



## YES, NO & MAYBE:

1. I am less afraid of death than the people sitting around me.
2. I think people who become afraid during thunderstorms are silly.
3. God only intervenes and stops our trials when they will cause us to give up on Him.
4. God only protects us from trials until we are spiritually mature.
5. God is more goal oriented than He is process oriented.

## NOTES:

## DIG DEEPER:

Ø What is the worst storm you've ever experienced? Did you feel like you were facing possible death, and if so, what was your view of God at the time?

§ **READ Acts 27:9-44** (NIV)

ø Why do you think there are there "storms" and "shipwrecks" in our lives? God, who controls the winds and waves, could certainly have spared Paul, and us, these awful experiences. Why do you think He does not?

## THE STORM CONTINUES

ø **27:21-26:** *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 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. 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."*

### ø Paul's Mature Spirituality:

† Does God allow trials to come into your life **to shape** you into a mature Christian, or **because** you are a mature Christian?



## NOTES:

## DIG DEEPER...continued:

ø How does God provide an "anchor" in times of storm? Does he do this in a consistent way, or more of a case-by-case method?

ø Do you think God is more goal oriented or process oriented? Why?

‡ What does this say about His character?

## MY PRAYER THIS WEEK:

1. How can I trust God more during the "storms" of my life?
2. What role is fear playing in my relationship with God?
3. What new things do I see of God's infinite character now?