

38. Many of these occasions may be described by the fury of a hurricane causing fear to disorient the believer so he cannot navigate through the circumstance with recall of doctrine.
39. There are often multiple forces at play that must be managed in the believer's soul. These forces include the interaction with others, some believers, some not, through verbal, visual, or other means of communication. The people involved may include family, friends, or strangers. The subject may be true or false. Management of these often-competing factors is the challenge the believer must navigate to reach a conclusion that honors the Lord.
40. Luke uses the voyage from Crete to Malta to illustrate how external exigencies experienced by the same group of people are handled differently by those who know doctrine and those who do not.
41. It should be noted that among the 276 people aboard the ship, four men maintained unalloyed happiness: **(1)** the Apostle Paul, **(2)** the books author, Luke (note the pronouns *we* and *us* in Acts 28:1–8), **(3)** Aristarchus, a friend of Paul's mentioned in Acts 27:2 cf. 19:29, and **(4)** possibly Julius, a centurion assigned as Paul's guard and protector during the voyage to Rome (Acts 27:1,3).
42. In c. 62, Paul was familiar with James's epistle and in all likelihood responded to the fellow apostle's command to pray without doubt.
43. While doing so, Paul is surrounded by 272 heathen, harboring doubts they would survive the ordeal Neptune was hurling at them.
44. 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.
45. 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.
46. He is a rudderless individual therefore he is said to be "driven," or better, "agitated by the various wind forces (mental attitude sins) hurling them about to and fro (emotional revolt of the soul)."

47. In light of the three Category 4 hurricanes to recently ravage Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico, the **Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale** below provides a quick review of the magnitude each inflicted with Harvey and Irma achieving Category 5 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.

James 1:6 But he must keep on praying [IM #4] for wisdom by means of faith, doubting nothing, for the one who prays while doubting the integrity of God is like the atmospheric and oceanic forces of the sea, whose waves are constantly being agitated by various wind forces [mental attitude sins] hurling them about to and fro [emotional revolt of the soul]. (EXT)

James 1:7 For that man ought not to expect [IM #5] that he will receive anything from the Lord, (NASB)

1. The opening phrase rejects the act of the “doubting” believer presuming he will receive anything from the Lord.

2. God's plan for the believer is based on His integrity: His righteous standards accompanied by the supervision of divine justice operating under the divine policy of grace.
3. This means orientation to this system depends on acquisition of those standards through serious and prolonged Bible study.
4. Prayer must recognize the integrity of God which requires respect for the will of God regarding His plan and purpose.
5. When approaching the throne of God in prayer, the believer must be filled with the Holy Spirit while expressing complete deference to God as our heavenly Father.
6. Prayer is a system by which the believer may approach the throne of grace either with a petition or an intercession. A petition is for personal requests while intercession is on behalf of others.
7. Prayer is not an after-the-fact problem-solving device, not is it a system by which the one who prays assumes authority over other members of the congregation, associates, friends, relatives, or even strangers.
8. Prayer is to be approached with humility, understanding that it is God's desire that you pray for others and make requests by your own personal expressions of gratitude and intercession for others.
9. The best mental attitude to assume while in prayer is that whatever is requested must be offered in concert with the will of God.
10. The mental attitude of humility is the virtue that prevents arrogance from intruding into one's structure of prayer. Without humility, prayer requests are usually hampered by legalism.
11. Some often wonder why prayers are not answered. When a person prays absent humility, without a grace mental attitude, and lacking respect for the sovereignty of God, then he prays from a soul ravaged by hurricane force winds.
12. It is God's prerogative to either answer or ignore prayers offered by disoriented believers. This is an expression of grace. But proper respect for the grace of God would recommend otherwise.

13. Some prayers are offered when the hurricane's northern portion brings its usual havoc into a believer's life. When a hurricane first hits, its northern spiral of rain bands are rotating westward.
14. After the initial Category 5 winds pass over, the eye appears and the arrogant believer assumes his prayer has been answered. But before he knows it the southern sector arrives except the winds are coming from the west and the battering resumes.
15. This is an illustration of the life of a believer whose life outside the bubble is chaotic and confusing. The devil's world will continue its assault until he gets to the point of grace orientation.
16. The only way a person who is new to doctrinal studies or is living in the comic systems can either advance or resume fellowship is for others to leave him alone and allow him to the freedom to grow in grace.
17. In the meantime, the reversionistic believer is warned that he "should not presume" that his prayers will be answered. The word "presume" is the present middle imperative of **οἶμαι** (*oíomai*). With the negative conjunction **μή** (*mé*) it is used by James to indicate wrong judgment or conceit.
18. This is James's fifth imperative mood forbidding the believer to arrogantly enter into prayer with a mental attitude of conceit.
19. During the process of growing in grace, the believer is challenged to believe in, adopt as true, facilitate into a path of least resistance, and consistently apply the Word of God to the external challenges of the devil's world and the internal temptations of the sin nature.
20. To pray with doubt is to ignore the integrity and the power of the one addressed in prayer: "O Father, please teach me Your Word," but with no confidence whatsoever that He will do so.

James 1:7 For such a man must stop presuming
[IM #5] that he will receive anything in the future from
the Lord, (EXT)

James 1:8 being a double-minded man, unstable
in all his ways. (NASB)

1. This verse completes the sentence that begins in verse 7 and concludes the paragraph that began in verse 5.