

# Blown by Doubt

(Week# 20180513) – by Jim Fannin

*Acts 27:13-15*

*"<sup>13</sup> When a gentle south wind began to blow, they saw their opportunity; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete. 14 Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the Northeaster, swept down from the island. 15 The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along." (NASB)*

Doubt is just like the experience Paul had as his ship set sail from Crete. A light wind blows gently on your face as you leisurely sail toward your distant shore. You marvel at the changing shapes of the distant marshmallow like clouds, floating in a sea of pale, blue sky. As you sail leisurely toward your distant destination, you hardly notice the slowly stiffening breeze. In a blissful state of confidence, you fail to notice the sky is slowly filling with more and more clouds.

Surprised by the distant rumble of thunder you glance toward the sky where an avalanche of dark, angry clouds roll toward you. A lightening flash and thunderous boom bring instant fear as the spray of waves crash across the bow in a sudden, and surprisingly stiff wind. Escape is too late! The storm of doubt has arrived!

Satan enjoys nothing more than seeing Christians helplessly floundering in an angry sea driven by a wind of doubt. For those caught by Satan's attack, their soul is blown aimlessly about, while robbing them of the peace, comfort, and assurance they thought they knew. In the midst of the storm, Christians can be overcome by indecision, confusion about their relationships to their church, their family, or Christ.

Their thoughts may be swept up in hopelessness, discouragement and fear. They become unhappy and ineffective witnesses and perhaps negative witnesses for Christ. Often in a sea of doubt, spiritual growth stops. Life's joys are replaced by despair, which is often hidden by a facade of smiles, work and activities. Doubt frequently becomes an emotionally driven cycle of doubt and need for assurance.

The truth is ... all Christians face doubt at some time in their life. But we see some Christians who seem to handle doubt well, who are always rock solid in their faith. What's the secret? The secret lies in the faith that comes from knowledge and understanding. The power of knowing and understanding God's Word is well documented. The secret is to turn to God's word and trust the power of God to keep his word.

**Hebrews 4:12**

*12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

**Jeremiah 23:29**

*29 "Is not My word like fire?" declares the LORD, "and like a hammer which shatters a rock?"*

The power of God's word is indisputable. In the hands of the Holy Spirit in our life, it is sharp, able to see and discern the very thoughts and true intentions of our heart. It's able to destroy the false and refines the truth. We must know the Word, to know the truth, to escape doubt and remain free of it. The first step to escaping is to trust God's word.

**2 Timothy 3:14-17**

*14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Paul tells us to trust our teachers. Trust the working of the Holy Spirit's revelations that brought us to faith in Christ. Immerse yourself in God's word so you can guard against doubt, so your relationship with Christ is unclouded, your witness remains effective, your relationships are healthy, and so you can clearly see God's guidance in your life. Be sensitive to those around you who may be struggling with doubt and offer an encouraging word and guide them to escape through immersion in the Word of God.