

## Believer's Club Part 12

### TITLE: "Shake It Off"

Last week, we stood in the storm of **Acts 27**, where the word was simple but powerful: **drop your anchors**. In the middle of chaos, uncertainty, and a breaking ship, we learned that, **"what holds you together is stronger than what hits you."** The storm taught us to stay anchored in God when life is out of our control.

But now the scene shifts. The storm is over, yet the journey is not finished. Because sometimes the next challenge doesn't come from the storm, it comes after it. We move from anchoring in the storm to learning how to shake things off. In **Acts 28:3–6**, Paul survives the storm, only to be bitten by a viper while serving. This reminds us that even after we make it through one life altering event, something else may try to attach itself to us.

And this is the message: you can be in God's will and still face resistance, but you also have the authority to **SHAKE IT OFF**.

#### **1. God's Will Is Working Even When You Don't Recognize Where You Are**

When Paul and the others arrived on the island, the Bible says they **"found out"** it was called Malta. That phrase reveals they didn't even realize where they were at first. They had already arrived before they understood their location.

This speaks directly to seasons in our lives when we feel disoriented. There are times when life doesn't look like what we prayed for, planned for, or expected. In those moments, it's easy to assume something has gone wrong. But this passage shows us something deeper: **you can be in an unfamiliar place and still be exactly where God wants you.**

God often allows you to arrive before He explains. **What feels like being lost may actually be divine positioning.** You don't have to fully understand your location to trust His direction. **If God carried you through the storm, He didn't lose control when you reached the shore.**

#### **2. God's Will Includes Provision Through Unexpected People**

As soon as they arrived, the people of the island showed **"unusual kindness."** This was not ordinary hospitality; it was **extraordinary compassion toward strangers.**

In a moment when Paul and the others were cold, wet, and empty, God provided through people they didn't know.

This reminds us that God's provision doesn't always come in familiar ways. **Sometimes it comes through unexpected relationships, divine connections, and moments we didn't see coming.**

**Even though they lost everything in the shipwreck, they did not lose God's care for them.**

- We often focus so much on what we lost that we miss what God is still providing.

- While we're looking back at the ship, God is already lighting a fire in front of us.

His provision may not look like what we expected, but it will always be exactly what we need.

### **3. God's Will Is Revealed in a Servant's Heart**

In the middle of this moment, Paul does something simple yet powerful, the **"gathers sticks"** for the fire. This is the same man who preached to crowds and stood before rulers, yet here he is serving in a quiet, ordinary way.

***This reveals that God's will is not just about position, it's about posture. A servant's heart positions you for what God wants to do next. Paul didn't wait to be served; he stepped forward to serve.***

Many people are waiting for purpose while overlooking the opportunities right in front of them. But faithfulness in small things prepares you for greater things.

### **4. God's Will Does Not Exempt You from Trials**

While Paul is serving, a viper comes out of the fire and fastens onto his hand. This moment challenges the idea that being in God's will means we will be exempt for trouble. Paul was faithful, obedient, and serving and still faced an attack.

The snake didn't just bite, it attached itself. This represents how certain things try to cling to us: fear, offense, shame, and past pain.

And it came out because of the heat, showing us that pressure often reveals what was hidden. ***But just because something attaches itself to you doesn't mean it has authority over you.***

The presence of a trial does not mean the absence of God. Sometimes, being in God's will places you right in the middle of the challenge, but also in position for victory.

### **5. God's Will Is Seen in How You Respond Under Pressure**

Paul's response is simple but powerful, he shakes the snake off into the fire and suffers no harm. There is no panic, no hesitation, just a decisive action.

This teaches us that not everything that touches you is meant to stay on you. Some things are not meant to be analyzed; they are meant to be released. Paul didn't allow what attached itself to him to define him.

Many struggles come not from the attack itself, but from what we continue to carry. We must learn to shake off fear, offense, doubt, and lies before they take root. What you don't remove in faith, you may end up carrying in weight.

Paul suffered no harm, not because the snake wasn't real, but because God's promise over his life was greater than the attack.

## **6. God's Will Is Not Determined by Public Opinion**

The people watching Paul quickly shift their opinion. First, they call him a murderer. Then, when nothing happens, they call him a god. This dramatic change reveals how unstable human opinion can be.

People will misinterpret your life when they don't understand God's work in you. If you live by their approval, you will constantly be unsettled.

But your identity is not defined by what others say, it is defined by what God has spoken. Don't let criticism discourage you or praise distract you. Stay anchored in God's truth, not in people's opinions.

## **7. God's Promise Over Your Life Cannot Be Stopped**

At the foundation of this entire story is God's promise over Paul's life, that he would reach Rome. Because of that promise, nothing could stop him. Not the storm, not the shipwreck, not the snake, and not public opinion. This reminds us that God's faithfulness is greater than any adversity we face. What God has spoken over your life will not be canceled by hardship.

### **CONCLUSION:**

This passage is more than a story, it is a mindset. It shows us that God works in unexpected places, provides in difficult seasons, uses those who serve, allows trials, and still brings victory.

So, when life brings heat and something tries to attach itself to you, don't panic. "Shake it off." Because if God brought you this far, He is not finished yet. And what didn't destroy you will become part of your testimony.