

# How To Weather The Storms Of Life

**Text:** *'We have this hope (in Christ) as a sure and steadfast anchor for the soul.'*  
(Hebrews 6.19)

**Scripture:** Hebrews 6.13-20; Acts 27.

**Hymns:** 316; 401; 156; 582.

## INTRODUCTION

**How would you like to go on a cruise?** You could enjoy the luxury, the service, the meals, the fresh air on deck, many activities to occupy your time, or none if you'd prefer to just get away from it all. Well, perhaps not, at least not on the *Viking Sky* ... in a severe winter storm ... off the rugged coast of Norway ...

**But eventually, as Shakespeare said,** 'All's well that ends well', and as was the case with Paul off the island of Malta, 'thus it was that all (on *Viking Sky*) came safely to land', with 400 being winched off the ship by helicopter, then three of the engines being restarted as the ship was tugged into port.

**Surprisingly, ships, storms and shipwrecks figure prominently in the Biblical narrative.**

- Noah and the Ark (Genesis 6)
- Moses in the bulrushes (Exodus 2)
- Jonah and the ship to Tarshish (Jonah 1)
- Hymenaeus and Alexander, who made shipwreck of their faith. (1 Timothy 1.19,20)
- Ephesians 4.14: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with **every wind of doctrine**, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.
- The ships on the Sea Of Galilee, most famously the one in Mark 4.31-35: Jesus stilling the storm.

*Fierce raged the tempest o'er the deep, watch did Thine anxious servants keep;  
but Thou wast wrapped in guileless sleep, calm and still.*

*'Save, Lord, we perish,' was their cry, 'O save us in our agony!'*

*Thy word above the storm rose high: 'Peace! be still.'*

*The wild winds hushed; the angry deep sank, like a little child, to sleep;  
the mighty billows ceased to leap, at Thy will. So, when our life is clouded o'er, and  
storm-winds drift us from the shore,*

*say, lest we sink to rise no more: 'Peace! be still.'*

### 1. TWO KINDS OF MIRACLES:

a. *The Stilling Of The Storm* is one of a group of four miracles in Mark 4 and 5. *The Healing Of The Gadarene Demoniac* shows Jesus' power over evil; *The Healing Of The Sick Woman* shows His power over sickness and suffering; *The Raising Of Jairus' Daughter* shows His power over death; *The Stilling Of The Storm* shows His power over the created order.

Together they demonstrate the truth of Paul's declaration about Jesus in Romans 9.5: 'the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever'.

So there we have one kind of miracle, where God intervenes supernaturally in the natural, created order.

b. But here in Acts 27, another kind of miracle unfolds as despite the worst that the forces of the created order can hurl at God's servant, He is with him through it all and brings him safely to shore.

## 2. SCRIPTURE IS SELF-AUTHENTICATING.

The events recorded in Scripture authenticate the commands and promises recorded in Scripture, e.g. Psalm 46.1 ... Matthew 28.19,20 ...

## 3. THE ADVENTURE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE:

I'm sure that Paul saw life in Christ as one great adventure in which he would participate to the full.

He would do whatever God asked him to do.

He would go wherever God asked him to go.

He would trust God to enable him and to bring him through it all to Glory.

2 Corinthians 11.21 ... Hebrews 11.32 ... Luke 9.23 ... 1 Corinthians 16.13 ...  
Philippians 1.12-14 ... 18b-26 ...

## 3. THE RESISTANCE OF THE WORLD:

Acts 27.9-12 ... 21-26 ...

'O that the world would taste and see ...'

## 4. THE PROTECTION OF GOD:

Luther ... Whitefield ... Newton ... Acts 27.44 ...

*'A sov'reign Protector I have,  
unseen, yet forever at hand,  
unchangeably faithful to save,  
almighty to rule and command.  
I muse on the years that are past,  
wherein my defence Thou hast proved;  
nor wilt Thou relinquish at last  
a sinner so greatly beloved!'*

## 5. THE MEANS OF GRACE.

Acts 27.29 ...

The great preacher and one-time Moderator of the Church Of Scotland, James S. Stewart, preached a celebrated sermon in which he allegorised on the four anchors, declaring that we must throw out four anchors to keep us from being dashed to pieces in the storms of life:

Prayer ...

Bible study ...

Faith ...

Christ ...

Perhaps more elegantly put in Hebrews 6.19,20 ...

## CONCLUSION

'Jesus' is indeed 'the Name above all names', the sinner's hope, the saint's true Friend. As John Newton wrote:

*Dear Name! the Rock on which I build,  
My Shield and Hiding Place,  
My never-failing Treas'ry filled  
With boundless stores of grace!  
Jesus! my Shepherd, Husband, Friend,  
My Prophet, Priest, and King;  
My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,  
Accept the praise I bring.*