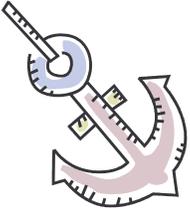


OUR COURAGE AND FAITH IS IN GOD

ACTS 27:25 “Keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me.”



When you were boating and got caught in a storm did you ever cast off the anchor and the rudder? Getting rid of those things does not seem to make sense, but sometimes it can lighten the load and prevent you from sinking. In any kind of situation courage and faith should never be thrown away. These gifts of God get us to the place where God wants us to be.

In this section of the Bible, Paul is a prisoner. He is being transported to another location to stand trial. There is some concern raised about the trip. Storms could threaten their journey. The storms did come. Their ship was wrecked. The guards wanted to kill the prisoners so none could escape. The man who was guarding Paul convinces the rest of the guards to let the prisoners live. Paul assures them all the passengers will survive the storm. There were 276 passengers on board. Paul was reminded in a dream by an angel that “all this” will happen just like he was told by an angel. With this comfort the men should keep up their courage.

Courage is defined in the dictionary as “the quality of mind or spirit that allows a person to face a threatening situation of difficulty, danger or pain.” The Bible defines courage as being cheerful or to be of good cheer. Courage can bring cheerfulness. Even while you face a threat you could be cheerful. The Bible tells us we can keep up our courage because we have faith.

Faith is defined in the dictionary “as confidence or trust in a person or a thing.” Confidence can be found in a person’s convictions. You can also trust in a person. In John 14:6 Jesus refers to himself as “the way, the truth and the life.” It is much easier to have confidence and courage in Jesus when your circumstances seem threatening. When things are going good we may not think we need Him.

If you have more courage in yourself than God, it could threaten your faith, because you may not think you need Jesus. COURAGE AND FAITH ARE GIFTS FROM GOD.

Why am I tying Jesus into Paul’s experience? Jesus is over all things. At the end of Matthew 28 Jesus says “all AUTHORITY in and on earth has been given to me.” This means that all things must be subject to God’s plan. God’s plan was to sacrifice his son, a greater expense than any anchor or rudder, so we will be at peace with God.

This is why Paul can say to the men, “Keep up your courage (Be of good cheer) for I (Paul) have faith in God and it (HIS GOOD WILL) that all will work according to God’s plan.”

Keep following Jesus; you can depend on Him,

Pastor John Raddatz