

# BOOK OF ACTS // WEEK 34

## *FAITH IN THE STORM*

*Mike Drummond - 5/26/24*

### GROWING TOGETHER

What's one of your favorite promises from God that brings you comfort during tough times?

If members are having trouble recalling a promise (being put on the spot can add pressure), ask this question:

Is there a particular Bible verse or story that gives you comfort when you're going through a tough time?

### GROWING WITH GOD

Read [Acts 27:13-36](#), [Romans 15:4](#), [Romans 10:9](#), & [Isaiah 41:10](#), aloud and go over your sermon notes with one another. (Answer all or some of the questions)

This week's BIG Idea: How we respond to life's storms reveals our faith and trust in Jesus, so we must remember God's promises, stay rooted in our faith community, and praise Him even amidst the chaos.

In Acts 27:13-44, we read about a group of people caught in a terrible storm at sea. Their ship was battered, and they had to fight for their lives. They went through fear, despair, and eventually found hope.

- **When you think about a time in your life when you felt like you were in the middle of a raging storm, what emotions come to mind?**
- **How did you initially react to the situation? (Follow-on question in case this wasn't answered)**
- **Reflecting on the actions of the sailors and passengers aboard the ship, what aspects of their response to the storm do you resonate with the most?**
- **Are there any specific moments from this week's message that stand out to you as particularly relatable or inspiring?**

Pastor Mike shared a deeply moving story about a young Marine Lance Corporal named [James Stack](#) and his family. When James was killed in action, his father, Bob, responded to this devastating news with incredible faith and grace. Bob's unwavering trust in God during the storm not only sustained him and his family but also left a profound impact on many others, including Pastor Mike. This story serves as a powerful example of how faith can carry us through the worst storms in life.

- **Bob's reaction to his son's death was to lean into his faith and share the Gospel. How do you think you would respond in a similar situation?**
- **What can we do to strengthen our faith so we can respond with such grace and hope?**

Pastor Mike shared key ways to help us weather the storms and trials in our lives. He emphasized one of those ways by telling us to remember what God has spoken. He used the example of Paul in Acts 27:23-25, where Paul, in the midst of a severe storm, recalled the promises God had made to him. This gave Paul the courage and faith to trust in God's promise, even when everything around him was chaotic. Paul remembered that he belonged to God and that God had a purpose for him.

- **How does knowing you belong to God and have a purpose help you during difficult times?**
- **In the middle of the storm, Paul encouraged others by sharing God's promise. How can we encourage and support each other when we are facing personal storms?**

Pastor Mike reminded us that while an angel might not appear to us as one did to Paul, God still speaks to us today through the Holy Spirit and the Bible. Paul highlights this in Romans 15:4, where he emphasizes the importance of Scripture in providing hope and encouragement. When we face trials or storms in our lives, we should remember the ways God has acted in the past—both in the Old Testament and through the life and works of Jesus. By recalling these examples, we can find the strength to endure our own challenges.

- **Think about a time when you felt God speaking to you through the Holy Spirit or the Bible. How did that experience impact your situation or perspective?**

During the storms of life, we need to stay with the "ship". This means not abandoning our faith or the community that God has placed around us. In Acts 27:30-32, Paul warns the sailors that they must stay with the ship to be saved. This teaches us a valuable lesson about remaining devoted in our faith and not trying to face our struggles alone. It's easy to look for quick fixes or lifeboats when things get tough, but the real answer is to trust in Jesus and stay connected to the church community. Remember, Jesus is our only way to salvation and help through any storm.

- **Can you share a time when you felt like running away from your faith or the church during a difficult situation? What kept you anchored?**
- **Romans 10:9 reminds us to declare "Jesus is Lord" and believe in His resurrection. How does continually professing "Jesus is Lord" help you navigate through tough times?**
- **Why do you think it's tempting to try and solve our problems on our own rather than relying on Jesus and the church community?**

In the sermon, Pastor Mike emphasized the importance of praising God in the middle of our storms. He shared how Paul, despite being in a dire situation, took bread, gave thanks, and ate in front of everyone on the ship (Acts 27:33-35). This act of faith and gratitude not only strengthened Paul but also encouraged those around him. When we choose to praise God during our toughest moments, it can transform our perspective and impact those watching us. It's easy to say we'll praise Him when things are smooth, but it's much harder when life gets turbulent. However, the Bible shows us that praising God in the storm can bring hope and encouragement to others.

- **Can you share a time when you found it difficult to praise God during a tough situation? What helped you to keep your faith during that time?**
- **How does praising God in the midst of a storm change your perspective on the situation?**
- **What practical steps can we take to remember to praise God when we are facing our own storms and when others are going through their own storms?**
- **How can your response to life's challenges influence those around you, especially your family, friends, and co-workers?**

In this week's message, Pastor Mike talked about how our faith can really impact others, especially when life gets tough. He shared a story about his friend James, who sadly passed away while serving in the military. Even though it was really hard, James's dad, Bob, stayed strong in his faith and let God use the pain for good. The big takeaway here is that how we handle tough times makes a difference. When we trust God and stick with our faith during storms, it not only helps us but also inspires others. Just like how Paul's faith saved the ship's crew in a storm, God still works through faithful people like Bob to bring others closer to Him.

- **Have you ever witnessed someone's faith in the midst of a difficult situation? How did it impact you?**
- **How does knowing that God can use our faithfulness in the storm to impact others shape your perspective on facing challenges?**
- **In what ways can we allow God to use our struggles for His glory and the benefit of others?**
- **Reflecting on Bob's response to his son's death, how can we cultivate a similar faith that trusts God's sovereignty even in the midst of tragedy?**
- **How can we actively demonstrate our trust in God during the storms of life, both to those within our faith community and to those who may be observing from outside?**

# GROWING IN OBEDIENCE & SCRIPTURE

Here are three insights Pastor Mike gave us to reflect on.

## **Remember what God has spoken (Acts 27:23-25)**

### ***Anchoring in faith amidst adversity:***

- As we navigate life's storms, let's anchor ourselves in faith, just as Paul urged the sailors and passengers on the ship. Reflect on how you can trust in God's promises during difficult times and commit to remaining faithful, no matter the circumstances.
- Life Group Leader: Foster discussions on biblical examples of faithfulness during trials, encouraging group members to share personal experiences and provide mutual support. Consider organizing prayer sessions (create your own rhythm, e.g. weekly) focused on anchoring in faith during challenging times.

## **Stay with the ship (Acts 27:30-32)**

### ***Praising God in the Midst of the Storm:***

- Despite life's storms, let's cultivate a habit of praising God, drawing inspiration from Paul's actions. Challenge yourself to express gratitude and worship God even in the midst of difficult circumstances.
- Life Group Leader: Incorporate times of worship and thanksgiving into group meetings, creating a space for members to lift their hearts in praise. Facilitate sharing sessions (create your own rhythm, e.g. weekly or monthly) where members can testify to how praising God has impacted their lives, fostering a culture of gratitude.

## **Praise Him in the storm (Acts 27:33-35)**

### ***Impact Through Faithfulness:***

- Recognize the potential impact of your faithfulness during difficult times and commit to living out your faith boldly. Understand that your actions can inspire and influence others, leading them closer to Christ.
- Life Group Leader: Create opportunities for outreach or service projects where members can demonstrate faithfulness in action. Encourage group members to share stories (create your own rhythm, e.g. weekly or bi-weekly) of how their faith has impacted those around them, fostering a sense of purpose and mission within the group.

# GROWING IN PRAISE AND WORSHIP

This week's song list if you'd like to worship with your group.

[Praise](#)

[Living Hope](#)

[Gratitude](#)

We didn't sing this one in church this week but maybe you thought of it:

[Praise You In This Storm](#)

# GROWING WITH CATALYST PEOPLE

Be sure to follow Catalyst Church on all the major social media platforms for the latest information and words of encouragement.



