

## Faith That Walks On Water

Dr. John Carmichael

[Mat 14:22-33 NASB95] 22 Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away. 23 After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone. 24 But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary. 25 And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. 26 When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." 28 Peter said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." 29 And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. 33 And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "You are certainly God's Son!"

- Faith looks beyond fear and steps into God's supernatural power.
- It's November, and we're not just nearing the end of a calendar year; we're stepping into a new chapter as North Church.
- Like Peter and the disciples, we've left the safety of the shore. The winds of change are blowing, but Jesus hasn't left us. He's calling us closer.
- Faith doesn't grow in calm water. Faith grows when the waves are high, the night is dark, and all you have is a Word from Jesus.
- When Peter stepped out, he didn't walk on the water, he walked on the Word: "Come."

**What does water walking faith mean to us?**

**Here are four characteristics of water walking faith.**

### **I. Faith Begins with a Word**

- a. [Mat 14:28-29 NASB95] 28 Peter said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." 29 And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus.
- b. The word "command" (Greek: keleuo) means a royal summons. Peter wasn't testing Jesus; he was trusting His voice.
- c. Faith is not optimism. It's obedience to revelation.
- d. [Rom 10:17 NASB95] 17 So faith [comes] from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.
- e. Every miracle starts with a Word. When you have His Word, you don't need to see the outcome. The winds of uncertainty can't drown what God has declared.
- f. Write down what God has spoken over your life or this church. Pray it. Declare it. Stand on it.

### **II. Faith Walks in the Wind**

- a. [Mat 14:30 NASB95] 30 But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"
- b. The text doesn't say the wind started when Peter stepped out; it was already blowing.
- c. Faith doesn't always change the weather; it changes you in the weather.
- d. [2Co 5:7 NASB95] 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight
- e. The winds may represent fear, finances, opinions, or uncertainty, but faith keeps its eyes on Jesus.

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- f. Don't let what's around you distract you from Who's in front of you. Even when faith feels shaky, the hand of Jesus is steady.
- g. If you've taken a step of faith, don't look back to the boat. Keep your eyes on the One who called you out.

### III. Faith Reaches for the Savior

- a. [Mat 14:31 NASB95] 31 Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"
- b. The word "immediately" (Greek: eutheos) shows Jesus doesn't delay when His children cry out.
- c. Peter's failure became the pathway to deeper revelation. In my opinion, he learned more from sinking than from sitting.
- d. Sometimes faith wavers, but Jesus doesn't. His hand is faster than your fall. When we reach out in weakness, He reaches out in grace.
- e. [Psa 37:23-24 NASB95] 23 The steps of a man are established by the LORD, And He delights in his way. 24 When he falls, he will not be hurled headlong, Because the LORD is the One who holds his hand.
- f. [Pro 24:16 NASB95] 16 For a righteous man falls seven times, and rises again, But the wicked stumble in [time of] calamity.
- g. If you've failed, doubted, or stumbled in your walk; cry out again. Jesus still reaches. He's not disappointed; He's near.

### IV. Faith Leads to Worship

- a. [Mat 14:33 NASB95] 33 And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "You are certainly God's Son!"
- b. Every act of faith becomes a testimony that inspires others to worship.
- c. When people see your step of faith (your endurance, your obedience) they will say, "Truly, God is with them."
- d. God was praised by Jesus' faith. [Heb 12:2 NASB95] 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- e. For North Church, your faith in this transition will spark faith in others.
- f. This move isn't just organizational: it's spiritual. It's worship in motion.

- Faith doesn't wait for calm seas; it steps out when Jesus says "Come."
- Peter didn't walk on calm seas; he walked in the middle of the storm.
- You don't need the storm to stop; you just need Jesus to speak.
- The same Lord who calmed the waves will steady your heart tonight.
- He's calling this church, and you personally, to step into deeper waters of faith.
- So, step out of fear. Step away from the familiar. Step toward Jesus.
- He's saying again, "Come."