





UNSINKABLE FAITH

8 weeks in Acts

You don't know what is going to happen out there.





Tough seas are never comfortable.

But the real question is:

Will you sink?

(And: **Can you rescue anyone** that *is* sinking?)

Step 1: Don't give up. Don't be afraid. God is with you.

Step 2: You need the Holy Spirit.

Step 3: Stay on course: the Gospel was built for opposition.

Step 4: Work for peace through sacrifice.
Unity makes buoyancy.

Step 5: You need a crew. (not a clique)

Step 6: Waste nothing...especially hardship.

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Unity makes buoyancy.

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Step 6: Waste nothing...especially hardship.

Acts 27:15

“The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along.”

We are more



Legal and Incarceration

- Paul is beaten half to death
- Arrested by police — 1
- Almost gets flogged
- Gets slapped in the face
- There is a plot to murder him
- Is left in prison 2 years (no bribe)
- Has to appeal to Rome
- In custody (by years — an

8

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We are more like Sailboats than Powerboats



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Hardships at Sea: Acts 27-28

- First leg didn't make its port
- Paul told them not to keep going
- They end up in multiple weeks of winter storms
- Lose cargo, tackle and the boat
- Have to swim for it in the storm's surf
- Paul gets bitten by a viper when he is building a fire on shore



Legal and Incarceration Hardships: Acts 21-26

- Paul is beaten half to death in Jerusalem
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- Is left in prison 2 years as a political favor (and because he didn't pay a bribe)
- Has to appeal to Rome to save his life, greatly expanding his time in custody (by years — and sending him on the already mentioned sea voyage)

Waste Nothing

Especially hardships

Paul didn't embrace these hardships but he didn't waste them either



ective Problems:

can't follow cause-effect lines

can't look like opportunities

and them confusing and

g.

We tend to respond to confusing and overwhelming with being confused and overwhelmed.

That means:

Without trust, conviction and curiosity

With trust → narrative beats argument

Things kept getting worse... and they didn't

"I've got a viper on my hand!"



Paul: What about him???

What's the "Blessing"?

1. Is never tired
2. Is never disappointed
3. Is never makes any money, has almost no belongings and is vulnerable
4. Is hated by a large group of people
5. Is always persecuted

His triumph is only that the message of Jesus spreads

Philippians 1:18

"But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, **Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.** Yes, and I will continue to rejoice."

This is only amazing if Jesus is greater than life.

Philippians 1:20-22

"I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always, **Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.** For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me."

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Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and **take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.**"

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"Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When **Christ, who is your life,** appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."

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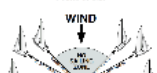
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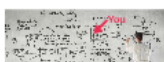
Hardships as blessed opportunity

3 Perspective fixes

Diagnostic perspective:
The insurmountable hardship may be your free propulsion
Point of Fall



Theological perspective:
God's revealed will
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2. Jesus has to be greater than life

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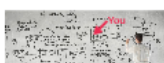
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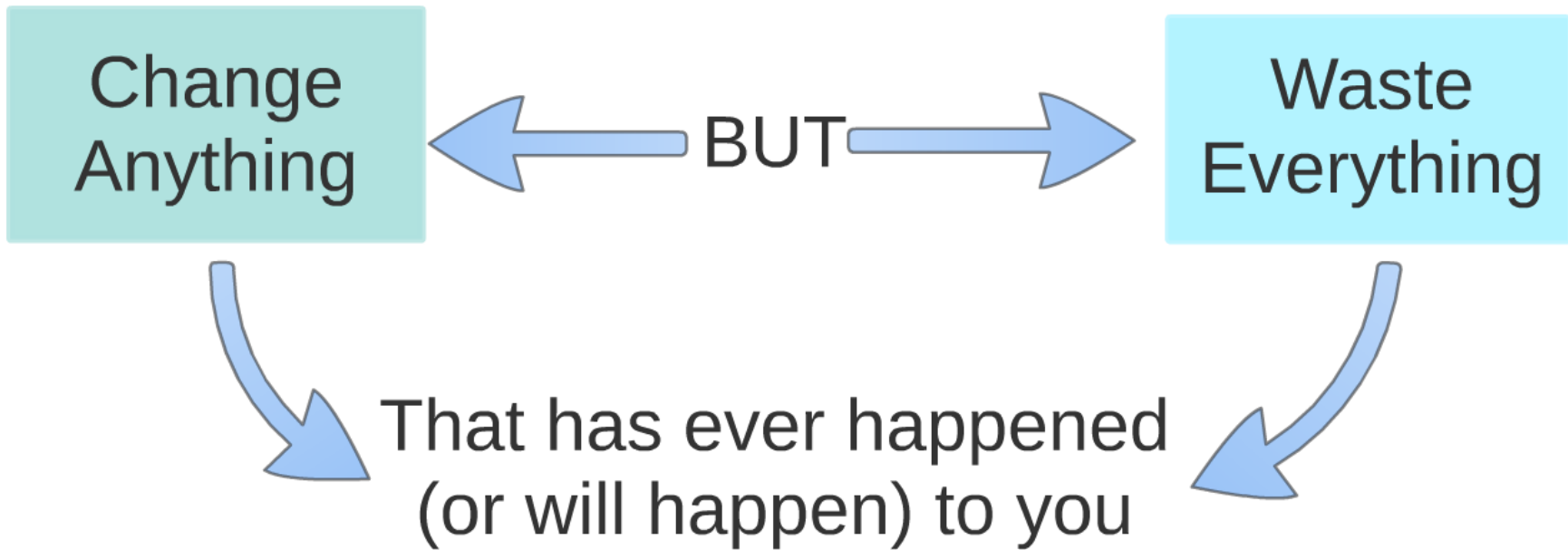
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Waste
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That has ever happened
(or will happen) to you



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2 Perspective Problems:

1. Hardships don't follow conventional lines.
2. Hardships don't look like opportunities.

And we are bad there overlooking and miswasting.

We tend to **oversee** or
confuse and overwhelm
with being
confused and overwhelmed.

That means:
Without trust, conviction and curiosity

With trust narrative basis argument

"Things look getting worse" **YOU**

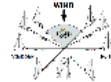
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1. See hardships as blessed opportunity

3 Perspective fixes



Diagnostic perspective:
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2. Jesus has to be greater than life itself

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Philippians 1:20-21
I expect to be released and will do so with joy, but I will
continue to rejoice in my chains, because I will
continue to preach the gospel.

Luke 10:24
Then he said to them all, "I suppose you all come after me,
to learn the things of the kingdom of God. But I tell you,
no one has ever heard of such things as these, nor seen
them, nor will they be seen until the Son of Man
comes."

Psalm 138:3-4
I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your
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Lord, as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.

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There are some things in life that need to be
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Get it?...the lama doesn't look like he can see very well...perspective?...whatever.

2 Perspective Problems:

1. Blessings don't follow cause-effect lines
2. Hardships don't look like opportunities

And so we find them **confusing** and **overwhelming**.

We tend to respond to confusing and overwhelming with being confused and overwhelmed.

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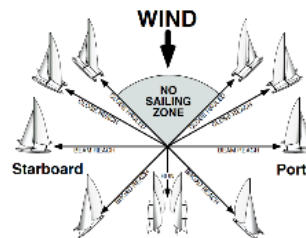
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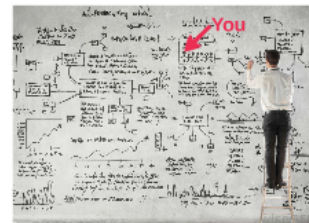
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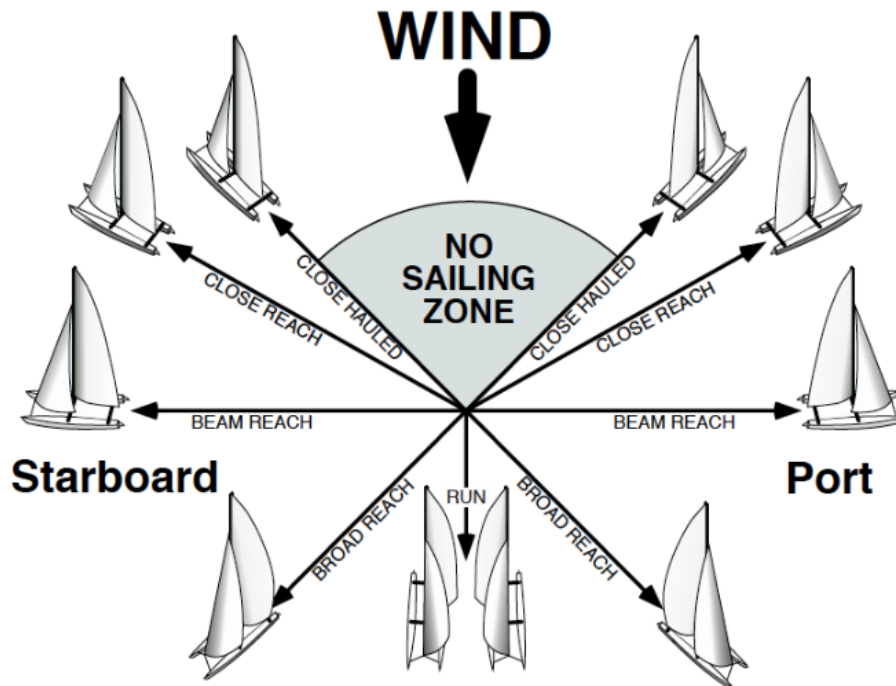
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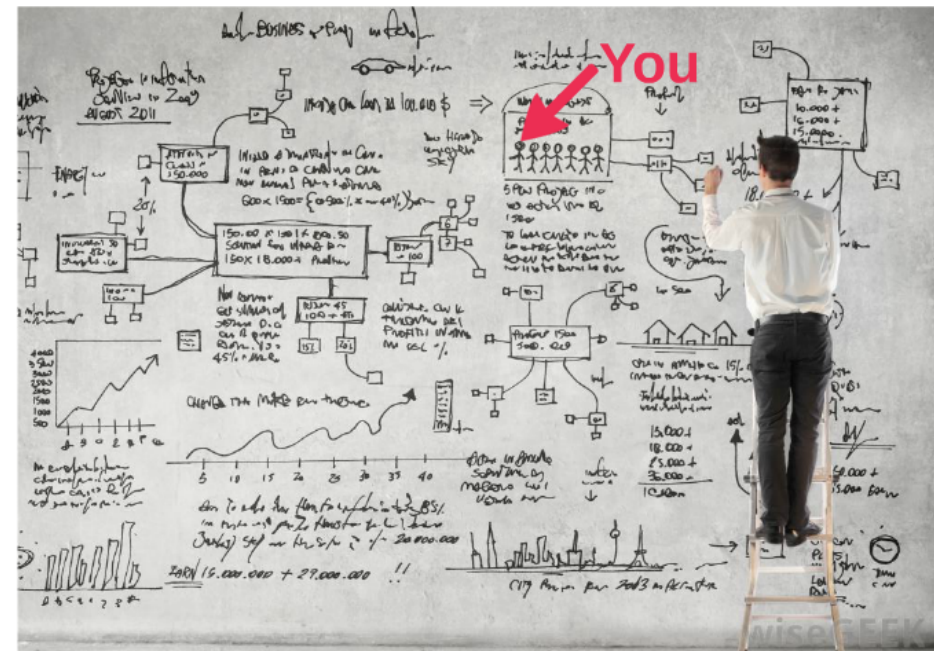
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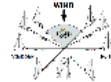
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Luke 10:24
Then he said to them all, "I suppose you all have often seen
the great men of the world, and they are called great,
because they are called great, and they are called great,
but whoever knows his life for the sake of the Son of Man
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"EVERY EXPERIENCE, NO MATTER HOW BAD IT SEEMS, HOLDS WITHIN IT A BLESSING OF SOME KIND. THE GOAL IS TO FIND IT."

- BUDDHA



No experience is wasted.

Everything in life is happening to grow you up, to fill you up, to help you to become more of who you were created to be.

— OPRAH WINFREY



Nothing is a waste of time if you use the experience wisely.

(Auguste Rodin)

izquotes.com

How does
Acts 21-28
say more than
this?

Paul: What about him?!?!?

Where's the "Blessing"?

1. Is never freed
2. Nearly dies repeatedly
3. Never makes any money, has almost no belongings and is celibate
4. Is hated by a large group of people
5. Is ultimately beheaded

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"But what does it matter? *The important thing* is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, **Christ is preached**. And *because of this I rejoice*. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice."

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I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have *sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain*. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me.

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Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When **Christ, who is your life,** appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Colossians 3:23-24

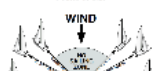
Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. **It is the Lord Christ you are serving.**

If you believe this, every hardship

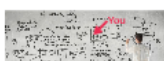
Hardships as blessed opportunity

3 Perspective fixes

Diagnostic perspective:
The insurmountable hardship may be your free propulsion
Point of Fall



Theological perspective:
God's revealed will
God's secret will



2. Jesus has to be greater than life

There are some things in life that need to be composted to be useful.



Almost anything can be spiritually composted.



Menial
labor

Derision or persecution

Loss of wealth or income

Diminishing comfort or health

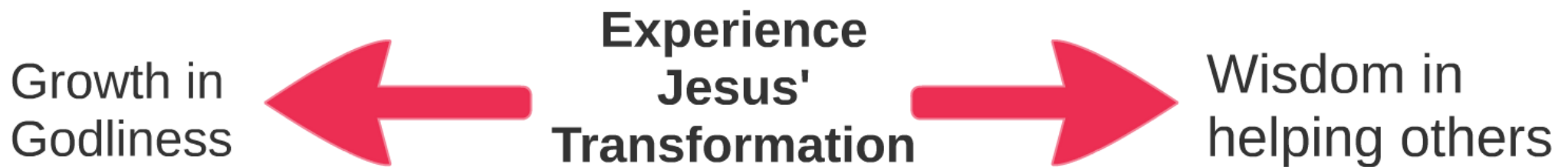
Loss of power or control

Disappointment or injustice

Repetitive
tasks

Mistreatment by bosses or bees

Fear or risk



The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along."



Hardships at Sea: Acts 27-28

- First leg didn't make its port
- Paul told them not to keep going
- They end up in multiple weeks of winter storms
- Lose cargo, tackle and the boat
- Have to swim for it in the storm's surf
- Paul gets bitten by a viper when he is building a fire on shore



Legal and Incarceration Hardships: Acts 21-26

- Paul is beaten half to death in Jerusalem
- Arrested by police — because he was the one getting beaten on
- Almost gets flogged
- Gets slapped in the face in court
- There is a plot to murder him
- Is left in prison 2 years as a political favor (and because he didn't pay a bribe)
- Has to appeal to Rome to save his life, greatly expanding his time in custody (by years — and sending him on the already mentioned sea voyage)

Waste Nothing

Especially hardships

Paul didn't embrace these hardships but he didn't waste them either



ective Problems:

can't follow cause-effect lines

can't look like opportunities

and them confusing and

g.

We tend to respond to confusing and overwhelming with being confused and overwhelmed.

That means:

Without trust, conviction and curiosity

With trust → narrative beats argument

Things kept getting worse... and they didn't

"I've got a viper on my hand!"



Paul: What about him???

What's the "Blessing"?

1. Is never fixed
2. Is rarely & irregularly
3. Is never makes any money, has almost no belongings and is volatile
4. Is hated by a large group of people
5. Is always persecuted

His triumph is only that the message of Jesus spreads

Philippians 1:18

"But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, **Christ is preached**. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice."

This is only amazing if Jesus is greater than life.

Philippians 1:20-22

"I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always, **Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death**. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me."

Luke 9:23-24

Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it."

Psalm 63:2-4

"I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory, **Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you**. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands."

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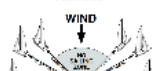
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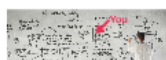
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UNSINKABLE FAITH

8 weeks in Acts