

**Why is it so hard to turn my fears & worries over to God?
Why is it hard to trust God with money?
Why is it difficult to let go during difficult times?
I struggle to rely on Him ...**

“I believe in God but ... can I trust Him with **THIS?!?” = _____**

Trust God with THIS vs. I got THIS

**We like to be in control
--Burned when we weren't
--Normal/natural
--Being responsible**

There is a better option than being “in control.**”**

Acts 27:7-20

Sailing slowly for many days, with **difficulty** we arrived off Cnidus. Since the wind did not allow us to approach it, we sailed along the south side of Crete off Salmone. With still **more difficulty** we sailed along the coast and came to a place called Fair Havens ... By now much time had passed, and the voyage was already **dangerous**. Since the Day of Atonement was already over, Paul gave his advice and told them, “Men, I can see that this voyage is headed toward **disaster and heavy loss**, not only of the cargo and the ship but also of our lives.” But the centurion paid attention to the captain and the owner of the ship rather than to what Paul said. Since the harbor was unsuitable to winter in, the majority decided to set sail from there, hoping somehow to reach Phoenix, a harbor on Crete facing the southwest and northwest, and to winter there. When a gentle south wind sprang up, they thought they had achieved their purpose. They weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete. But before long, a fierce wind called the “northeaster” rushed down from the island. Since the ship was caught and unable to head into the wind, we gave way to it and were driven along ... Because we were being severely battered by the storm, they began to jettison the cargo the next day. On the third day, they threw the ship’s tackle overboard with their own hands. For many days neither sun nor stars appeared, and the severe storm kept raging. Finally, all **hope was fading** that we would be saved.

Out of Control Tendencies:

- 1) Try harder to control**
- 2) Throw a “pity party”**
- 3) Excessive rearview mirroring: blame & regret**

Acts 27:22-25

Now I urge you to take **courage**, because there will be no loss of any of your lives, but only of the ship. For last night an angel of the God I belong to and serve stood by me and said, 'Don't be afraid, Paul. It is necessary for you to appear before Caesar. And indeed, God has graciously given you all those who are sailing with you.' So take courage, men, because I **believe** God that it will be just the way it was told to me.

3 Choices:

1) What to **BELIEVE** about **THIS...**

Acts 23:11

... the Lord stood by [Paul] and said, "Have courage! For as you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so it is necessary for you to testify in Rome."

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Experiences

Emotions **OR** **Revelation/God's Word**

Perceptions

Acts 27:26-32

When the fourteenth night came, we were drifting in the Adriatic Sea, and about midnight the sailors thought they were approaching land. They took soundings and found it to be a hundred and twenty feet deep; when they had sailed a little farther and sounded again, they found it to be ninety feet deep. Then, fearing we might run aground on the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern and **prayed for** daylight to come. Some sailors tried to escape from the ship; they had let down the skiff into the sea, pretending that they were going to put out anchors from the bow. Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved." Then the soldiers cut the ropes holding the skiff and let it drop away.

2) Where to **focus** ~ **faith or fear**

2 Corinthians 1:20

For every one of God's promises is "**Yes**" in Him. Therefore, through Him we also say "**Amen**" to the glory of God.

2 Peter 1:3-5

By His divine power, God has given us everything we **need** for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know Him, the One who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and **precious promises**. These are the promises that enable you to share His divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires. In view of all this, make **every effort** to respond to **God's promises**.

Losing Sight:

- a) Separate **courage** from **convictions**
- b) More on **HOW** than **WHO**
- c) Getting **spiritual** apart from **truth & promises of God**

Will God do what I want? ... vs. ... what He has promised!

Acts 27:27-38

When it was about daylight, Paul urged them all to **take food**, saying, "Today is the fourteenth day that you have been waiting and going without food, having eaten nothing. So I urge you to take some food. For this is for your **survival**, since none of you will lose a hair from your head." After he said these things and had taken some bread, he **gave thanks to God** in the presence of all of them, and after he broke it, he began to eat. They all were encouraged and took food themselves. In all there were 276 of us on the ship. When they had eaten enough, they began to lighten the ship by throwing the grain overboard into the sea.

3) **ACT** based on the **horizon** God gives, not the boundaries of "**this**"

John 4:49-50

"Sir," the official said to him, "come down before my boy dies." "Go," Jesus told him, "your son will live." The man believed what Jesus said to him and departed.

2 Samuel 12:20-23

Then David got up from the ground. He washed, anointed himself, changed his clothes, went to the Lord's house, and **worshiped**. Then he went home and requested something to eat. So they served him food, and he ate. His servants asked him, "Why have you done this? While the baby was alive, you fasted and wept, but when he died, you got up and ate food." He answered, "While the baby was alive, I fasted and wept because I thought, 'Who knows? The Lord may be gracious to me and let him live.' But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? **I'll go to him**, but he will never return to me."