

WELCOME TO WORD OF FAITH LIFE GROUPS **WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER**

LIFE GROUP LESSON PLAN

“How To Live Life The Faith Way” Pt. 3b

Thursday, January 26, 2023 – 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Teaching The Bible Through Practical Biblical Teaching

VIP Silver Saints - Conference Call # (717) 908-1834 – Dial *6 to Mute

OPENING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

WELCOME TO OUR GROUP (5 MINUTES)

If this is your first time joining us, please introduce yourself! We are glad you took the time to join us today. Our group has four purposes:

1. **L... Learning together from God's Word**
2. **I... Interceding through prayer**
3. **F... true Fellowship in the Spirit of Christ**
4. **E...Evangelizing the lost**

PRAISE & WORSHIP (5 MINUTES)

FACILITATION OF LESSON

Sermon Title: “How To Live Life The Faith Way” Pt.3

POINT I

When the enemy surrounds you with problems, you may be tempted to lose hope. For example, Satan wants to get you to a place where you lose hope for a secure financial future. He will tell you that you will never be married, or that you’ll never get into your chosen field of endeavor. If he can keep your eyes, thoughts, and words, on, *“It’s never going to happen,”* you will lose hope. **When hope is lost, faith won’t work.** Then you have made yourself completely vulnerable to Satan and his lies. You may find yourself wanting to ask, *“Why me, Lord?”* If you do, STOP! Then make the decision not to give in to the pressure that the enemy puts on you. Hold on to the Word of God. **Holding on the Word will allow you to hold on to hope; Hope will facilitate faith to work and bring the complete manifestation of what you need into your hands.**

QUESTION

1. When the enemy surrounds you with problems what is he attempting to do? Have you ever been there? Give an example!
2. What must you do in those situations and what will be the results?

POINT II

Once again, the Greek definition of the word that is translated *“Hope”* is *to anticipate with pleasure.* Talking about hope, writing about hope, and singing about hope is well and good. But how do you hold

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onto hope in the middle of life-threatening circumstances? When you are in life and death situations, there's no putting on airs when the possibility of entering eternity is staring you right in the face. For example, when you are a student pilot you are required to listen to cockpit recording from plane crashes. It's amazing what comes out of people's mouth when they thought death was imminent. You will rarely hear anyone pray! All you will hear is cursing and words that confirm their negative situation, *“We're going to die. We're going to die. We're going to die.”*

The first thing you should know about keeping hope in a seemingly hopeless situation is that you should declare what you want, not what you don't want! The law of first mention is in force at that moment. The first thing that comes out your mouth in situations like that is what will happen to you.

QUESTIONS

1. According to what we just read how do you hold on to hope in the middle of a life-threatening situation?
2. What is the law of first mention and why is it so important to understand?

POINT III

You see, when Christians encounter a storm in life, they often assume it is because they are out of the will of God. That, however, is not necessarily the case. You can't be led by outward circumstances and situations because Satan is what the Word says he is in **2 Corinthians 4:4**, *“In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”* He is the god of this world system. He can make things happen on this planet to try to dissuade you from following God!

Paul obeyed God and still found himself in the middle of a life-threatening storm! Paul was a prisoner on a ship; he had no choice in whether to board or not. There's an important message there – you may experience difficulties because of your associations. In Paul's case, he was forced to be on this ship despite being told by the Holy Ghost that there would be problems!

QUESTIONS

1. Why is it important to understand that the storms in your life are not always because you are out of the will of God?
2. Can your associations be the cause of your difficulties? Explain!

This account is recorded in the **Book of Acts 27:13-20** where it reads, *“13 And when the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, loosing thence, they sailed close by Crete. 14 But*

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*not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon. 15 And when the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind, we let her drive. 16 And running under a certain island which is called Clauda, we had much work to come by the boat: 17 Which when they had taken up, they used helps, undergirding the ship; and, fearing lest they should fall into the quicksands, strake sail, and so were driven. 18 And we being exceedingly tossed with a tempest, the next day they lightened the ship; 19 And the third day we cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship. 20 And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, **all hope** that we should be saved was **then taken away**.*

There have been many people in this situation. What was this? **Affliction** which is pressure cause by difficult circumstances. This is a difficult circumstance!

QUESTION

1. Have you ever been in a situation where you thought all hope was gone?

Verse 21 states, *“But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have **hearkened unto me**, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.”* He tried to warn them, but they wouldn’t listen. They brought this upon themselves. This happens so many times with pastors. Pastor’s try to warn people; if you go down that road this is what will happen. But stubborn people already had their mind made up before they came and even talked to the pastor. So, they end up suffering the consequences just like the captain of this ship and those on board. Sometimes others pay the price for your decisions just because they were onboard.

Verse 22 states, *“And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship.”* You may not lose your life, but you will lose something when you don’t listen.

QUESTION

1. Have you ever tried to warn people against the actions they were about to take, and they wouldn’t listen? What were the results?

Paul says in **verses 23-24**, *“23 For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, 24 Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.”* This is the plan and the purpose! Nothing can stop it! **Verse 25** goes on to say, *“Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.”* He heard the Word, received the Word and believed the Word, spoke the Word and then acted on the Word. Let’s continue with **verses 26-31** which states, *“26 Howbeit we must be cast upon a certain island. 27 But when*

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the fourteenth night was come, as we were driven up and down in Adria, about midnight the shipmen deemed that they drew near to some country; 28 And sounded, and found it twenty fathoms: and when they had gone a little further, they sounded again, and found it fifteen fathoms.

The water is getting more and more shallowed. They knew they were about to hit some reefs that would tear up the ship with them on it. **Verse 29** states, *“Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day. 30 And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship, when they had let down the boat into the sea, under colour as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreship, 31 Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved. If you get out of the ship now, all of you all are going to die.”* This was another opportunity for them to listen and obey the Man of God. They failed the first time. But it seems like they learned their lesson.

QUESTION

1. Have you ever been in repeat situation where God gave you the opportunity to get it right and obey Him this time?

Verses 32-34 go on to say, *“Then the soldiers cut off the ropes of the boat, and let her fall off. 33 And while the day was coming on, Paul besought them all to take meat, saying, This day is the fourteenth day that ye have tarried and continued fasting, having taken nothing. 34 Wherefore I pray you to take some meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you.”*

He wanted to make sure when it was time to get out of the ship, they would have enough strength to do it.

Verses 35-36 go on to say, *“35 And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat. 36 Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took some meat.”* Notice they didn’t eat until they saw Paul eat. All eyes were upon him at this time. This ship is still rocking back and forth and up and down. You are talking about sea sickness. The last thing you want to do is eat while this is happening. Listen, people are watching you. To see what you’re going to do Christian! They won’t move until they see you move.

Even in 911 there were testimonies of Christians hearing the voice God to get out of there and he showed them the route. When the unbelievers saw them move, they followed and were also delivered from that tragedy. So always keep in mind people are watching you, Christian!

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QUESTION

1. Do you realize people are watching how you respond in difficult situations? Why is that?

Verses 37-38 state, *37 And we were in all in the ship two hundred threescore and sixteen souls. 38 And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, and cast out the wheat into the sea.”* They had the strength to do this because they had eaten. When you’re not feeling well sometimes you have to force yourself to eat to keep your strength to fight off whatever the devil is attacking your physical body with. I’m pretty sure many of them didn’t want to eat but they ate anyway. If it gave the man of God strength, it will give us strength.

Verses 39-40 state, *“39 And when it was day, they knew not the land: but they discovered a certain creek with a shore, into the which they were minded, if it were possible, to thrust in the ship. 40 And when they had taken up the anchors, they committed themselves unto the sea, and loosed the rudder bands, and hoised up the mainsail to the wind, and made toward shore.* We give it all to God at this point. We did all we can do! Let God be the captain of the ship. This is going to go where God wants it to go.

QUESTIONS

1. When facing a physical challenge why is it important to eat the right things?
2. When is time to give it all to God?

Verses 41-42 state, *41 And falling into a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the forepart stuck fast, and remained unmoveable, but the hinder part was broken with the violence of the waves. That was God folks. 42 And the soldiers' counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim out, and escape.* They knew if the king found out that these prisoners escaped, that were under their charge, they were going to die anyway. So, they were going to kill all of the prisoners including Paul; the one that saved their butt.

How many people know God always has a ram in the bush. This story also illustrates once you know your purpose and the plans God has for your life. The devil can’t kill you. Other’s will benefit from God’s purpose for your life. It says, *43 But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose;* Gods purpose for your life will save you from the devil’s purpose for your life which is death. Verse 43 goes on to say: *“...and commanded that they which could swim should cast themselves first into the sea, and get to land: And the rest, some on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship. And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land.”*

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QUESTION

1. Why is it important to know the plans and purposes God has for your life?

Now note some things about the Euroclydon (hurricane on water) in which Paul found himself engulfed:

- The storm didn't disappear after a quick prayer. It lasted for over two weeks.
- They were in a rickety, wooden boat-it wasn't like the huge luxury liners that host cruises.
- Everyone except Paul lost hope.
- When the others were prophesying doom, Paul stood up and told them to be of good cheer!
- Although the sky was still dark, the ocean continued to swell, and the rain pelted those on deck, Paul was confident that every one of the 276 passengers would survive.
- After two weeks, Paul told his fellow travelers to eat something for their health. I imagine some of them laugh at this. They thought they were going to die; doing something for their health seemed senseless.
- Paul was functioning as the leader, although he was on the boat as a prisoner. Or in your case an employee.

QUESTION

1. Of all these mentioned what sticks out the most to you?

Where did Paul get his confidence? How was he able to stand in a position of leadership when he was a prisoner? He had a Word from the Lord! Paul's authoritative direction gave the other's hope. You may need to play the same role for your family that Paul did for his shipmates. If you are the only one amongst your relatives who honor God, lives by the Word, and listens to the Holy Spirit, you are the one who will need to stand up in the midst of a family crisis or corporate crisis and declare, *“Be of good cheer!”* As you do, you will observe that your entire family and those in the workplace will have a reassurance of hope.

QUESTION

1. Do you sometimes feel that you are that person? How should you handle it and what will be the results?

CALL - TIME OF DECISION (EVERYONE BOW YOUR HEADS)

PRAISE REPORTS - *2-MINUTES PER PERSON

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PRAYER FOCUS / INDIVIDUAL PRAYER REQUEST (10 MINUTES)

Prayer focus:

- 1) Your Circle (friends and family)
- 2) Life Group members
- 3) Word of Faith Leadership:
 - a. Pastor Ronald D. Walker, Jr., Evangelist Sharon L. Walker, Minister Promise Walker, Brittany and Christian, Carmelo and the ministerial staff.
 - b. Bishop Keith A. Butler and Pastor Deborah Butler

Have you reached out to your circle today?

ANNOUNCEMENTS (5 MINUTES)

1. Join us for **30 Days of Prayer**
 - a. Visit **pray30.org** or text **PRAY** to **248-266-9990** to receive the daily devotionals right to your inbox.
 - b. Watch or Read the Daily Devotionals and Pray at Least 30 Minutes Daily.

Our youth are invited to follow **youthpray30** on **Instagram** and **subscribe** to the channel on **YouTube**

- c. In addition, the youth videos will be posted on the **pray30.org/ignite** website page

Children’s Ministry will have special lessons for the month and a ZOOM meet up every Saturday from 12:00 Noon – 12:30 Noon EST.

2. **Singles with Purpose**, What are you believing God for in 2023? Make your request known unto God. Let's come together, join our faiths and jump-start your year with Prayer. Just for one hour. **January 13, 2023, 6:00 am to 7:00 am**, in the Sanctuary. For more information see Minister Bachelor or email singlewithpurpose2019@gmail.com.
3. Join the SWAT Team for their next SWAT Outing, **Saturday, January 28th at 11:00 am**. For more information contact Minister Julie Francis.
4. Join Covenant Partner's for "Fit & Fitly" Joined together. **Friday, January 27, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.** Come on out and receive health tips and information to get you to a better you for the kingdom! For more information contact Minister Lavern Oysterman at covenantpartners@gmail.com.

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5. Join us for **Family and Friends Day** on **Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 10:00 am**. Dress down Sunday. Food donations are needed contact Minister Maria Creque for more information.
6. Join us for Early Morning Prayer, **Monday- Friday from 6:00 am - 7:00 am** and Saturday's at 10:00 am. Join us on the Miracle Line on Tuesday's and Thursday's at 11:00 am by conference call, Facebook, YouTube and the Word of Faith Website. The call-in number for the Early Morning Prayer and the Miracle Line is (717) 908-1834, access code 755875#.
7. Then Join us for Noon Day Prayer, with Evangelist Sharon Walker. Join us for 1-hour to pray. This is an In-person Prayer Service at Word of Faith.
8. Monetary donations are being accepted to be a blessing to those truly in need. When making your donation to please write *"Gift for WOFICC CARES."* **WOFICC CARES** about our church family! **WOFICC CARES** about our community! **WOFICC CARES** about the Islands of the Caribbean!

OFFERING

- <https://wordoffaithstthomas.com/give-online/>
- <https://www.givelify.com/>

CLOSING PRAYER & DISMISSAL
