

Effective Prayer: Faith & Power *for Change*

“A Tale of Two Storms”

PART TWO: “Riding It Out” (Acts 27-28)

Study/Application Guide #4

1. Please read Acts chapters 27-28
2. Briefly outline or list some of the experiences the Apostle Paul had along his way from Caesarea to Rome.
3. Imagine yourself on the ride with him (as the author Luke most likely had been). What may have been some of the emotions or feelings they experienced along the way?
4. What emotions or state of mind does Paul express in 2 Corinthians 1:8-11 in regard to the dangers he faced?
 - a. What did he count on from God?
 - b. From other believers?
 - c. How may the two be related or dependent on one another?
5. What helped Paul maintain his trust in God despite the numerous near-death experiences he encountered on this dangerous, ill-advised voyage, despite human will and the circumstances he had no control over?
 - a. Before his voyage to Rome? (See Acts 23:11)
 - b. During the voyage to Rome? (See Acts 27:23-26)
 - c. After being bitten by a poisonous snake? (See Mark 16:17-18; Luke 10:18-19)
6. After considering all that Paul had experienced along the way, and considering what he received from the Lord both before and during his lengthy ordeal:
 - a. Do you believe that the circumstances and feelings one may experience as a human being can change what God has promised or willed? If not, why not? If so, how so?
 - b. Compare your answer to what Paul expresses in 2 Corinthians 1:8-11. How is it the same or different in regard to what he says here?
 - c. When you consider your current circumstances or the difficulties and the feelings you have as you face them, what can you learn and apply from this story recorded in Acts 27-28?

- d. What practical insight can you gain from Acts 27:33-36 as you endure an extended ordeal? Why is this also important both spiritually and physically?

7. Paul most likely knew how Jesus' *spoke to* the storm with the command, "*Be quiet, be still!*" If so, we can assume Paul may have also addressed the storm on one or more occasions along the way. With that in mind, what implications could this have for you as you face your "storms" in life?

- a. As a first step, speak to your "storm" or "mountain" like Jesus did. Specifically, how would you address it? Please write out your statement.
- b. What is your declaration or statement based on? Please be specific and write it in the space below. Don't forget to also verbally express your response aloud to both "a" and "b."
- c. Who are 1 or 2 others who would stand with you *in agreement* to make these declarations?
- d. Remember to keep contending and to look for changes and progress. Record them if you're willing to; or keep a journal of God's activity in regard to the things you're contending for according to His will.

8. How is God's promise in Romans 8:28: "God **works with** (Gk. syn-ergo) *all things* to bring them about for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose" demonstrated in this story? (See Acts 28:1-10; 28:23-31). Are you expecting the same?