while they're so young. This is gonna be a breeze. Man, I just started the business things are going well. You know my plan is I'm gonna open up a couple more expand in 10 years expand the portfolio. You know this is gonna be a breeze.Oh man, I just got into this college. All of my friends are there. I got some of the best teachers. This is going to be a breeze and then before we know it storm has broken out. One New Testament scholar, who also was an archaeologist and an expert on Asia Minor in the Bible timesI actually went to the island of Crete and met with many Mariners and had conversations with them and one comment thread that they all talked about was during that time of the year how strong the winds come off the mountain, they say it could blow a ship right out of the water.Wow, they are in the storm. Let's continue on.

Acts 27:13-
15 The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along. 16 As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure, 17 so the men hoisted it aboard. Then they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Because they were afraid they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship be driven along. 18 We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. 19 On the third day, they threw the ship’s tackle overboard with their own hands.

This was supposed to be a simple 40 mile trip and the point in destination that these men believe that they are, they are well over 40 miles away from the destination they are trying to get to. One of the most fascinating things about this passage is all of the detail given to this journey many scholars actually referred to this document when they want to learn about what first century sailors, Mariners would do and the one thing that is so very interesting about this is that act 27 is a document that has been referred to scholars preferred even over homers the Odyssey or the Iliad Because of the detail, but one note that is crystal clear from them is that this is clearly told from the vantage point of someone who is not a sailor. And for us, we know this because it is told from the vantage point of Dr. Luke. He is not a sailor, but he can help pull a boat. He can help hold onto an or he can help throw cargo overboard doesn't mean he needs to understand all the half-mast and all that stuff and that is the vantage point that the story that is told from, but if you'll notice here in this text that the wind and the waves outside of them are crashing so hard that they recognize how deadly the storm is becoming and material things in that boat all of a sudden don't matter because they find themselves throwing over precious cargo, and even the tackle of the ship the furniture of the ship and how often that is with you and I we can find ourselves in the middle of a storm and material things no longer matter if it is a money storm, you just need the money to pay off whatever the bill is or whatever the thing is you're not looking to get all these extras. You just looking to pay the bill and so the material stuff around it doesn't matter. But don't miss this these men knew Kateel and could fail and recognize that they are in a storm and because they could tell and see and feel and recognize that they are in a storm they were able to make moves accordingly they were able to have actions accordingly and for you and I, it is the same way we recognize the storm and when we recognize that we're in a storm, we are able to move and function and act accordingly and for us as believers in this room, this moves that storm from external to end internal because how many of us in this room know that when you're going through storms that are external things that you can't control it does something to you on the inside and the soul Must be looked after in those dire times. Write this down as point number two.

2. Refocus your soul (vv.20-22)

Acts 27:13-
20 When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

Just imagine the scene a trip that should've taken a day the men now find themselves days At sea battling a storm. And that storm moves from external to internal. And Dr. Luke himself with the other man had given up hope of being saved. In other words, all they could see was the storm and lost side of the one who holds them inside the storm. So then what did you do? You have to refocus your soul you have to refocus your soul and can look very different for all of us but the anchor to our soul, the one we must focus on is Jesus. Let's see what happens here to regain focus for the soul. Look down at verse 21.

Acts 27:13-
21 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. 22 But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed.

It is funny that Paul stands up and says they should've taken his advice and yes on one hand there is some of that that I do believe is just his flesh that is tired and mad that he's out there at sea, but I also believe he's saying this because he knows he has direct orders from the Lord. I believe Paul sang this because he's going you're not disobeying me or disobeying God.

And often times we can find ourselves in storms because we disobeyed wise council. And we put ourselves in the storm, but thank God for the great news that our circumstances do not undermine God's promises despite our circumstances God's promises doesn't change, even if we create the storm on our own, sometimes see all the way back in the garden mankind created their own storm, but God being rich and love and mercy, said Jesus Christ to fix that problem because of a promise he made to man all the way back in the garden. So what does Paul tell them to do? How does he encourage them to hold into a promise? He tells them to take courage. And the Greek this is the imperative active tense is the picture of grabbing hold of it laying a hold of it literally hold confidence that word confidence come from the Latin cone feed day, which means with faith he says, hold onto your faith man! Hold onto your faith! The way that you refocus your soul as you remind your soul of the truth that is found in God's word and in God's promises! psalm 42 David says, why are you downcast all my soul but in that very same verse, he says hope and God for I will praise him again! What is he doing? He's refocusing his soul. psalm 23. He says yay though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. I will fear no evil for the art with me. What is he doing? He is refocusing his soul. He saying he is in the valley, but he knows that God is with him in the valley somebody say refocus your soul! Refocus your soul with the word of God and then refocus your soul by praying to God refocus your soul by praying to God you later see in this very same chapter that Paul in front of the man he prays over a meal. I don't think he had communion with them I think he's just showing them that he believes in how to trust God, and that he talked to through the storm. It's a great refocus. Prayer is often time like when you're getting on the plane and there's a storm happening and when you takeoff, there's a moment where the storm is rock but then you finally break through the clouds and it's is clear and sunny as as bright as day that's another way that we can refocus our soul through prayer!

Let me give you another reason why it's so urgent or visual illustration why it's so urgent for you and I to refocus our souls. It's because that one trials comments, only natural for you and I to look at the trials you know whatever we stare at the most that whatever gets the most attention is what gets bigger and bigger in our thoughts and in our minds. For example, take this balloon and imagine these are the trials ride. The bills need to be paid. the kids are sick. There's a problem in the marriage. That's problem with the finances not enough resources not enough is not enough for that and then before you know it the trials have become so big. You can no longer see God because all you see all the trials all you need to take that Holy Ghost promise of the word of God pen and pop the view of those trials so that you can clearly fix your eyes on Jesus. Hebrews chapter 12 tells us to fix our eyes on Jesus there's a great illustration in the Bible of the apostle Peter when Jesus calls him out on the water in the storm and it says that the winds began to pick up and Peter took his eyes off of Jesus and looked at the storm and he began to sync, but then Jesus said man look at me and they walked back into that boat. An order for you and I to trust God through a storm yes, we need to recognize the storm for my Lord and my God we absolutely must refocus our soul in the midst of a storm. There's a great quote by the late great preacher Charles had Spurgeon and he was talking about how in the midst of trials things can become so bleak and so dark it's hard to see God's hand and he had this to say he said when you cannot trace his hand, you must learn to trust his heart! When you refocus your soul, you refocus your trust in God, How you ask? By remembering your savior. Write this down point number Three.

3. Remember your savior! (vv. 23-26)

Acts 27:13-
23 Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me 24 and said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.’ 25 So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. 26 Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island.”

Look at how Paul trust his savior look at how his soul is focused on Jesus he gives us three ways for you and I to anchor our hearts so that we can make it to shore in the midst of a storm. He knows that God has a purpose for his life because he knows that he belongs to Godlook at verse 23 he said of the guide to whom I belong. I think about the passage of John when John was talking about Jesus in Jesus said he knew where he came from and he knew where he was going, and he knew that he belonged to the father and you and I when you put your hope and trust in faith in Jesus Christ, you can have that guarantee that you belong to the father and because you belong to the father you have purpose because of the father and so because you have purpose because of the father, he gives you purpose in the midst of a storm. Romans 8:28 says that he works together for the good all things that those who love him who are called according to his purpose! Paul can have his soul anchored because he remembers who he belongs to. You need to do the same.

And because Paul belongs to God naturally you're gonna serve him. Look at verse 23 again he said the guy to whom I belong and whom I serve. Even in the midst of a trial, Paul is Crystal clear on who his allegiance is to and who he serves. This could be a tough one for a lot of us in here to hear because I know there's some of us in the room that when you're going through trials, you go into your hobbies even harder you work even more longer hours or you cook even more or you die even more or you look at your house even more whatever it may be you could do these things all the more, but I would encourage you in the midst of a storm look for others look for ways to serve others look for ways to go and help others because you know and understand that you serve God and that God is in control I think about the story of Noah and the art when God gave all the specifications of how the arc was to be built one thing that he left out of the ark was a steering wheel meaning the moment that Noah and his family were in that arc they were not in controlThey were fully in the trust of the hand of God and they served him in that light! You can't tell the storm where to steer your ship you have to steer your ship through the storm. Maybe you have to trust God!

Look back down at verse 24

24 and said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.’ 25 So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. 26 Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island.”

Paul simply trust God. Because he belongs to him, he will serve him because he knows that he belongs to him so he freely serves him. Of course he freely trust him. The word to trust God is said X amount of times throughout the Bible. And these are a command, my most favorite verse. I talked about in my last sermon proverbs 35 and six trust in the Lord with all your heart lean on on your own understanding, acknowledge him and on your ways and he will make your path straight. Trust God and you can trust him because he's a good good father second Corinthians chapter 1 verse 20 simply says that all the promises in him or yes, and a man you can trust him no matter what!

So family there it is easier said than done. The way that you and I are to trust God to a storm is that we need to first recognize we're in a storm so that you can do something about it. Secondly, you need to refocus your soul and thirdly you need to remember your savior!

I'm gonna call the band out and as I do, I only give us some a practical step for those of us who are in here and you're going through a storm while you just been through a storm that you can't refocus your soul you can remember you're saying it and say that it as well with your soul. As a great story of a businessman in the 1800s by the name of Horatio spafford very successful business in Chicago and his whole world was turned upside down in 1871 when his fifth child his first born son died at childbirth A few months later, he owned a good bulk of the shoreline in Chicago about himself in shock and dismay when his entire fortune burned down and the Chicago fires and trying to find some reprieve and some relief from all of the stress, he went to do a family trip and sent his wife and four daughters ahead of him while he stayed back fixing things in the books and to surprise his wife and daughter were in a horrible cruise accident, causing the ship to sync in 12 minutes and a ratio's wife sent the talent the famous telegram I have survived and of course, the ratio, then jumps on the next boat to make his way to wear. His wife is to console her after they've lost their children and their fortune and as he passes over a section in the ocean, one of the people that is with him pointed out the area where his daughters had probably drow, and it was done when he got to land that he was done that he went down below deck, and he pinned the famous it as well with my soul when storm striking in your life, you need to be able to say it as well with your soul because one thing I forgot to mention earlier, is that if you belong to God God owns you that many he owns everything you have and so when you lose something, it's not you losing it. It's God's stuff. We need to be able to say no matter what it is well with my soul and so I'm gonna invite the band playing if you know the song if you wanna stand stand if you need a neon knee if you need to lay down, lay down if you need to cry cry if you need to turn to someone tell them sorry tell I'm sorry whatever it is. Take this time now to get right and then if you're in this room and you don't have

the relationship with the Lord and you are in the storm you are going through the trial you have been half and half out use this as a time because we're gonna give you the opportunity to get back on the right track with God to give your life to God let us worship together and then I'll come back to close this out.

Storms drive roots deeper. Scientists building Biosphere 2 found that trees grown with no wind grew fast but fell over before maturity, because wind is what triggers a tree to build strong wood and deep roots. Your struggle is building something in you that comfort never could.

> "...the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock." (**Matthew 7:25**)

The same storm hit both houses in that parable. The only difference was the foundation.

Storms make you drop what you were never meant to carry. A ship in a storm throws cargo overboard to survive. Sometimes God lets the storm strip away things we were gripping too tight, like fear, pride, toxic people, and old habits.

Pulpit outline

In this text we see Romans 8:28 at play for something that is a guarantee in life! James 1 tells us WHEN you encounter many trials ! Listen to these worlds from the very mouth of our Jesus ! John 16:33 NIV "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Acts 27:20-22
20 When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.
21 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. 22 But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed.

Trust God In the Storm

There was a storm, externally and internally

How to Trust God in a Storm
1. Recognize your storm (vv.13-19)
2. Refocus your soul (vv.20-22)
3. Remember your savior! (vv. 23-26)

Write this down as point number one

1. Recognize your storm (vv.13-19)

13 When a gentle south wind began to blow, they saw their opportunity; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete. 14 Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the Northeaster, swept down from the island. 15 The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along. 16 As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure, 17 so the men hoisted it aboard. Then they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Because they were afraid they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship be driven along. 18 We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. 19 On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands.

- Background
    - This has been years in the making man
    - Last week finally sent to Rome

    - Julius trust Paul invites him into meeting room where Paul says they shouldn't go look at vv.
    - Acts 27:9-12 NIV
    - Much time had been lost, and sailing had already become dangerous because by now it was after the Day of Atonement. So Paul warned them, [10] "Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also." [11] But the centurion, instead of listening to what Paul said, followed the advice of the pilot and of the owner of the ship. [12] Since the harbor was unsuitable to winter in, the majority decided that we should sail on, hoping to reach Phoenix and winter there. This was a harbor in Crete, facing both southwest and northwest.
- Recognize so that you can act accordingly
- Remember trails do grow us they strip away things we were never meant to carry
- Storms do make us stronger tho look back at James
- James 1:2-4 NIV - 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.
- Biosphere 2
    - 1991-1993
    - Couldn't mature in the perfect environment

2. Refocus your soul (vv. 20-22)

20 When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.
21 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. 22 But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed.

- How does Paul refocus the soul?
    - Take courage - hold with faith — active imperative / don't let go of it — **εὐθυμεῖν** (*euthymein*), the present active infinitive of **εὐθυμέω**, meaning "to be of good cheer, to take heart, to keep up courage." It's built from εὖ ("well") and θυμός ("spirit, heart")
    -
- Psalm 42 - hope in God
- Psalm 23 - THROUGH
- Psalm 34 - The lord is near to the broken hearted
- Spurgeon quote
- Matthew 14 - lord save me — get your eyes on your savior
- Matthew 14:23-30 NIV
- After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, [24] and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. [25] Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. [26] When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. [27] But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." [28] "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." [29] "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. [30] But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

3. Remember your savior (vv. 23-26)

Acts 27:23-26
23 Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me 24 and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' 25 So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. 26 Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island."

- 3 anchors
    - I belong to God
        - John 13:3 NIV
        - Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;
        - 1 John 3:1 NIV
        - See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.
    - I serve God
        - Mark 10:45 NIV
        - For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
        - Don't dive into shopping, health, hobbies, work !! Look for ways to be a servant get you off your mind
    - I trust God
        - 2 Corinthians 1:20 - yes and amen
        - God's promises - there are over 7000 made — grab 5 and hang on

Florence

- Distance swimmer
- July 1952 - attempt at being first woman — 26 miles
- 15 hrs in cold and in a shark infested area she finally gave up — only a half mile away
- 2 months later back in the water and beat her previous time 13 hrs
- When asked … had a mental image of shore line

Acts 27:24
24 and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.'

Witness
2 Timothy 2:3 NIV
Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.