

## Get Real... When the Wind is Against You

### Acts 27

📖 2 Corinthians 11:25b (NLT) “Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea.”

#### 1) When the wind is against you, [appreciate those that are with you.](#)

📖 Acts 27:1–2 (NIV) “When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, Paul and some other prisoners were handed over to a centurion named Julius, who belonged to the Imperial Regiment. <sup>2</sup> We boarded a ship from Adramyttium about to sail for ports along the coast of the province of Asia, and we put out to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica, was with us.”

📖 Acts 27:3-4 (NIV) “The next day we landed at Sidon; and Julius, in kindness to Paul, allowed him to go to his friends so they might provide for his needs. <sup>4</sup> From there we put out to sea again and passed to the lee of Cyprus because the winds were against us.”

#### 2) When the wind is against you, [know that progress will be slow.](#)

📖 Acts 27:6–8 (NIV) “There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing for Italy and put us on board. <sup>7</sup> We made slow headway for many days and had difficulty arriving off Cnidus. When the wind did not allow us to hold our course, we sailed to the lee of Crete, opposite Salomone. <sup>8</sup> We moved along the coast with difficulty and came to a place called Fair Havens, near the town of Lasea.”

📖 Acts 27:9 (NIV) “Much time had been lost, and sailing had already become dangerous because by now it was after the Fast.”

#### 3) When the wind is against you, [be careful who you listen to.](#)

📖 Acts 27:9b–13 (NIV) “Paul warned them, <sup>10</sup> “Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also.” <sup>11</sup> But the centurion, instead of listening to what Paul said, followed the advice of the pilot and of the owner of the ship. <sup>12</sup> Since the harbor was unsuitable to winter in, the majority decided that we should sail on, hoping to reach Phoenix and winter there. This was a harbor in Crete, facing both southwest and northwest. <sup>13</sup> When a gentle south wind began to blow, they thought they had obtained what they wanted; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete.”

1. **Motives** are often wrong. (11)
2. **Majorities** are often wrong. (12)
3. **Meteorologists** are often wrong. (13)

📖 Acts 27:14–15 (NIV) “Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the “northeaster,” swept down from the island. <sup>15</sup> The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along.”

#### 4) When the wind is against you, do what it takes to hold it together.

📖 Acts 27:16–17 (NIV) “As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure. <sup>17</sup> When the men had hoisted it aboard, they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Fearing that they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship be driven along.”

📖 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. <sup>19</sup> On the third day, they threw the ship’s tackle overboard with their own hands. <sup>20</sup> When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.”

#### When Hope Seems Lost...

1. Look for courage to surface. (Acts 27:21-22)
2. Realize that circumstances can change overnight. (Acts 27:23-26)
3. Resist the temptation to be self-serving. (Acts 27:29-32)
4. Take care of your health. (Acts 27:33-38)
5. Appreciate the protection that God provides. (Acts 27:39-44)

**Digging Deeper**— Does it feel like the wind is against you? What is stressing you out? What are you facing? Is there something frightening you? Is the loudest voice in your life a positive one or a negative one? Do you regularly hang-out with people who demonstrate strong faith in God? Are you having a hard time holding things together? How can this church help? What can you do to help someone else?