

8. This is not what is required by the imperative mood that “he must act in faith of the integrity of God.”
9. Principle: Gracefully oriented in one’s petition results in grace response in provision.

Principles:

1. If a person proposes to pray to the Father, but while doing so doubts the prayer will be answered, then he does not trust the integrity of God.
2. There are many things about which one would pray. How about this current example? It is not documented that anyone other than Paul prayed.
3. They were all heathen and as such they were at the mercy of their nautical experience and their inventory of ideas on how to endure hurricane force winds and waves.
4. Otherwise, passengers had no innate confidence they would survive the storm: “Since neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small storm was assailing us, from then on all hope of our being saved was gradually abandoned” (Acts 27:20 [NASB]).
5. The idea of divine deliverance was considered, but circumstances of various kinds caused fear which led to distrust and ultimately to doubt Paul’s prayer would be answered.
6. Things were just fine until, while sailing westward along the south coast of Crete, the first winds of an approaching hurricane, called Euráquilo, arrived.

The east or northeast wind which drove Paul’s ship to shipwreck at Méliita [Malta] (Acts 27:14). The term seems to have been the sailor’s term for that particular wind, and Paul uses the word which was used by them on this occasion.¹¹

7. This wind system is identified as a hurricane, Beaufort wind-force 12, which generates waves with forty-five-foot crests and winds of at least 74 miles per hour. *The NET Bible*’s translator’s note for Acts 27:14 confirms this translation:

End JAS1-10. See JAS1-11 for continuation of study at p. 101.)

¹¹ Alfred H. Joy, “Euraquilo,” in *The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*, gen. ed. James Orr (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1956), 2:1039.

Acts 27:14 Not long after this, a hurricane-force wind [τυφονικός (*tuphōnikós*)] called the northeaster [Εὐροκλύδων (*Euroklúdōn*)] blew down from the island [Crete]. (NET)

Greek “a wind like a typhoon.”¹ That is, a very violent wind like a typhoon or hurricane.²

Also note this translation of:

τυφονικός [*tuphōnikós*], like a whirlwind: a typhoon, hurricane, Acts 27:14.³

8. This weather system put the 276 passengers in harm’s way. The only person onboard that was in direct contact with the Lord was Paul plus counsel from “an angel of the Lord” when the storm was inflicting its fortnight of incessant pounding.
9. In c. A.D. 62, Paul was a familiar student of James’s epistle and in all likelihood responded to the fellow apostle’s command to pray without doubt.
10. While doing so, Paul was surrounded by 270-plus heathen, harboring doubts they would survive the ordeal Neptune was hurling at them.
11. James stressed that, “the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea.” The word “doubts” is the present middle participle of **διακρίνω (*diakrínō*)**. This is a compound of **διά (*diá*)**, “to separate,” and **κρίνω (*krínō*)**: “to judge.”
12. In the middle voice it refers to “separating oneself from,” “to be in strife with oneself,” “to doubt, hesitate, or waver.”
13. James describes the one who doubts with a simile, a figure of speech comparing two unlike things, here the doubting believer with the inherent malleability of water which takes the form of its surrounding environment.
14. The doubting believer is willing to pray, but he has no confidence that God will actually respond.

¹ “[From Greek (τυφῶν, *tuphōn*) violent storm.] A hurricane occurring especially in the region of the Philippines or the China sea” (*Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th ed., s.v. “typhoon”).

² *The NET Bible* (Dallas: Biblical Studies Press, 1996–2005), 2199tn24.

³ Walter Bauer, “τυφονικός,” *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and other Early Christian Literature*, 3d ed., rev. and ed. Frederick William Danker (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2000), 1021.

15. That inconsistency exposes his inability to focus on the principle that he is commanded to pray for the provision of wisdom “without any doubting,” yet that is exactly what he does *not* do.
16. He is therefore described as unstable as water and especially the waters of the sea. The laws of meteorology and hydrology are used to illustrate the facilitated weaknesses in a believer’s soul.
17. He is a rudderless individual therefore he is said to be “driven,” the present passive adjectival participle of **ἀνεμίζω (anemízō)**. This is a hapax legomenon and is translated, “to be driven by the wind.”
18. This action results in the sea’s waters being “tossed.” Here James used a second hapax legomenon and another present passive adjectival participle, **ῥιπίζω (rhipízō)**: “to toss to and fro.”
ῥιπίζω. Blow here and there, to toss. Of the wind that sets a wave in motion on the water. James 1:6.⁴
19. These present participles are contemporaneous with the action of the main verb, the present active imperative of **αἰτέω (aitéō)**: “But he must keep on asking.”
20. The present tense is iterative, “That which recurs at successive intervals. It is sometimes called the present of repeated action.”⁵
21. The active voice means the believer is to produce the action of praying for wisdom while the imperative mood is a command to do so.
22. James then provides a warning: when believers pray for wisdom they are not to doubt. He then, by means of a simile,⁶ compares any doubters to the “wave of the sea.”
23. The word “wave” is the noun **κλύδων (klúdōn)**: “The raging of the sea, a tempest.” This is a synonym of the word, **τυφωνικός (tuphōnikós)** in the Acts 27:14.

⁴ Ibid., “ῥιπίζω,” 906.

⁵ H. E. Dana and Julius R. Mantey, *A Manual Grammar of the Greek New Testament* (Toronto: The Macmillan Co., 1955), 184.

⁶ “A figure of speech by which one thing, action, or relation is likened or explicitly compared, often with *as* or *like*, to something of different kind or quality” (*Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary*, 2d ed. [Springfield, Mass.: G. & C. Merriam Co., 1953] s.v. “simile”).

24. In that verse, the term used in the NASB is “violent wind” and in the NET Bible as “a hurricane-force wind.”
25. We have compared the carnal mentality of the weak, doubting believer with the ravages imposed on those who endure a Category 1 hurricane.
25. However, its winds are minimal compared to those of subsequent categories. Below is the National Hurricane Center’s chart of sustained wind speeds of hurricanes, Categories 1–5:⁷

NOTE: Click on NOAA’s Web-site link in the footnote below to view a graphic demonstration of the damage inflicted by each category of sustained winds.

Category	Sustained Winds	Types of Damage Due to Hurricane Winds
1	74-95 mph	Very dangerous winds will produce some damage: Well-constructed frame homes could have damage to roof, shingles, vinyl siding and gutters. Large branches of trees will snap and shallowly rooted trees may be toppled. Extensive damage to power lines and poles likely will result in power outages that could last a few to several days.
2	96-110 mph	Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage: Well-constructed frame homes could sustain major roof and siding damage. Many shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted and block numerous roads. Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last from several days to weeks.
3 (major)	111-129 mph	Devastating damage will occur: Well-built framed homes may incur major damage or removal of roof decking and gable ends. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, blocking numerous roads. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to weeks after the storm passes.
4 (major)	130-156 mph	Catastrophic damage will occur: Well-built framed homes can sustain severe damage with loss of most of the roof structure and/or some exterior walls. Most trees will be snapped or uprooted and power poles downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.
5 (major)	157 mph or higher	Catastrophic damage will occur: A high percentage of framed homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

26. We have now completed an expanded translation of:

⁷“Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale” (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Hurricane Center, Miami, Florida, <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutsshws.php>) accessed November 21, 2016.