



(Acts 27:13-20) When a light wind began blowing from the south, the sailors thought they could make it. So they pulled up anchor and sailed close to the shore of Crete. But the weather changed abruptly, and a wind of typhoon strength (called a "northeaster") burst across the island and blew us out to sea. The sailors couldn't turn the ship into the wind, so they gave up and let it run before the gale. We sailed along the sheltered side of a small island named Cauda, where with great difficulty we hoisted aboard the lifeboat being towed behind us. Then the sailors bound ropes around the hull of the ship to strengthen it. They were afraid of being driven across to the sandbars of Syrtis off the African coast, so they lowered the sea anchor to slow the ship and were driven before the wind. The next day, as gale-force winds continued to batter the ship, the crew began throwing the cargo overboard. The following day they even took some of the ship's gear and threw it overboard. The terrible storm raged for many days, blotting out the sun and the stars, until at last all hope was gone.

➤ Storms are \_\_\_\_\_.

(John 16:33) I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."

➤ Storms are \_\_\_\_\_.

(Jeremiah 4:20) Waves of destruction roll over the land, until it lies in complete desolation. Suddenly my tents are destroyed; in a moment my shelters are crushed.

➤ Storms are \_\_\_\_\_.

(Matthew 5:45) For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike.

➤ Storms are \_\_\_\_\_.

(Hebrews 10:35-37) So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised. "For in just a little while, the Coming One will come and not delay.

(Psalm 126:1-6 MSG) It seemed like a dream, too good to be true, when God returned Zion's exiles. We laughed, we sang, we couldn't believe our good fortune. We were the talk of the nations— "God was wonderful to them!" God was wonderful to us; we are one happy people. And now, God, do it again— bring rains to our drought-stricken lives So those who planted their crops in despair will shout hurrahs at the harvest. So those who went off with heavy hearts will come home laughing, with armloads of blessing.

1. Stop focusing \_\_\_\_\_.

(Philippians 1:12) And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News.

2. Discover the \_\_\_\_\_.

(Philippians 1:13-14) For everyone here, including the whole palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ. And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers here have gained confidence and boldly speak God's message without fear.

3. Focus on \_\_\_\_\_.

(Philippians 1:21) For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.

Paul said: "I think myself happy..." (Acts 26:2)



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