

# Transforming the “Val ley Of Baca” into a place of Springs

- I. I want to use a story from the life of Paul to illustrate to you how a “valley of baca” can be transformed into a place of springs by staying the course no matter how difficult it gets.
  - A. The good times and bad times of the Christian pilgrimage 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.