

# Teaching Letter



HIS CAPACITY IS FAR GREATER! / TEACHING BY GAYLE CLAXTON

## The capacity of God is far greater than our strongest character or our weakest moment

This is a wonderful statement, but like so many “wonderful” statements they read well on paper but how do we get them to action and reality in our personal lives? This is the challenge. The truth is that in the lives of most Christians there are stormy times which then characterise the way we continue to live life. So often we hear about believers who have “stalled” in the storm and not realised that God’s capacity is far greater.

In **Acts 27:23-31** we see Paul in a storm as well. Please take time to read this passage! Many of us are in that same boat: fear, pain, uncertainty of the future, hopelessness in a situation where you feel defeat is your only companion. But today let me encourage your spirit and say... **His capacity is far greater!**

Paul in V23 states clearly that he is owned by God and so Paul starts this journey off in the knowledge of Sonship to God. There are four key points to note in this passage. Firstly we see in V24 that God is sailing with them! This is the Creator, the Omniscient One, the God of the universe. Paul says to them “fear NOT”. Why? Because he knew the **capacity of God was greater!** Paul knew that to trust in God was to allow the purpose and plan of God to unfold and for them all to rest in the safety and provision of Him who is able! Paul knew, as stated in V24, that God had a plan for them. Might I be so bold to add that I have experienced sometimes that the “PLAN” of God for me has not always been an enjoyable experience – it has had its hard times, tears and persecutions. God has never said it would be easy but He did say if we endure we will make it to the other side! God himself is our first pillar to hold onto.

Paul then in V25 says “For I believe God” (NLT). He issues his statement of faith! The promises of God will be of very little value to you unless you combine them with the



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element of faith! Maybe as you read this, the pillar of faith is where you are struggling; you’re holding onto God but it seems faith is slipping away. Might I encourage you to grasp again the pillar of faith and start to believe that **His capacity is far greater!** Little and struggling faith is not sin. Unbelief is sin. So activate that which is in your heart and start to believe again!

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Looking a bit more at this passage we see that Paul was with these men in a ship. They were together in one location. Maybe we could relate this to the local church. It is vital to be part of a “ship”. The men wanted to jump overboard but Paul said, “you will all die unless you stay on board”. Jumping ship is not an option. The local church or “ship” is pillar number three. Just because you don’t like what is happening does not give you the command to jump overboard! Your salvation is in Jesus, not in the church. The church is the messenger to the world and the place of safety for believers. No church is perfect – only Jesus is perfect! Sadly, too many believers discredit the importance of the “ship”. So let me ask: Are you in the “ship” or what has taken you out – sickness, hopelessness, hurt, disappointment? These are all real issues but they don’t stop you going shopping or doing other things. So why do we allow them to keep us out of the place of safety, the “ship”?

In the midst of all of this, Paul gives one more command. This is pillar number four and he says in V33 “EAT”. What is for us the bread of life? What is it that sustains us through

the hard and dark times? I have learnt that it cannot only be the sympathy of others, or the tears of self-pity, or the anger we feel justified to feel. These are just emotions that we release and they sometimes do help, but they do not sustain! I want to be sustained in the storms of life, and Paul commands them to eat. So when you're in the storm remember to eat. What does this mean? The Bible is the bread of life. So often in the storms we forget to feed our spirits. Start by a few verses in the Psalms; take small chunks that you can read and meditate on and feed your spirit to allow the strength of God to once again be the motivating force for your future. There are several benefits to this as well. You will feel spiritually healthy; it will bring you peace and safety; your spirit will no longer be gloomy but cheerful and in due time it will bring you to the shore – to the other side. V44 **“So everyone escaped safely to shore!”** (NLT)

There is, however, a condition to all of this, and that is you must have asked Jesus to be the Lord of your life. If you know a family member, friend or even someone in your “ship” going through the storm, maybe you can come alongside and lead them to Jesus! Just because people are

in our churches does not mean that they have experienced salvation! Reach out to them and lead them to the Saviour!

Remember to hold on to the four pillars:

- a) God Himself
- b) Faith
- c) The Local Church
- d) Remember to Eat

God Bless you! The shoreline might not be in sight just yet, but remember:

**The capacity of God is far greater than our strongest character or our weakest moment.**

*Gayle* . Gayle Claxton  
 CO-FOUNDER AND TEACHER VOICE IN THE CITY MINISTRIES

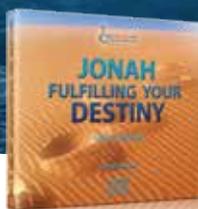
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## Jonah – Fulfilling your destiny

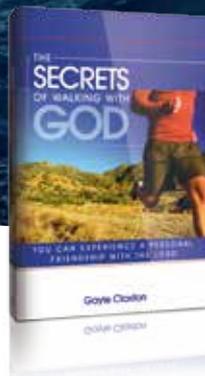
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