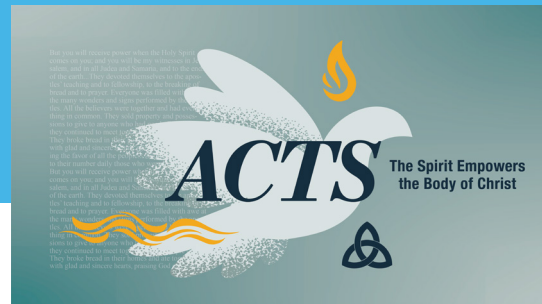


Discussion Questions

July 6, 2025



Acts 27 An Anchor in the Storm

1. Describe a time where you had peace from God in the midst of a storm.
2. Read Acts 27:20-25

The text says "we finally gave up all hope of being saved" (v.20). Who is "we"? What is significant about Luke (the author) including himself & likely Paul, in this despair?

Have you ever reached a point where you "gave up all hope" in a situation? What did that feel like?
3. How does Paul describe his relationship with God in verses 23-24? What does it the significance of Paul saying that God is the one "to whom I belong and whom I serve"?
4. What does Paul's response in verses 22–25 teach us about how to respond when fear or hopelessness hits?
5. When crisis hits for you, what are your natural coping mechanisms you run to other than God?
Eg. avoiding, numbing, binging, problem-solving, pretending?
6. The sermon talked about "rebooting our operating system" from anxiety to peace.
James gave 3 steps of how he does this:
Acknowledge: Being honest about the fear/anxiety
Anchor: Rooting back in God's truth and promises
Ask: Praying for the Prince of Peace to be our Peace

Discuss the idea of re-orienting or "rebooting our operating system" from anxiety to Peace in Christ. In what ways does this resonate with you? In what ways do you already practice this?

The sermon mentioned being a "non-anxious presence." What does this look like in your relationships? Can you think of someone who has been this for you?
7. James spoke about how we are called to minister to others even when we are in the storms of life; though we can't help others if we're drowning ourselves. Would you agree? Discuss how we can navigate the tension of knowing when you need to focus on your own healing vs. when you can help others?
8. Paul's encouragement culminated in a simple, physical act - he ate and invited others to do the same.
Who in your life is going through a storm right now? What's one practical way you can "break bread" with them this week? (meal, help, presence, encouragement)

Acts 27:9-26 (NLT)

The weather was becoming dangerous for sea travel because it was so late in the fall, and Paul spoke to the ship's officers about it.

"Men," he said, "I believe there is trouble ahead if we go on - shipwreck, loss of cargo, and danger to our lives as well." But the officer in charge of the prisoners listened more to the ship's captain and the owner than to Paul. And since Fair Havens was an exposed harbor - a poor place to spend the winter - most of the crew wanted to go on to Phoenix, farther up the coast of Crete, and spend the winter there. Phoenix was a good harbor with only a southwest and northwest exposure.

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.

No one had eaten for a long time. Finally, Paul called the crew together and said, "Men, you should have listened to me in the first place and not left Crete. You would have avoided all this damage and loss. But take courage! None of you will lose your lives, even though the ship will go down. For last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me, and he said, 'Don't be afraid, Paul, for you will surely stand trial before Caesar! What's more, God in his goodness has granted safety to everyone sailing with you.' So take courage! For I believe God. It will be just as he said. But we will be shipwrecked on an island."

**Acts 27:9-12 (NLT)**

The weather was becoming dangerous for sea travel because it was so late in the fall, and Paul spoke to the ship's officers about it. "Men," he said, "I believe there is trouble ahead if we go on - shipwreck, loss of cargo, and danger to our lives as well." But the officer in charge of the prisoners listened more to the ship's captain and the owner than to Paul. And since Fair Havens was an exposed harbor - a poor place to spend the winter - most of the crew wanted to go on to Phoenix, farther up the coast of Crete, and spend the winter there.

Acts 27:18-20 (NIV)

We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands. When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

Acts 27:21 (NLT)

Paul called the crew together and said, "Men, you should have listened to me in the first place and not left Crete. You would have avoided all this damage and loss."

Acts 27:22-26 (NLT)

But take courage! None of you will lose your lives, even though the ship will go down. For last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me, and he said, 'Don't be afraid, Paul, for you will surely stand trial before Caesar! What's more, God in his goodness has granted safety to everyone sailing with you.' **So take courage!** For I believe God. It will be just as he said. But we will be shipwrecked on an island."

Acts 27:22-26 (NLT)

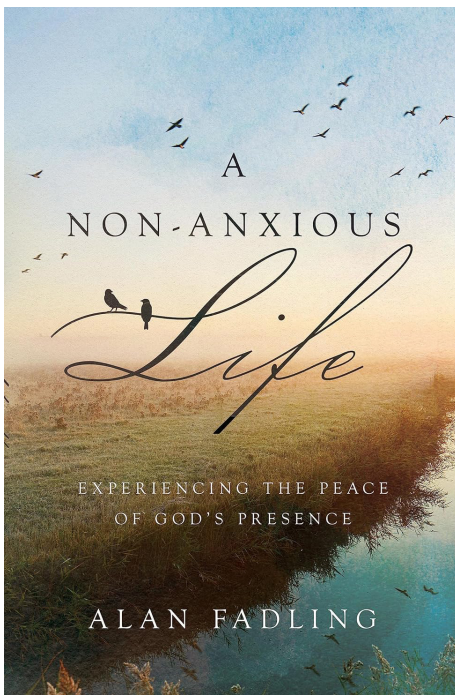
But take courage! None of you will lose your lives, even though the ship will go down. For last night an angel of the **God to whom I belong** and **whom I serve** stood beside me, and he said, 'Don't be afraid, Paul, for you will surely stand trial before Caesar! What's more, God in his goodness has granted safety to everyone sailing with you.' So take courage! **For I believe [have faith in] God.** It will be just as he said. But we will be shipwrecked on an island."

Acts 27:24 (NLT)

Don't be afraid, for you will surely stand trial before Caesar!

John 16:33 (NIV)

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."



"When I call peace an operating system, I'm saying that it is possible to learn to allow peace to be the underlying framework of our lives."

Alan Fadling

A Non-Anxious Life - Experiencing the Peace of God's Presence

Acts 27:31-32 (NLT)

Paul said to the commanding officer and the soldiers, "You will all die unless the sailors stay aboard." So the soldiers cut the ropes to the lifeboat and let it drift away.

Acts 27:36 (NIV)

They were all encouraged and ate some food themselves.

1. Spend time with the Prince of Peace

2. Reboot the operating system of peace

- a. Acknowledge with honesty
- b. Anchor in Truth
- c. Ask

3. "Break bread" - Build up & encourage others around us

4. Change the question from "why?" to "how?"