

OPEN HEAVEN 21 OCTOBER 2025 TODAY DEVOTIONAL

TOPIC: THE LORD IS MY PEACE

MEMORISE:

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

READ: Acts 27:7-44:

7 And when we had sailed slowly many days, and scarce were come over against Cnidus, the windnot suffering us, we sailed under Crete, over against Salmone;

- 8 And, hardly passing it, came unto a place which is called The fair havens; nigh whereunto was the city of Lasea.
- 9 Now when much time was spent, and when sailing was now dangerous, because the fast wasnow already past, Paul admonished them,
- 10 And said unto them, Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives.
- 11 Nevertheless the centurion believed the master and the owner of the ship, more than those things

which were spoken by Paul.

- 12 And because the haven was not commodious to winter in, the more part advised to depart thence also, if by any means they might attain to Phenice, and there to winter; which is an haven of Crete, and lieth toward the south west and north west.
- 13 And when the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, loosing thence, they sailed close by Crete.
- 14 But not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon.
- 15 And when the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind, we let her drive.
- 16 And running under a certain island which is called Clauda, we had much work to come by the boat:
- 17 Which when they had taken up, they used helps, undergirding the ship; and, fearing lest they should fall into the quicksands, strake sail, and so were driven.
- 18 And we being exceedingly tossed with a tempest, the next day they lightened the ship;
- 19 And the third day we cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship.
- 20 And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away.
- 21 But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.
- 22 And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship.
- 23 For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,
- 24 Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.
- 25 Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.
- 26 Howbeit we must be cast upon a certain island.
- 27 But when the fourteenth night was come, as we were driven up and down in Adria, about midnight the shipmen deemed that they drew near to some country;
- 28 And sounded, and found it twenty fathoms: and when they had gone a little further, they sounded again, and found it fifteen fathoms.
- 29 Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day.
- 30 And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship, when they had let down the boat into the sea, under colour as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreship,
- 31 Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved.
- 32 Then the soldiers cut off the ropes of the boat, and let her fall off.
- 33 And while the day was coming on, Paul besought them all to take meat, saying, This day is the fourteenth day that ye have tarried and continued fasting, having taken nothing.
- 34 Wherefore I pray you to take some meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an hair fallfrom the head of any of you.
- 35 And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all:and when he had broken it, he began to eat.
- 36 Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took some meat.
- 37 And we were in all in the ship two hundred threescore and sixteen souls.

- 38 And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, and cast out the wheat into the sea.
- 39 And when it was day, they knew not the land: but they discovered a certain creek with a shore, into the which they were minded, if it were possible, to thrust in the ship.
- 40 And when they had taken up the anchors, they committed themselves unto the sea, and loosed the rudder bands, and hoised up the mainsail to the wind, and made toward shore.
- 41 And falling into a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the forepart stuckfast, and remained unmoveable, but the hinder part was broken with the violence of the waves.
- 42 And the soldiers' counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim out, and escape.
- 43 But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose; and commanded that they which could swim should cast themselves first into the sea, and get to land:
- 44 And the rest, some on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship. And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land.

RCCG OPEN HEAVEN 21 OCTOBER 2025 TODAY MESSAGE

God has not promised us a storm-free life. In John 16:33, Jesus said, "

...In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." When we make Jesus our Lord, we are assured of peace and safety amidst terrible storms.

In our Bible reading for today, Paul was on his way to Rome on a ship with two hundred and seventy-six passengers. When they got to a place called The Fair Havens, Paul perceived there would be danger on the way and told the people on the ship:

...Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives. Acts 27:10

When you make Jesus your Lord, He will warn you beforehand of some storms. Whenever you sense something wrong about a particular move you are about to make or a decision you are about to take, that might be Jesus trying to shield you from a storm.

Since Paul did not have experience or a special degree in sailing ships, the captain decided to ignore his words of caution. Sometimes, God will send the instruction that will bring you peace through people you least expect such from. People who always expect God to manifest Himself to them in a spectacular manner often miss Him because He often chooses to express Himself with simplicity.

Because the captain refused to listen to Paul, he sailed the ship straight into a terrible storm that almost claimed the lives of everyone on board. They lost many possessions and couldn't eat for many days because they lost hope. However, Paul, who knew the Lord as His peace, encouraged them even though they had earlier disregarded his counsel.

For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, Io, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me. Acts 27:23-25

Beloved, when the Lord is your peace, He will rescue you from every storm and ensure that nothing is missing or broken in your life. When you make the Lord your peace, He will calm your heart, even in the midst of the trials and challenges of life.

KEY POINT

When the Lord is your peace, no matter the storms you face, you will emerge victorious.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR

Luke 1-2

HYMN 29: WHEN PEACE LIKE A RIVER ATTENDETH MY WAY

OPEN HEAVEN DEVOTIONAL 21 OCTOBER 2025 COMMENTARY

MEMORISE: Philippians 4:7

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

This verse promises a supernatural, transcendent peace that operates beyond human logic. It is not the absence of storms, but a divine garrison that "keeps" (literally, *stands guard over*) your inner being *in the midst of* them.

BIBLE READING: Acts 27:7-44

This narrative is a powerful typology of life's storms and the believer's anchor:

- v. 10: Divine Warning: Paul, through the Spirit, perceives the coming storm and issues a warning.
- v. 11-20: **The Cost of Disobedience:** Ignoring God's counsel leads directly into a tempest that strips away hope and control.
- v. 21-26: **The Assurance of Peace:** In the storm's peak, Paul stands on a divine promise of preservation for all who are with him.
- v. 44: **The Fulfillment: "And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land."** God's word of peace never fails.

The Promise of Peace in the Storm

Pastor E.A. Adeboye delivers a crucial message that corrects a common misconception: salvation is not a guarantee against life's storms, but it is the absolute assurance of God's presence and peace

within them. The storm in Acts 27 teaches us how to navigate life's inevitable tempests.

The Realities of the Storm

- 1. **Storms Are Inevitable:** Jesus Himself promised tribulation (John 16:33). Believers are not exempt from life's hardships, economic crises, health challenges, or relational conflicts.
- 2. **God Provides Warning:** Often, the Holy Spirit will give a inward witness—a "perception" or unease—to guide us away from danger (Acts 27:10). This warning may come through Scripture, a quiet prompting, or even the counsel of an unexpected person.
- 3. **Ignoring Warning Invites Calamity:** The centurion and captain preferred human expertise ("the master and owner of the ship") over divine revelation. The result was the loss of their cargo, their ship, and nearly their lives (v. 18-20).

The Ministry of God's Peace in the Storm

When you make the Lord your peace, He manifests His presence in the storm in three key ways:

1. He Calms the Heart Before He Calms the Storm:

While the seasoned sailors and soldiers lost all hope (v. 20), Paul possessed a supernatural calm. This is the "peace that passeth all understanding." It is an internal stability that contradicts external chaos, rooted not in circumstances but in God's character and promise.

2. He Provides a Specific Promise for the Situation:

God did not just give Paul a general sense of peace; He gave him a specific, actionable word: "Fear not... God hath given thee all them that sail with thee" (v. 24). This word became the anchor for everyone's survival. God's peace is often linked to a specific promise from His Word.

3. He Transforms You into a Source of Encouragement:

A person at peace in a storm becomes a lifeline for others. Paul, the prisoner, became the de facto captain because he alone had access to the Prince of Peace. His faith and calmness saved 276 people (v. 22, 25, 34-36).

How to Access and Keep This Peace

- **Heed the Warnings:** Cultivate sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's gentle checks and promptings. Do not override them with human logic or experience.
- Anchor Yourself in God's Word: His promises are the foundation of your peace. When a storm hits, recall what God has said.
- **Pray with Thanksgiving:** Philippians 4:6-7 links the supernatural peace to the practice of bringing requests to God with thanksgiving. Thanking God in the storm is an act of faith that activates His peace.
- **Keep Your Eyes on the Lord of Peace:** The storm is real, but your focus must remain on Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith (Hebrews 12:2).

Conclusion: Your Safe Passage is Guaranteed

Pray this:

"Prince of Peace, I acknowledge You as my Lord. I thank You that Your peace is my portion, not the absence of storms. Forgive me for times I have trusted my own understanding over Your warning.

Anchor my heart and mind in Your promises today. Let Your supernatural peace stand guard over me, that I may remain calm and become a source of hope and encouragement to others, even in the midst of life's greatest tempests. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Action Steps:

- 1. **Identify Your Storm:** Name the current situation causing you anxiety or fear.
- 2. Find a Promise: Locate a specific scripture that speaks to your situation and write it down.
- 3. **Pray with Thanksgiving:** Present your request to God, thanking Him in advance for His peace and deliverance.
- 4. **Be an Encourager:** Share the peace God gives you with someone else who is struggling.

Remember: The same God who promised Paul that not a life would be lost is watching over you. Your storm has an expiration date, and your safe landing is guaranteed by His word.

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7). Let it keep you today.

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