

# STORM IS BREWING AND THE SNAKES ARE WAITING

I. You can't talk about Spiritual Warfare without referring to Paul. **He was no stranger to it, he wasn't surprised by it and he never avoided it.**

A. It was specified in His Call - **Acts 9:15-16.**

1. **Verse 15** - The **romance** of his call.
2. **Verse 16** - The **reality** of his call.
3. **2 Corinthians 11:23-25** - some of the reality of the call

B. You would think that if the Lord was sending him somewhere, He could have least made sure he wouldn't get shipwrecked.

1. Why does God allow it?
  - a. **God uses circumstances to carry us where our human will won't go.**
  - b. Joseph - Daniel - Jonah
2. For the most part we go through the same things that the world goes through.  
**Matt 5:45 & Matt 7:25**
3. Only we should go through it differently.

II. **Acts 27 & 28** - tells about the one recorded shipwreck.

A. There are 8 phrases in this story that describe what will happen when you begin to walk out the call of God.

1. **27:10** - **“The Voyage will certainly be attended with damage and loss.”**
  - a. Port Christians
    - **Sea of soul-winning, encounter storms of inadequacy and ridicule**
    - Sea of hospitality, encounter storms of inconvenience and being taken advantage
    - **Sea of stepping out in God's will, encounter storms of misunderstanding and controversy.**
  - b. Every venture has both opportunity and opposition
2. **27:18** - **“Before long the storm ... Jettison the cargo”**

- It will remove what hinders (Monkey trap)

3. **27:24-25** - “Don’t be afraid ... take courage ... believe God”

a. **The Lord is in the Boat**

b. In the valley of the shadow of death - don’t fear evil - He is with you.

4. **27:29-31** - “*escape from the ship - remain in the ship.*”

a. **The storm will cause you to question God’s will**

b. What the circumstances (*contrary*) say or what God says.

c. **Once you do, you begin to question everything God has said which will cause you to become unstable in all your ways.**

d. Don’t jump ship if God’s will placed you in that ship.

- 1) His Lord**ship**    2) Marriage Partner**ship**    3) Church Member**ship**  
4) Friend**ship**    5) Dynamic Disciple**ship**    6) Faithful Steward**ship**

5. **28:1-2** - “*BROUGHT SAFELY THROUGH & SHOWN EXTRAORDINARY KINDNESS*”

a. The battle isn’t to “**still the storm**” but to “**weather it,**” until God either “**stills**” it or brings you “**safely through.**”

b. If you remain in the ship you will be brought safely through.

6. **28:3** - **Circumstances bring the storms, ministering to people will bring the snakes.**

a. Story of the injured squirrel - “*He lost sight of his mission.*”

b. **Just as the injured squirrel was protecting itself, injured people will do the same.**

c. We minister to injured people, who were injured by people.

7. **28:5** - The same heat that exposed it is the same heat that will consume it.

8. **28:6** - “*They Expected .. They Waited .. They Changed Their Minds.*”

a. Both storms and snakes test and demonstrate the reality of what we are and have.

b. **We either confirm the world’s view of Christianity or we change their minds.**

c. Here lies the “**WHY**” of warfare.

**If we don’t go to war we change our mind, but if we battle we will change the worlds mind.**