

## **STORM STRATEGIES**

(Virtual Sunday #3)

### **STRATEGY: A SYSTEMATIC PLAN OF ACTION**

- Strategies are used in different areas of our lives
  1. Business strategy - don't start/run a business without one
  2. Crisis strategies - plans for communities to deal with big challenges
  3. Relational strategies - To win over or rebuild relationships
- God is the Master Strategist for this life
  1. For business - His plans for integrity, hard work and serving others
  2. For relationships - love, kindness, forgiveness, honor
  3. For the storms of life **(Matthew 7:24-25 NASB)**

### **PAUL'S PLAN IN A MAJOR STORM (Acts 27:21-25 NIV)**

- Hope had been abandoned
  1. The storm had lasted for an extended time
  2. They had exhausted all their survival strategies
- Paul offers a very different perspective
  1. He identified with God
  2. He declared his faith in God - that things were going to turn out exactly as God said
  3. His word/exhortation to the people was to take courage
- Paul's example lifted the people around him **(Acts 27:33-36 NIV)**
  1. He spoke what he believed - not what was visible
  2. He gave thanks to God - even in the storm
  3. His faith and actions - encouraged the others to take positive action

### **STORM STRATEGIES FOR US TODAY**

- We can adopt a courageous perspective
  1. We identify as being connected to God
  2. We believe God
- Use words that have faith in them to lift ourselves and those around us
  1. Words can lift or lower us - but they always locate us
  2. Practice speaking what we believe - not simply what's visible **(Isaiah 50:7 NKJV)**
  3. Give thanks to God
- Hold on to hope **(Romans 15:13 NKJV)**
  1. We have a hope helper The Holy Spirit - He never speaks discouragement
  2. We are children of the God of hope - it's a family trait