

Friday

Please read 2 Corinthians 12:8–10. What do these verses tell you about Paul’s response to ongoing struggles and trouble?

Write down an area of your life (or maybe more) that you feel is an ongoing struggle for you right now. How do these verses challenge you in that situation? How do they encourage you?

Take some time to sit with before God today and talk about your ongoing struggle(s). Lay the weaknesses you have before Him and ask Him to make them into strengths in His way and for His glory. Pray that you will be content to let God work in your life in His way and His time.

Saturday

Please read 2 Corinthians 4:16–18. Take a moment and reread these verses using personal pronouns (I, my, mine, etc.). How does it impact you in these verses?

Knowing just some of Paul went through, why do you think He could describe problems as “light and momentary”? How can you live in the encouragement of this truth today?

Thank God today that this earth isn’t all we have to look forward to. Thank for the “eternal glory that far outweighs them all.” Pray for the faith to live with that perspective even when life feels shipwrecked. Please pray for our church services this weekend. Pray for people to come out and for lives to be changed!



Sailing Into Uncertainty

ACTS 27:1–13
MAY 25 & 26, 2013 • MARK SPURLOCK

The Central Question of Paul’s Unexpected Journey:

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... the Lord stood near Paul and said, “**Take courage!** As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so **you must also testify in Rome.**” *Acts 23:11*

The next morning some... bound themselves with an oath not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul. More than forty men were involved in this plot. *Acts 23:12–13*

3 Things to Remember in My Unexpected Journeys...

1.

When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, Paul and some other prisoners were handed over to a centurion named Julius... We boarded a ship... about to sail for ports along the coast of the province of Asia, and we put out to sea. **Aristarchus... was with us.** The next day we landed at Sidon; and **Julius, in kindness to Paul, allowed him to go to his friends so they might provide for his needs.** *Acts 27:1–3*

2.

From there we put out to sea again and passed to the lee of Cyprus because the **winds were against us.** When we had sailed across the open sea off the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we landed at Myra in Lycia. There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing for Italy... **We made slow headway for many days and had difficulty** arriving off Cnidus. **When the wind did not allow us to hold our course,** we sailed to the lee of Crete... We moved along the coast **with difficulty** and came to a place called Fair Havens, near the town of Lasea. *Acts 27:4–8*



3.

Much time had been lost, and sailing had already become dangerous because by now it was after the Day of Atonement. *Acts 27:9a*

So Paul warned them, “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.” But the centurion, **instead of listening to what Paul said, followed the advice of the pilot and of the owner of the ship.** 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. *Acts 27:9b–12*

When a gentle south wind began to blow, they saw their opportunity; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete. *Acts 27:13*

Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the Northeaster, swept down from the island. 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 27:14–15*

Bottom line:

The voice I ultimately listen to is:

Join us for each message in An Unexpected Journey!

May 25–26 Sailing Into Uncertainty — Acts 27:1–13

NEXT WEEKEND June 1–2 Surviving the Storm — Acts 27:14–26

June 8–9 When You Find Yourself Adrift — Acts 27:27–44

June 15–16 Pressing On Toward the Finish — Acts 28:1–16

Daily Meditations

Monday

Please read Acts 27:1–13. What is one thing you learned in last weekend’s sermon about life’s storms? How could that impact your life this week?

How would you answer the question, “Who is in control?” Would your friends say that your answer matches your actions?

How do you struggle with the issue of control in your life?

Thank God today that in every storm of life He is with you. Thank Him for Paul’s example. Talk to Him today about your struggles with control. Ask Him to help you loosen your grip and grow in your trust of Him.

Tuesday

Please read Acts 27:1–3. How did Paul experience the value of support and friends in this passage?

Read through Romans 12:10, 15:7, Ephesians 4:32 & Colossians 3:15–17. In these other passages (each day we’ll read additional passages from the Bible, which were written by Paul) how does he describe the importance of “being in it together”?

How have connections with others provided you with emotional and spiritual support and protection? Who in your circle of influence needs support and companionship in the their journey right now?

Thank God today for fellow believers. Thank Him for those who have shown you love and support. Pray for those around you in need of support and help. Ask God to give the courage and opportunities to come along side them.

Wednesday

Please read Acts 27:4–8 & 2 Corinthians 1:8–10. What type of hardships did Paul endure?

How does it encourage you to know that there will be hardships along the way in life?

What do you learn from Paul’s attitude about handling and living with hardships?

Thank God today for the honesty of the Bible. Thank Him for the deliverance He provides both here on earth and ultimate deliverance through Jesus Christ. Pray for the hope to believe that, whatever the hardship, God will deliver you — either here on earth or in heaven — but He will deliver you.

Thursday

Please read 27:9–13 & Colossians 2:1–8. What do these passages have to say about listening to the right “voices”?

What are the main things in your life competing with God’s voice right now?

Some practical ways you can tune your ear to God’s “voice” are to study what He says to you in the Bible. Pray, talk to Him and sit silently before Him, and surround yourself with good teaching and Christian music. What impact do you think it would make on your life if God’s voice was the first one you heard?

Thank God today for the multiple ways He has given you to hear from Him. Talk to Him about the things that are competing for your attention. Ask Him to tune your ear to hear His still, small voice.



But God said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.
2 Corinthians 12:9–10