

Risk Tolerance Continuum

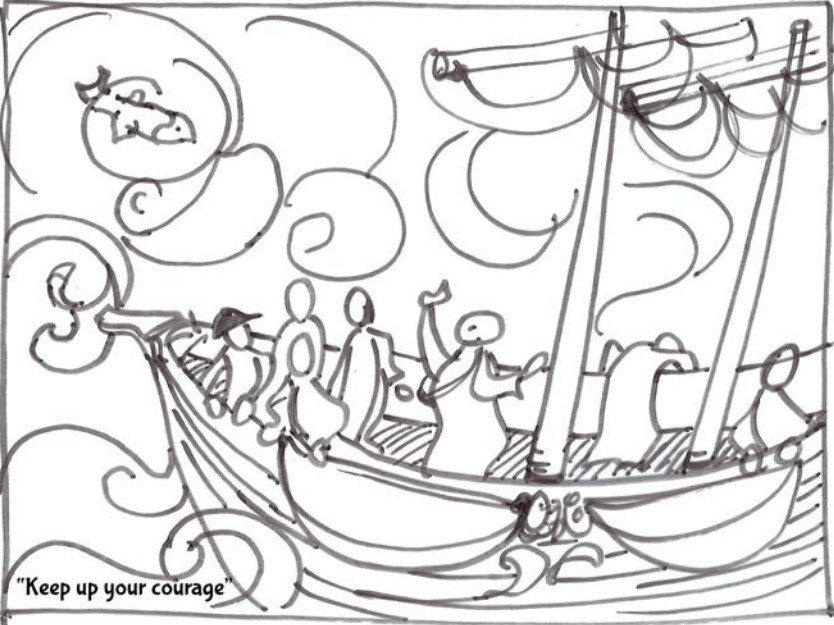
"Risk is exhilarating"
"I love risk!"

"Risk is debilitating"
"I hate risk!"

What are some "I love risk" behaviors and attitudes?
What are some "I hate risk" behaviors and attitudes?
Might this explain some responses to the coronavirus?
Where are you on this spectrum?
What does "hope in Christ" look like?
A common assumption that is a bad assumption:
Faith=Taking risks
Wisdom=Avoiding risks
How do faith and wisdom fit in the Christian life?

1

Keep Up Your Courage!
Acts 27



"Keep up your courage"

2

Setting for Acts 27

- For over 2 years, Paul has been in prison enduring injustice and attempts to kill him
 - Paul decided that his only way out was to appeal to Caesar
 - His trial would be before the emperor
- After the final inquiry before a governor and king:
 - They decided: Paul is innocent
 - But he must go to Caesar in Rome because he appealed to Caesar

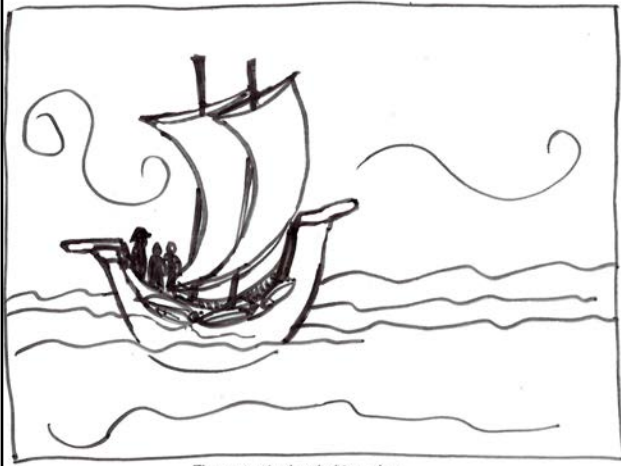
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Acts 27

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. ² We boarded

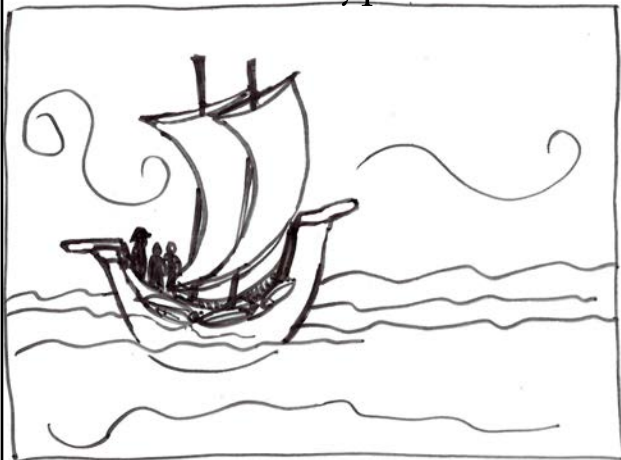


The majority decided to sail on

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.

5

³ 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. ⁴ From there we put out to sea again and passed to the lee of Cyprus because the winds were against us.



The majority decided to sail on

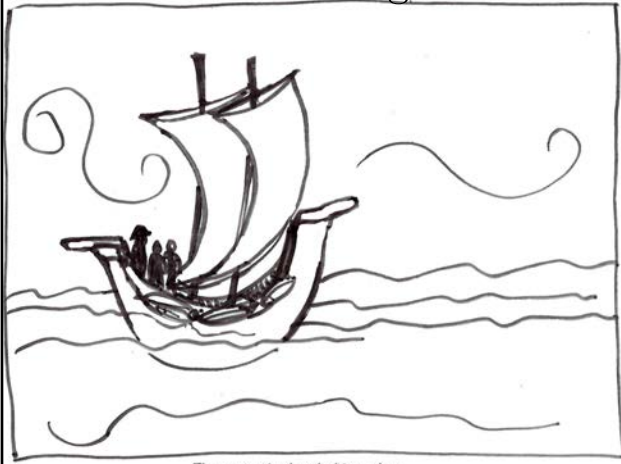
⁵ When we had sailed across the open sea off the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we landed at Myra in Lycia.

⁶ There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing for Italy and put us on board.

6

⁷ 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 Salmone.

⁸ We moved along the coast with difficulty and came to a place called Fair Havens, near the town of Lasea.

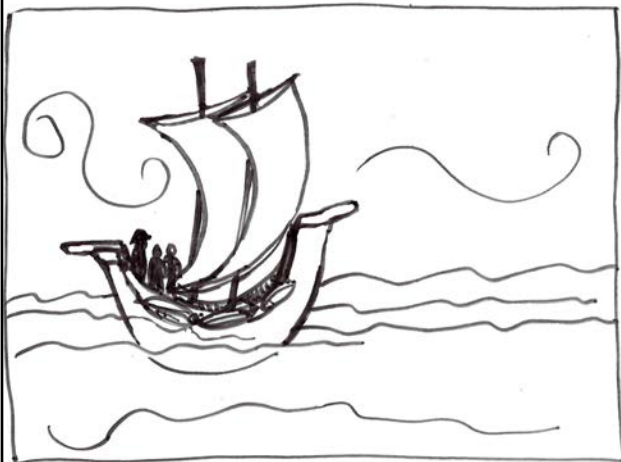


The majority decided to sail on

⁹ Much time had been lost, and sailing had already become dangerous because by now it was after the Day of Atonement.

7

So Paul warned them, ¹⁰ “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.” ¹¹ But the centurion, instead of listening to what Paul said, followed the advice of the pilot



The majority decided to sail on

and of the owner of the ship.

¹² 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.

8

13 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



They gave up all hope of being saved

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.

9

16 As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure, **17** so the men hoisted it aboard. Then they passed ropes under the ship



They gave up all hope of being saved

itself to hold it together.

Because they were afraid they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship be driven along.

10

18 We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. **19** On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their

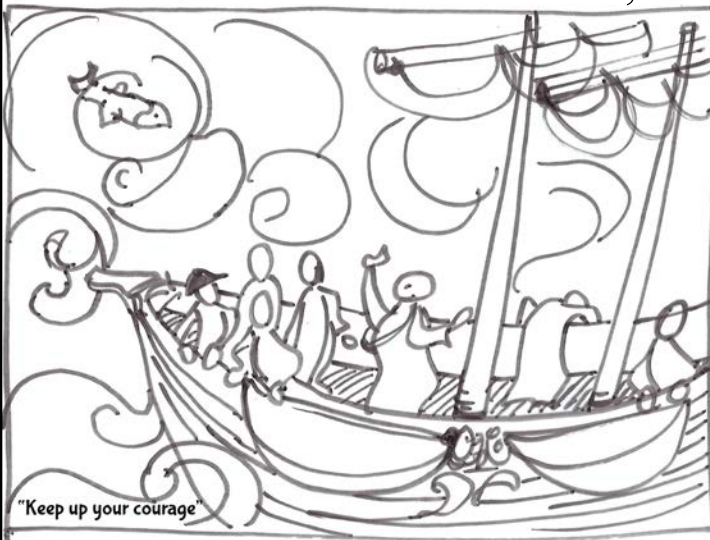


They gave up all hope of being saved

own hands. **20** When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, **we finally gave up all hope of being saved.**

11

21 After they had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: "Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared

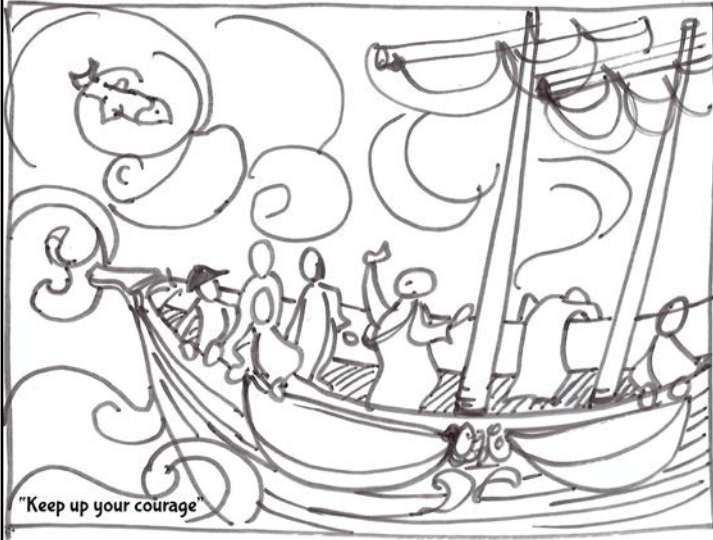


"Keep up your courage"

yourselves this damage and loss. **22** But now I urge you to **keep up your courage,** because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed.

12

²³ “Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me ²⁴ and said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has



graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.’ ²⁵ So **keep up your courage**, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. ²⁶ Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island.”

13

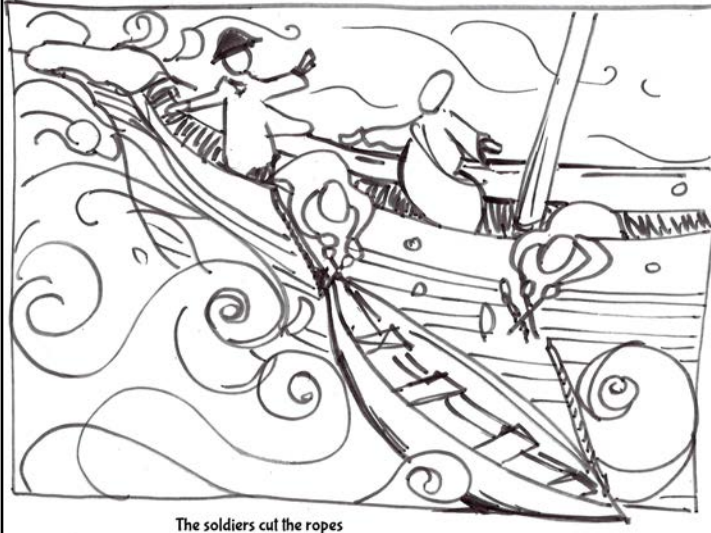
²⁷ On the fourteenth night we were still being driven across the Adriatic Sea, when about midnight the sailors sensed they were approaching land. ²⁸ They took soundings and found



that the water was a hundred and twenty feet deep. A short time later they took soundings again and found it was ninety feet deep. ²⁹ Fearing that we would be dashed against the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for daylight.

14

30 In an attempt to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea, pretending they were going to lower some anchors from the bow. **31** Then Paul said to the



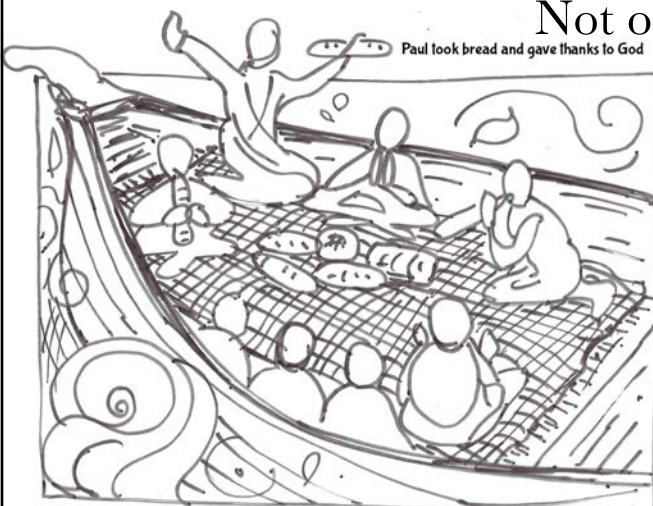
The soldiers cut the ropes

centurion and the soldiers, “Unless these men stay with the ship, you cannot be saved.” **32** So the **soldiers cut the ropes** that held the lifeboat and let it drift away.

15

33 Just before dawn Paul urged them all to eat. “For the last fourteen days,” he said, “you have been in constant suspense and have gone without food—you haven’t eaten anything.

34 Now I urge you to take some food. You need it to survive.



Paul took bread and gave thanks to God

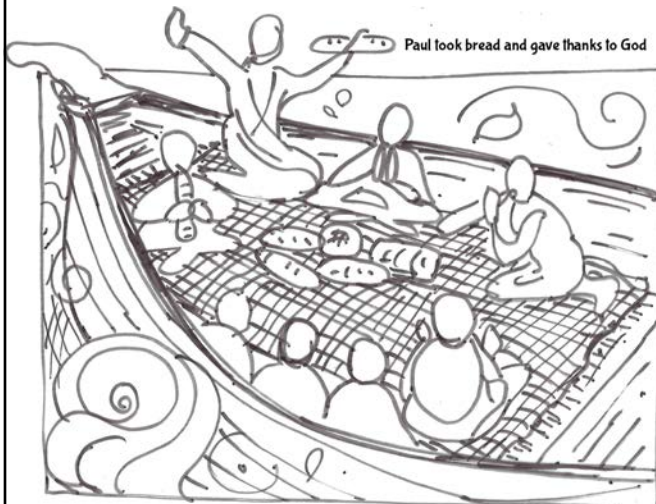
Not one of you will lose a single hair

from his head.” **35** After he said this, **he took some bread and gave thanks to God** in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat.

36 They were all encouraged and ate some food themselves.

16

37 Altogether there were 276 of us on board. **38** When they had eaten as much as they wanted, they lightened the ship by throwing the grain into the sea.



17

39 When daylight came, they did not recognize the land, but they saw a bay with a sandy beach, where they decided to run the ship aground if they could. **40** Cutting loose the anchors, they left them in the sea and at the same time untied the ropes that held the rudders.



Then they hoisted the foresail to the wind and made for the beach. **41** But the ship struck a sandbar and ran aground. The bow stuck fast and would not move, and the stern was broken to pieces by the pounding of the surf.

18

⁴² The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners to prevent any of them from swimming away and escaping. ⁴³ But the centurion wanted to spare Paul's life and kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to



Everyone reached land safely

jump overboard first and get to land. ⁴⁴ The rest were to get there on planks or on other pieces of the ship. In this way everyone reached land safely.

19

Living as a Christian in the Real World

Luke describes:

- Debate about how bad the situation was
- Debate about how drastic the response should be
- Debate about failure to take the right action earlier
- Weeks of not knowing where they were or what would happen next
- Paul and his companions were literally in the same troubled boat as the rest of the people

What did Luke want the churches to learn from the story?

20

Living as a Christian in the Real World

Following God includes
 deep faith in Him and His promises
 AND
 skillful and obedient living
 richly intertwined together
 in great courage

21

Risk Tolerance Continuum

"Risk is exhilarating"
"I love risk!"

Faith=Taking risks

"Risk is debilitating"
"I hate risk!"

Wisdom=Avoiding risks

A bad assumption:

- ~~Faith and wisdom/skill are to be balanced against each other~~

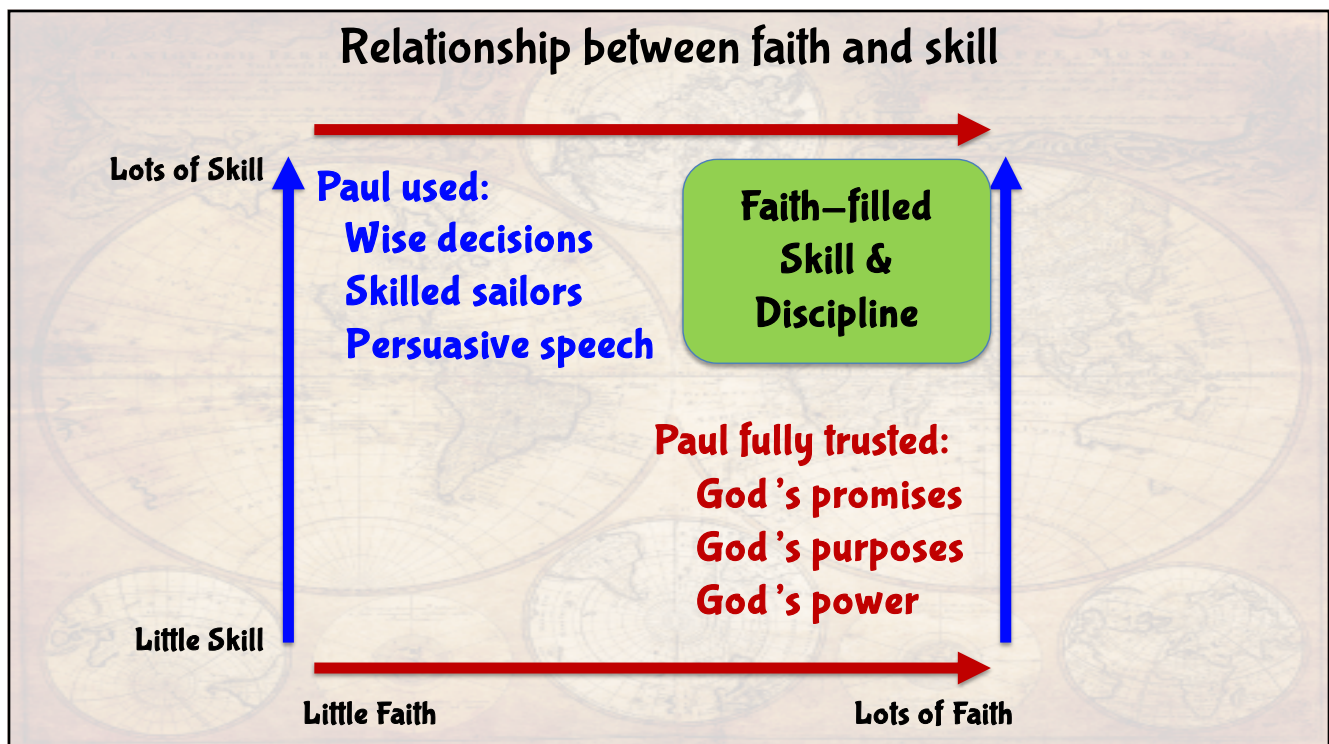
The truth:

- Faith and wisdom/skill are to be richly intertwined

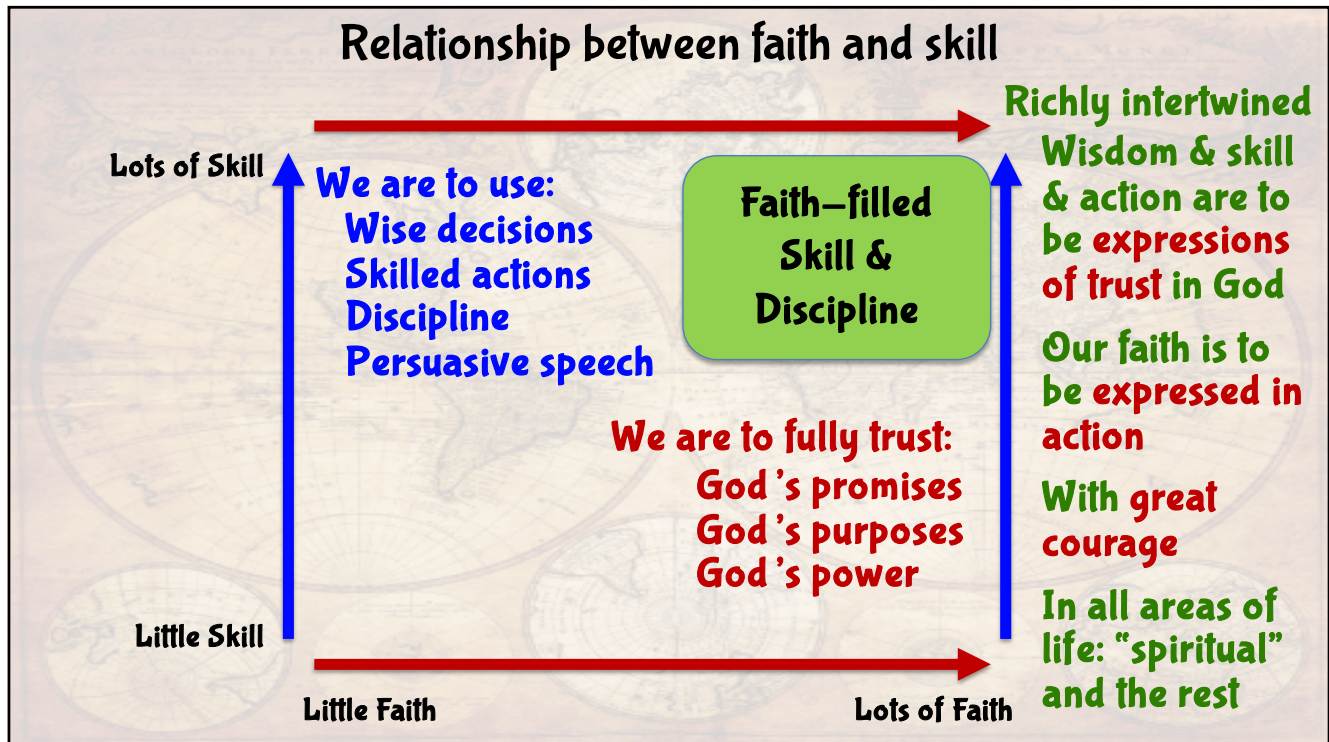
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24



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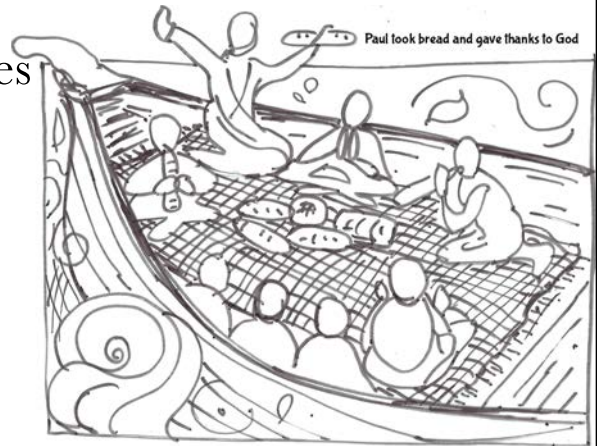
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Living as a Christian in the Real World

Following God includes
deep faith in Him and His promises

AND

skilled and obedient living
richly intertwined
in courage



27

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always **obeyed**, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation** with fear and trembling, **for it is God who works in you**, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Philippians 2:12–13

Make our actions be an expression of our faith in Christ

Put our faith into courageous action

Human actions are a key part of enacting the promises of God

Be strong and courageous through faith and action!

28

Living as a Christian in the Real World

Following God includes
deep faith in Him and His promises

AND

skilled and obedient living
richly intertwined
in courage

In all we do: faith—filled action and active faith

- Washing your hands
- Praying & reading the Bible
- Reviewing your finances
- Studying for school
- Caring for people

