



FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

Pastors: Dennis & Diane Gordon

Sabbath Sermon for August 19, 2017

SHIPWRECKED BUT NOT DEAD



SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

1st reader repeat scripture 2x with congregation.

James 1:2-8 “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³ knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴ But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. ⁵ If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”

GOD’S PURPOSE FOR ME

WHEN SIN IS TOSSING MY BOAT ABOUT,
I CAN CHOOSE NOT TO LET SIN BOTHER ME.
I WILL PICK UP THAT SIN AND THROW IT OUT,
AND JESUS WILL CALM THE SEA.

1. INTRODUCTION: Many troubles will come into our lives that can make us feel out of control and tossed with every wind, but God’s promise is that He is ever willing to make our boat stable and to steer our boat safely to shore when we keep our eyes firmly fixed upon following His way, single to His glory!

Objects to Bring: Sin Ants (*black pipe cleaners on stickers*)

2. CHILDREN’S STORY – Shake off that sin before it stings!

Lily and Sam watched their dad pour about 100 ants into their new ant farm and say, “OK kids, these little critters are ready to watch! But remember, you must not touch the container, because if the ants get out they will bite you and that will hurt!”



Sam watched the ants for a little while, until Lily left to go play. Sam wanted to play with the ants, but what did dad say? “Don’t touch the container!” Sam thought, “I must obey Dad...but... if I put my gloves on then I won’t be touching the container!” So very happily, naughty Sam put on his gloves and took off the lid to the ant farm! Oh no! What do you think happened? Those ants crawled up Sam’s gloves and arms and they started biting him! Sam screamed for help until his mom and dad both came running, and dad said, **“Quick Sam! Shake your arms and brush them off before they bite!”** Sam shook his arms and brushed off the ants to the floor while dad stomped, and mom wiped up the ants until there were no more ants. Lily said sadly, “Poor little ants.”

Then dad had a talk with Sam and Lily, “You know kids, this reminds me of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, when God told them not to touch the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They did not know how painful the consequences of touching the thing God told them not to touch, but God did. Sam didn’t know about the painful consequences of disobeying but his dad did.” You will be tempted to touch things that God calls sin, thinking you are smart enough to touch sin and not get hurt, but God knows that when you open the lid, sin gets out and bites you until your life is a painful mess! So kids, don’t touch any sin that will sting you like these ants – **Shake it off before it bites!”**

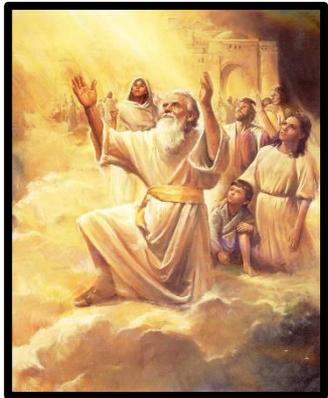
3. SIN BRINGS INSTABILITY & STING OF DEATH BUT JESUS CAME TO MAKE US STABLE IN ALL OUR WAYS.

James 1:8 “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

When we decide we know better than God and touch something that could lead to full blown shipwrecking sin, we are being double minded like Adam and Eve. There are many Christians who become unstable because they do not take God at His word that says to flee from anything that could harm their relationship with Him. Some suppose they can touch the unclean things that lead to death, and if no one sees, it won't affect them. God knows that touching anything that leads to sin will take over our lives like chains, until our unconfessed sin keeps us bound, and ends in the final sting of the second death.

The sins of others sting us and hurt us too, but when we live for God, we will grow from those trials and become stronger until Jesus comes and takes us to live forever with Him in Heaven.

2 Corinthians 4:8-11;14 “We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. ¹¹ For we+



which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh...¹⁴ knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you.”

4. BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD I WOULD BE DONE IN

How many of us look back at our life and realize that it is only by the grace of God that we have lived this long? But God by His gracious lovingkindness has had mercy on us all. We begin this message with Paul advising his shipmates not to sail:

Acts 27: 9-11 “Now when much time was spent, and when sailing was now dangerous, because the fast was now 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.”

Like the master of Paul’s ship, we never want to believe that our little errors and mistakes could really be the cause of our careers, ministries, or lives ending up shipwrecked. Neglect, foolishness, wrecklessness, drugs, lawlessness, gang violence, drowning, sickness, mental anguish, drunkenness,



and so many other circumstances have taken the lives of those we have been acquainted with, Some of you here, right now know that if it wasn’t for the grace of God, you would have been the one in the asylum who could not face reality, you would have been the one who died from neglecting your health; you would have been the drunk on the sidewalk begging, you would have died in that foolish car wreck; you would have been the one spending your life behind prison walls; or you would have been the one who died of a drug overdose....but God made a way when there was no way.

5. SOMETIMES WE SUFFER FOR THE SINS OF OTHERS.

The early Christians suffered in the torture chambers of Rome when they were betrayed by friends and family. Their temptation was to deny their faith to save their lives, but they praised God, counting the trying of their faith not as unfair, but as joy because of the patience and wisdom suffering accomplished in their hearts.

James 1:2-8 “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³ knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴ But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. ⁵ If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”

God knows that temptations suffered unfairly at the hands of others accomplish a far greater work in our hearts - and that brings joy

Hebrews 12:1-3 “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.”



God does not want us to be wearied with the contradictions of life that happen, but to be like Jesus who endured the pain, looking forward to the joy set before us - Jesus is coming, so lay aside the heaviness of sin and let's be ready for Him!

6. IGNORING GOD’S WARNING BRINGS DISASTER.

Paul told them not to sail:

***Acts 27:10** “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.”*

How many of us know we don’t always listen to timely wise counsel, when we could have saved ourselves a lot of grief and pain had we just listened to those who tried to instruct us. But they didn’t listen and they sailed directly into the storm of their lives!

***Acts 27:18-19** “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.”*



There’s nothing like a bad storm for realigning priorities, You find out real quick what you need and what is unnecessary, and what is excess baggage. Going through a storm

is when sometimes God shows us where we were keeping that excess baggage that needs to be thrown out! Somebody ought to praise God right now and say, “I’m going to make it!”

I may have lost everything, and I may be:

- Broken, but I’m going to make it!
- Wounded, but I’m going to make it!
- Bleeding, but I’m going to make it!
- Crying but I’m going to make it!
- Confused but I’m going to make it!
- Rejected but I’m going to make it!

7. GOD'S GRACE WILL BRING US SAFELY TO SHORE.

The ship was destroyed, but they made it safely to land on boards, and broken pieces of the ship:

Acts 27:44 “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.”



I KNOW I'M NOT EVERYTHING I SHOULD BE...

- I'm still struggling with some habits and hang-ups...
- I'm still wrestling with some anger and forgiveness issues...
- I still slip up sometimes and say things I shouldn't say...
- I know I'm not where I should be by now, but I know I'm moving in the right direction...
- I know I'm chopping up the water all around me because I don't want to drown, but I am floating on the broken stuff...
- **BUT I'm still here...and I am going to make it to the shore!**

Praise God you made it to land! Somebody needs to lift your hands right now and thank God that you made it through the storm. It should have killed you, and you may be surviving on broken pieces, but you made it! God had mercy on you and you made it!

You shouldn't have made it, you shouldn't be here, and you shouldn't have made it through the storm...but Jesus was victor in your life again! So just tell the devil,

“I'm still here and I'm making it safe to shore with Jesus!”

8. WHEN YOU ESCAPE SIN IT STILL TRIES TO BITE.

Acts 28:1-3 “And when they were escaped, then they knew that the island was called Melita. 2 And the barbarous people shewed us no little kindness: for they kindled a fire, and received us every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold. 3 And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand.”

Acts 28:4-6 “And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live. 5 And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm. 6 Howbeit they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly: but after they had looked a great while, and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a god.”



They've made it through the storm and landed on an island and the barbarians on that island began to kindle a fire for them. So Paul gathered sticks for the fire and out of the sticks; a viper fastened itself to Paul's hand. Now it says (Howbeit they looked) = to watch, to anticipate, to wait for.

- There are people watching you who do not want you to make it. They are anxiously waiting and anticipating your downfall. They rejoice when they see you going through hardships and trials.
- They're watching and they're waiting to celebrate your downfall.
- There is always someone watching for your breakdown and waiting to celebrate your defeat.

9. YOU CAN SURVIVE THE STING OF SIN & MOVE ON.

- This means that they had seen this happen before, and every time it happened this was the end result:
- He should have swollen or fallen down suddenly.
- Medical science says you should have died.
- Every legal advisor says you should have died.
- Every natural circumstance says you shouldn't have made it.
- It should have killed you,
- You should be in a mental institution or strung out on drugs, mad at God and mad at the world, but you just have to:

SHAKE IT OFF, MOVE ON, AND DON'T LOOK BACK!

OBJECT LESSON: Sin Ants

(snips of pipe cleaners twisted and glued to stickers)

Where does sin come from? Well the devil tries to tempt us to touch or try or say things that God told us to leave alone and not go there! Our sins come on us like those ants came on Sam when he touched the Ant Farm container his dad told him not to touch. But God makes a way for us to escape when we made a mistake.

(Put sticker ants on arms of children) What did Paul do when that viper got on him? He shook it off! What did Sam do when those ants were stinging him? He shook himself and brushed them off!

Shake, shake, shake! So shake and brush off those sin ants, shake sin off, shake it off and don't touch it again!



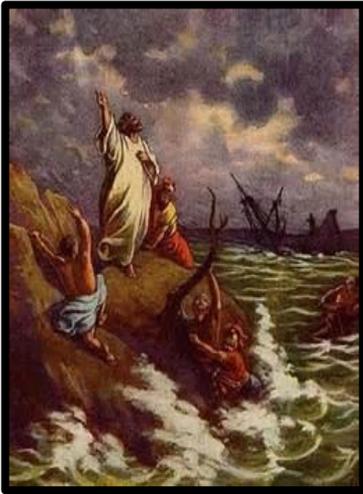
We can survive our shipwrecks! Not only are you going to make it, but also you are not even going to look like you have been through what you've been through. When the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, God didn't just part the waters; He dried the ground that they walked on. When they reached the other side, I think there wasn't even mud between their toes!

10. DON'T SIT DOWN AND CRY, KEEP WALKING!

For a little bit it looked like the enemy was going to overtake them, but they just kept on walking. They **CHOSE** to keep on walking. And while they were walking God was taking care of their enemies, while they were walking their enemies were drowning.

I want to tell somebody today: JUST KEEP WALKING!

- It doesn't matter what they say about you,
- It doesn't matter what they do,
- It doesn't matter what the one who betrayed you says,
- It doesn't matter what the doctor says,
- It doesn't matter what the rebellious child says,
- It doesn't matter what the financial report says,
- It doesn't matter that you messed up again.



When God gets through blessing you, you won't even look like you've been through what you've been through. And the only evidence of you going through what you went through will be a greater faith, a greater love, a greater confidence, a greater commitment, and a greater testimony. Somebody said: "But you don't understand, I'm going through hell with this failure, with this marriage, with this job, these kids, with this mouth I can't stop, this sickness, this financial struggle, with this unfairness."

But did you hear yourself? You're going through! Praise the Lord, You're going through!

You just prophesied your victory! Paul made it through and so are you. When King David was hiding in caves running for his life he said, "Yey though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death." But he didn't die – he made it through, and you are too!

11. JESUS WILL BRING YOU THROUGH THE FIRE



You are not the only one who has walked through fire. The bible tells us about three Hebrew boys who walked through the fire, and when they came out the other side the only evidence they had been through the fire was that they were liberated from their bondage! Their bondage was the things the enemy put on them that got burned off in the fire! Those chains that hold you down, get burned off you when you're going through the fire!

Don't worry what anyone says about you, because when God brings you through no one will believe them. God doesn't always take the heat out of the fire, but he will walk with you through it, and bring you out!

How many of us can say, "I shouldn't be here right now!" If the devil had his way I'd be drunk or strung out on drugs, or in a mental institution, or in some hospital room, or prison. If you keep your faith in God no matter what comes your way, God is going to bring you out. And faith in God means you care what God thinks. Do you care what God thinks? Some of you get snakes crawling all over you and don't think they're deadly. But ask God, He'll show you what He thinks, "Yes, those snakes are deadly!"

The Bible says that Paul shook off the beast. You've got to shake off the devil snakes or they'll kill you! This wasn't a little wimpy wave of the hand, "Come on mister snake, you are not being very nice, please get off of me and remove your fangs from my skin." Deadly snakes attach themselves to you and won't let go. That viper had attached itself to Paul: He had to become violent and aggressive against it.



12. SHAKE OFF YOUR SIN BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE

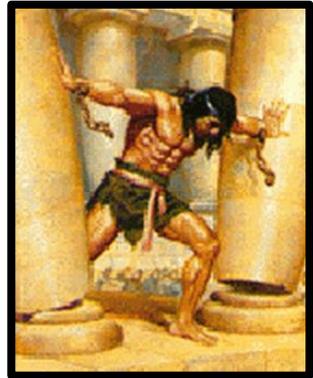
There are some things you can pray about and ask God to take away, and He will, and there are other things that you must become violent, and aggressive against, and command them to leave!

Matthew 11:12 *“And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.”*

You must violently shake your sin loose. You must shake like your life depends on it, because it does. Shake that fear loose, shake that depression loose, shake that addiction loose, shake that spirit of hopelessness and suicide loose, shake that spirit of lust and perversion loose, shake that spirit of poverty loose, shake that spirit of sickness loose! Samson played with the snake until it was too late to shake it off and the Lord departed from him.

Judges 16:20 *“And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.”*

Could it be that Samson was repenting with all his might whenever he went outside to shake himself? But this time Samson had been sitting in the pit of vipers enjoying those snakes for so long that he couldn't shake them off any more. He went out to shake off that sin and get the Lord's blessing back on him but it was too late. Shaking is not all there is to it, you need to stay close to the fire.



Dear Lord, make burn with a passion to live our lives for You!

Revelation 3:15-16 *“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”*

13. DO NOT ALLOW SIN TO LIVE IN YOUR HOUSE

Indulging in sin makes us become lukewarm. Allowing sin to abide in our midst, to abide in our house while we do nothing about it because we don't want to offend anybody makes us become lukewarm. And what does God say He will do with those who become lukewarm?



***Revelation 3:15-16** “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”*

Like a glass of cold milk that has been left out and turned sour, God will spit out those whose love for Him has turned sour! Lying, lawlessness, watching immoral programs, indulging in drugs or alcohol, cheating, gossiping, angry outbursts, laziness, irresponsibility, gluttony; all those snakes of sin if allowed to just stay there, will destroy the temple of God and cause the Holy Spirit to leave us. **Shake them off!** We dare not take the word of God lightly if we want to be ready for Jesus when He comes.

***Hebrews 12:25-29** “See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: ²⁶ whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. ²⁷ And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, **that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.** ²⁸ Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: ²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire.”*

Every false heart that can be shaken will be shaken, and only those with genuine love for God that cannot be shaken shall remain.

14. BE ON FIRE FOR GOD – LIVE FOR GOD



Elijah was so consumed by living His life for God that a chariot of fire was sent to catch him away to heaven! Elijah is a picture of the end time Christian being caught up to heaven with Jesus. Be on fire for God – live for God! Stop sinning on purpose! Sins that destroy our character, our homes and our future are burned off when we go through the fire. We still serve a God who leads us through the fire by the all-consuming fire of His presence in us. If our sins are not burned off when we go through the fire then we shall not remain to rise up with Jesus at His coming. The only thing that can destroy the devil's power is the fire of God.

Sin is still sin to God. Don't let the devil fool you into believing that anger, rage, and rudeness in the home is just being grumpy, or that the use of substances known to destroy body, home, and family, have suddenly changed into a good thing because some church declares them to be good as long as they are used in moderation. Some doctors may say that drinking and smoking are relaxing and that even mind-altering drugs are good medicine to be prescribed, **but these substances still destroy more homes and lives than cancer ever will.** Look at the end of the road of Samson and you will see that the wages of sin is still death.

Paul shook that viper off into the Fire. You need to ask yourself, are you living close enough to the fire of God that will burn those snakes of sin right off you? Or do you keep so many snakes around you that you became lukewarm, and so apathetic toward sin you don't care what God thinks? Sin quenches the fire of God.

Do you serve God in your home or do you bring those sin snakes right in there and sit down with the devil to criticize, to gossip, to mock, or to indulge in harmful drink or drugs, or to watch, or believe whatever he serves up to you? Take control of your life!

15. BUILD ONE ANOTHER UP IN HOLY FAITH

If you stay close to the fire in the word of God and in prayer living for God, you will be so busy building yourself up in the Spirit, you won't have time to play with the snakes.

Jude 19-21 “These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit. ²⁰But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, ²¹keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”

God became -a man to show us what He made us for, so we would know Him and love Him and let Him live His life through each one of us, leading the way home to heaven. Jesus gave His all for us, how can we be so selfish wasting our time on foolishness, and not give our all for Him?

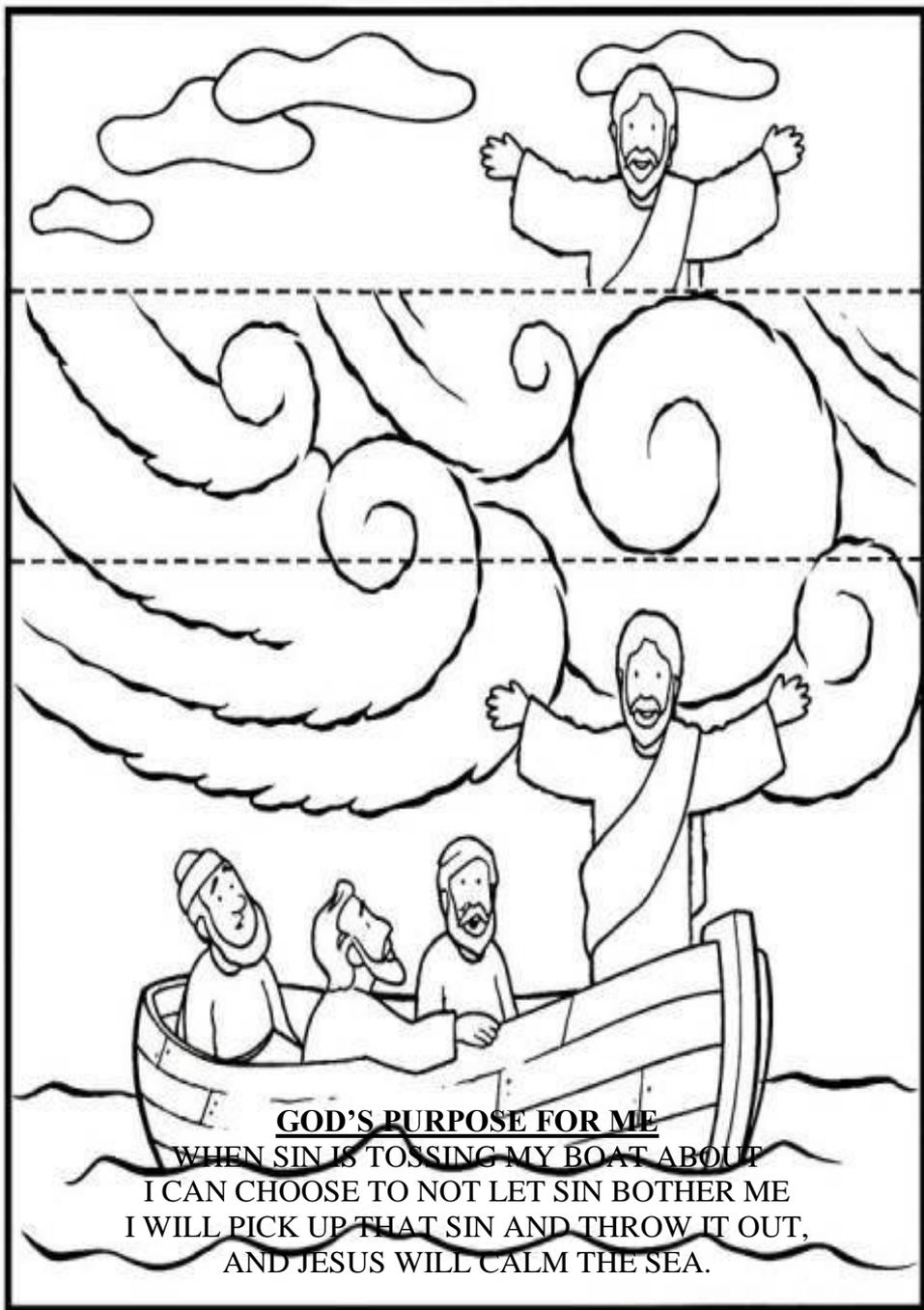


FOLLOW JESUS AND COME OUT OF THE SHIPWRECK!

Resist the devil and he will flee from you! I know what it feels like to be shipwrecked, and I know what it feels like to be bitten by the serpent, but I also know what it feels like to shake that snake off into the fire. I'm still here, and you're still here because God has a plan for your life! He has saved you for a purpose, and you have a destiny and together we are going to fulfill it!

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER:

Dear Lord Jesus, Thank you for saving me when my boat wrecks. Thank you for becoming a man, to show me how to live for You. I choose right now to shake off every filthy thing that still clings to me and holds me back from living my life for God, for now and forever. I ask You to forgive me and grow in me the fruit of love, joy, peace, and self control. In Jesus name, Amen.



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