

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Life of Paul - Part 8 The Effect

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Introduction

As Christ's followers, we believe that God works in, around and through us. We see that in the life of the apostle Paul. He was previously a man filled with rage and wanted to persecute the disciples of Jesus, to then become a man of God who saved lives by being faithful & obedient to God's words (Acts 27:25). We have the invitation to join in on what God is doing in and around us. The question is are we going to be like Paul - to listen closely to God's words and join Him there?

Read Acts 27:13-44

Discuss

1. Have a minute or two in silence to think and reflect on what God is currently doing in and around you. Share your thoughts or perhaps a significant past experience when you saw what God was doing in and around you at that time.
2. Read Acts 27:10,21-26. What are some character traits that Paul demonstrates? Paul says "keep up your courage" twice (v.22 & 25), and the angel of God said not to be afraid (v.24). If they know they will be okay, why fear? How would you react in that situation?
3. In what ways did the crew's fear hinder their ability to survive the storm?
4. Ps. Dale talks about 'The Effect' of Paul in our main reading. Identify his three main effects to a) the situation, b) the leadership and c) the lives of people on the ship.
5. Read John 5:19. Throughout his ministry, Jesus could see what God was doing. Similar to Jesus, Paul also understood what God was doing when he's in that ship. In what ways has reading & understanding the scripture changed your perspective on life and faith?

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6. How might trusting God's promises give us strength to keep going through difficult times?

Respond

Our life stage, circumstances, domains, etc. may differentiate us from one another. However, our calling to be disciples remains the same, as it does not depend on where we are in life. You might need to have a different approach, or different hindrances to go through, but are you prepared to join God - in what he is doing in and around you, so that He can move through you? What might this look like to you?