

TEXT Matthew 14:24-32

- 24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.
- 25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.
- 26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.
- 27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.
- 28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.
- 29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.
- 30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.
- 31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?
- 32 And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

SUB: Secrets to Walking on Water

The expression that one walks on water is to say they are accomplishing something of utmost difficulty or perhaps the impossible. Sometimes it comes up in expression when one person is speaking of another, when the person speaking says something like “he thinks he is all that!” Well, believe it or not, in Jesus, “we are all that!” Sometimes you may hear someone say, if you walk on water, then I will believe what you are telling me. The thought being, if you walk on water, then I know that God is endorsing you. My brothers and sisters, as you walk with the Lord, you will find that everyday, He makes the impossible become possible. You will find that your limitations and liabilities become great possibilities and assets in the mighty hand of God. As the Late James Cleveland said in one of his songs, “little becomes much when you place it in the Master's hands.”

There is an old story about three preachers; a priest, a bishop, and a reverend, on a boat fishing. After fishing for a while, the priest said excuse me gentlemen, nature is calling, I need to go and relieve myself. So, he stepped out of the boat and walked over to the bank and went and relieved himself. He then walked back to the boat, got in and resumed fishing.

The reverend looked at the bishop kind of puzzled, but the bishop did not seem to be at all bothered. About an hour or so later, the Bishop said I think I need a little nap. So, he stepped out of the boat and carefully walked to the bank and took a nap. When he finished his nap, he walked back to the boat and resumed his fishing.

By now, the reverend was really puzzled that the other two preachers showed no amazement about walking over the water. It seemed so natural to them. An hour or so later, nature started calling the reverend. Being that the other two preachers had walked back to the bank, he was too embarrassed to ask them to row the boat back to the bank for

him. Thinking to himself, he said if these two preachers have faith to walk on water, then I have it too. So, he stepped out of the boat into the water and immediately began to sink. Yelling and screaming for help, his two preacher friends pulled him out of the water. Finally catching his breath, he said to his two friends, please pray for me that I too can have faith to walk over the water. Then they said to him, Oh, it is easy, you just need to know where the stones are.

My dear brothers and sisters, I declare to you that you can walk on water. You just need to stand on the Stone! That Stone is Jesus. As stated in

1 Peter 2:6, "Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded." You have no need to be amazed about what God can do with your life. You have no need to be confused or confounded. Those who believe in Him will not be disappointed.

Peter determining to satisfy himself that it was indeed Jesus speaking to him, stepped down from the ship to walk on the water to meet him. Dear children, as hard and as fearful as it may seem, sometimes it is necessary to walk on the water; and you can indeed. What are the secrets to walking on water? This message shares four secrets to walking on water.

Secret #1—Expect God to Aide You in Doing the Impossible.

When the disciples saw Jesus walking towards them, they were painfully afraid and cried out for fear, and Jesus said to them, "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid."

The way in Peter's mind to alleviate his fear that it was truly his Lord and not a spirit, was to go and meet his Lord. But, he had a problem. Peter was on the ship, and his Lord was across from the ship. Between Peter and his Lord was this great gulf of raging water.

Now Peter knew it was humanly impossible to walk on water. But he wanted to cross over the water to be with his Lord. He therefore said, "Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water."

In other words, Lord, you make possible, this impossible thing. I know that it is humanly impossible for me to walk on this water, but you can make it possible so that I can walk over to you and calm my fear.

Dearly beloved, being with the Lord prevents living in fear and anxiety. Like Peter, we sometimes will be faced with a great gulf of water between where we are and where we need to go, and especially when we need to go to the Lord. As Peter did, we must determine to be with our Lord, whatever it takes, and sometimes we must walk on the water. We must expect and trust God to help us do the impossible.

Secret #2—Expect an Outcome of What God Can Do, And Not What You Cannot Do.

Do not focus on what you cannot do, but focus on what God can do. Peter knew the human impossibility of walking on water could become possible at the bidding of Jesus. Peter said “Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.” Jesus said “come.”

Peter had an immediate need to calm his fear and remove any question from his mind that it was in fact Jesus approaching them, and his mind remedy was to immediately go out of the ship and meet the one who said “ Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.” It is important to note that Peter did not immediately step out of the ship onto the water but first requested divine authority to do so. He requested divine direction to do so. He said (bid—order, direct) me to come.

When facing those impossibilities, speak to God and ask Him to invoke His divine authority over the impossibilities and make them possible for you. God honors human acknowledgment of His limitless authority, power, and ability. Ephesians 3:20 tells us that God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think.

In a very large way, dealing with the impossibilities of life place a strain on our spirits. They create a distant feeling between us and the Lord. They create a need to close that distant feeling--to close that gap between us and the Lord. They create situations that we must cross over. They create a need to grow beyond where we are and grow closer to the Lord. These are times when the “Comes of Jesus” steps in and make the difference in our lives.

What is the Comes of Jesus? The Comes of Jesus is Jesus invoking divine authority to get you from where you are to Him, and to wherever you need to be, in various of life’s situations. Whether the situation is the need for salvation of the soul, healing of the body, encouragement to keep doing God’s work, or the strength to live just one more day, the Comes of Jesus is there to get you through. In route from where you are to get to Him, or wherever you need to go, you will find that you will victoriously cross over all the impossibilities that are hampering your life.

Examples of The Comes of Jesus:

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)

No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. (John 6:44)

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. (Revelation 22:17)

And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life. (John 5:40)

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:6)

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. (John 6:37)

And they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them: but when his disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. (Luke 18:15-16)

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: (Matthew 25:31-34)

Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. (Matthew 19:21)

Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. (Mark 10:21)

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. (Matthew 16:24)

And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. (Mark 1:17)

And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house. (Matthew 19:5)

And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. (John 6:35)

Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the LORD. (John 21:12)

My brothers and sisters, as Peter did, boldly say to the Lord, bid me to come! Lord call me to come! Lord invoke your divine authority to get me from where I am to you and to where I need to be in every area of my life. At the bidding of the Lord you will see your impossibilities erased! Jesus said in Matthew 19:26, with God all things are possible.

You will find that God's can do's will make possible your cannot do's. Forget about your inabilities, and focus on God's abilities. Forget about your limitations and focus on the fact that God is limitless. Forget about your failures and focus on God's successes. The Bible tells us that God has begun a good work in us and that He will finish it!

Had Peter stopped to consider if he had fins like a fish to navigate the water, or to consider if he had scuba gear or life vest, he would have missed the possibility of being able to walk on the water. He just stepped out of the ship at the bidding of Lord and began to walk towards his Lord!

Secret #3—Expect Difficulties to Arise but that God Will Rescue You from Them.

When you start walking difficulties will surely arise, but keep focusing on Jesus.

Peter did as we all do from time to time, in that we focus on the situations, conditions, and circumstances (difficulties) around us rather than on God's word, limitless power, and limitless ability. Peter focused on the situation around him rather than on the Word of God, rather than on the power of God. Jesus sent out the word. He said come. Jesus bidden him come! When Jesus said come, He invoked divine authority. He invoked his limitless power and ability over the water, making the impossibility of walking on water possible.

Verses 29 and 30 tells us that Peter accepted the bidding of Jesus to come and he began to walk on the water, but when he saw the weather situation (boisterous wind) he became afraid and began to sink. It was not until he focused on the wind conditions around him that he began to sink. It takes faith to walk at the bidding of the Lord, and when we focus on the condition around us, it can erode our faith and cause us to doubt the power of God; wherefore, Jesus said to Peter "O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt." When we look off from Christ and remove our focus from the great power of God and focus on the greatness of opposing difficulties, we shall begin to sink.

But thanksgiving and glory be to God, when we begin to sink, we can cry out as Peter did, Lord save me! As the Lord did with Peter, He will immediately stretch forth his hand and catch us. He will save us!

Secret # 4—Expect Difficulties to Persist but that You will Overcome Them

Difficulties will persist before you start walking and while you are walking, but expect them to eventually cease.

In verse 24 we see the difficulty of the ship being in the midst of the sea and tossed with waves due to the wind. There is an old saying of jumping out of the skillet into the fire.

It would seem as Peter was jumping out of the skillet into the fire when he stepped out of the ship that was already being tossed about by waves, into the waves that were doing the tossing.

The difficulty of the wind and water condition persisted before Peter stepped into the water. Yet, he deemed it necessary to step out of the ship into the water and walk on it at the bidding of Christ. Have you ever felt the Lord is bidding you to step out of the ship into the water and walk on it?

The difficult condition was present when Peter began to walk on the water and the condition remained during the entirety of his walk. You can expect in your walk that difficult conditions will persist and the conditions may distract you and cause you to begin to sink, but that the Lord will immediately stretch forth his hand and catch you.

Often after beginning to sink and having being rescued, we lose our nerves to continue walking on the water. We become afraid of the water and give up. But if we dare be bold like Peter and keep on walking after being rescued, we will find we have conquered the impossible and the condition will be better than it was before we started walking.

After being rescued, Peter kept on walking. And verse 32 tells us “And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.” When Peter stepped out of the ship it was tossed about by reason of the wind causing tumultuous waves, but after his walk, he stepped back into the ship and the wind ceased! He had conquered the impossible and the condition was better than it was before.

It is of interesting note that Jesus stretched forth his hand and caught him. Jesus did not swoop him up in the cradle of his arms and carry him back to the ship. My brothers and sisters, can you imagine yourself walking hand in hand with Jesus? Can you imagine holding on to the Rock of your salvation and not worrying about the wind because you are walking hand in hand with Jesus? Can you imagine just walking, and walking, and talking to Jesus on the way back to the ship and upon entering the ship the wind cease?

If you want the wind to cease in your life just keep focus on Jesus, just keep holding onto your Rock, and just keep walking on the water. Just continue to look to Jesus Christ, the great Water Walker Himself.

Jesus crossed many oceans of difficulty and many seas of pain. He navigated many rivers of disappointment and walked many lakes of sorrow.

But He kept on walking. He walked, and He walked, and He walked, and talked to God the Father until He walked across the Ultimate Sea, the most difficult river, the most agonizing lake, the deepest ocean of pain, he walked to Calvary's Cross. At Calvary He hung, bled, and died to pay for the sin of the world—to pay for my sin and yours.

Prayer—Father aide me in dealing with those seemingly impossible difficulties that arise in my life. Help me to hope, expect, and receive the outcomes of what You can do and not hinder myself with thoughts of my inabilities and what I cannot do. I ask You to

invoke Your divine authority over the difficulties of my life and make it possible for me to conquer them. Bid me come to you, Oh God. I pray in the name of Your Son Jesus—Amen.

Written by Evangelist Larry O. Davidson, Sr.

© Lamb's Ministries, Inc.