



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Step Out, the Water's Fine!

Focus Verses: Matthew 14:28-31 - ²⁸And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. ²⁹And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. ³¹And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

Lesson Text: Matthew 14:23-33

Truth About God: God will test our faith as we follow Him.

Truth For My Life: I will ask God to involve me in the miracles He wants to work.

After the miracle meal (Mark 6:30-44), Jesus sent the disciples out in the boat, back across the lake, while He remained behind. He sent the multitude away, encouraging them to return to their home. Finally, Jesus went off to find some solitude of His own. It had been a long day for everyone. The storm arrived unexpectedly on the Sea of Galilee. The turn of the wind, the drop of atmospheric pressure, and the collision of weather fronts scooped up the waves and began to rock the boat.

Just when it could not get any worse, sporadic flashes of lightning revealed the silhouette of a figure hovering above the waves in the distance. The disciples saw it and cried out in fear, *"It is a spirit"* (Matthew 14:26). They stared across the boat into the darkness of the waves to see an apparition walking on the water in their direction. Then a familiar voice rang out above the waves: *"Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid"* (Matthew 14:27). The unmistakable voice of Jesus calmed their fears and brought them hope, even when they could not clearly see Him through the distance and the dark. There was something reassuring about knowing Jesus was out there in the darkness heading their way.

Peter asked to walk on the water (Matthew 14:28-29); Jesus granted his request. Peter was over the railing and out on the water without really thinking about the impossibilities of physics. The surface of water will not support the weight of a person. All the disciples witnessed the miracle; Peter was the only one who experienced it. No one else felt the miracle of a firm footing on the water's solid surface.

Peter walked on water until he focused on the storm. He focused on his fear, he lost faith and was overwhelmed and afraid as he sank beneath the waves. Peter cried out, *"Lord, save me"* (Matthew 14:30). God will not disregard a plea for help. Our natural response is His opportunity to answer. God is near, able, and willing to respond to our urgent cry. We should never doubt God's **ability** or **availability**. A simple prayer or a desperate plea will gain His attention when we call out to Him. We can be confident God hears us when we pray.

Some of our greatest tests may come right after some of our greatest victories. May it be comforting that Jesus sees us in our darkest nights and will be with us in every storm. Our storms may not be on the water or from hurricane force winds, but our fears and concerns may match those of the men in the boat. However, we can be just as assured that the same Savior sees us in the middle of our storms and will come to us in miraculous ways.

Many miracles await those who are bold enough to ask God to use them in the demonstration of His glory, but the greatest deliverance follows a desperate need. Before we see Jesus come to the rescue, someone must be in danger. We love to see Jesus heal cancer, but first, someone has to have cancer. If we find ourselves in that storm, may we trust God to meet us there; when we see others in that storm, may we have faith God will meet them there.

It is vital our eyes are governed to stay focused on what is good and virtuous. To be filled with His light, our eyes must be focused on the Light of the World. What we look at affects our thoughts and our faith. The psalmist said, *"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth"* (Psalm 121:1-2).

Jesus is our source and our supply. All we need we will find in Him. As we keep our focus on Jesus, we are aligned to His purpose and available to participate in His ministry.