

## **Little or Great Faith Pt. 3**

### **Storms prepare you for supernatural encounters**

**Aug 23, 2020**

Mt 14:22-33 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!"

**Only in Matthew's gospel do we find this account of Peter walking on the water.**

This story is also recorded in Mk 6:45-51 and Jn 6:15-21

### **The Story:**

Jesus sees them in the storm, He comes to them, walking on the sea

[Jesus intended to pass by them (Mk 6:48)]

The disciples see Him walking on the sea, they are terrified, and say, "It is a ghost!" (Mt 14:26)

Jesus says to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." (Mt 14:27; Mk 6:50)

Peter's response, "If it is you ...;" Jesus says "come;" (Mt 14:28-29)

Peter leaves the boat; walks [towards Jesus] on the water (Mt 14:29)

But seeing the wind, [his eyes look away from Jesus] (Mt 14:30)

Peter becomes fearful

Peter begins to sink

Peter cries out [in fear], "Lord, save me!"

Jesus takes Peter by His hand and says to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Mt 14:31)

### **Lessons:**

**Jesus always sees what you are struggling with.**

1Pt 3:12 "FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER, ... (Ps 32:8; 33:18; 34:15; Zec 2:8)

**God waits to intervene until we have exhausted our resources**

This was a storm that they could handle [that's why Jesus was going to walk by them].

**Identify where the Lord is and what He is speaking.**

They saw a ghost and not Jesus.

Peter says "If, it is You ..."

**The miracle is not complete because you take the first step.**

There will still be winds and waves to battle.

Abraham Gen 17:1-27

1 Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless. 2 "I will establish My covenant between Me and you, And I will multiply you exceedingly." 3 Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying, 4 "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, And you will be the father of a multitude of nations. 5 "No longer shall your name be called Abram, But your name shall be Abraham; For I will make you the father of a multitude of nations.

**Miracles happen when we keep our eyes on Jesus and not the obstacles**

Healing comes with the look of faith (Num 21:4-9)

Num 21:8 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a standard; and it shall come about, that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, he will live."

You get what you see (2Cor 4:16-18)

2Cor 4:16-18 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. 17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. (Rom 8:24; 2Cor 5:7; Heb 11:1, 13)

Run – with your eyes on Jesus

Heb 12:1-2 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 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.