

**July 25<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Pastor Herbert Cooper: In the midst of the Storm**

In this lesson you will learn four storm survival strategies.

**Intro:** A large majority of Americans are experiencing storms in their life during this season of the pandemic. They are experiencing; a health storm, a relationship storm, a financial storm, an unemployment storm, and a storm of racial tension. Just one of these storms can put a good amount of stress on a person, but many people are having to deal with two or three of these storms simultaneously. The apostle Paul ran into several storms of persecution on his many missionary travels throughout Asia minor and beyond. On his journey to Rome, he ran into a physical storm that destroyed his ship. From that experience, we can take away four storm survival strategies.

**I. Stay on the Ship**

- A. In the midst of whatever storm, you might be facing, remember to keep doing those things that you know please God. Keep; reading the Word, going to church, tithing and giving offerings, and keep honoring God as your top priority. Even when you don't know all that you're to do, keep doing the right thing.

**II. Be Still & Chill**

- A. When we go through storms we can get so worked up, and remain on edge for long periods of time. Don't get so focused on the problem that you lose sight of the Savior. Worrying about the storm will not add anything positive or of value to your life. Take time to cast your cares on God, and rest in His presence (1 Pet 5:7).

**III. Praise God in the Storm**

- A. In the midst of your storm, it is imperative that you take time to give thanks to God and choose to rejoice in spite of your circumstances. When you give thanks and praise to God when everything is going wrong, you get God's attention. When praise is a sacrifice, it can loose chains off of you and open prison doors (Acts 16:25-26).

**IV. God can Take you to your destination on Broken Pieces**

- A. Even if you feel like your whole life is falling apart to pieces, you can trust God to get you to your Promised Land on the little pieces. God specializes in taking what we think is insignificant, and not enough and turning it into more than enough. God loves taking our little seeds and our little faith and making mountains move in our behalf (Matt 17:20).

**Discussion Questions**

1. What storms are you facing during this season of life?
2. Are you carrying your burdens, or casting your cares on Him?
3. Are you offering the sacrifice of praise to God during the storms of life?