

# WALKING ON THE WATER TOWARD JESUS

*“Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowd. After He had dismissed them, He went up on a mountainside by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone, but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw Him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” “Lord, if it is You,” Peter replied, “Tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” He said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when He saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus reached out His hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” He said, “Why did you doubt?” And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshipped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.” (Matthew 14:22-33)*

*“Walking in the water?”* - a phrase that amazes everyone who hears it. Any person may swim or dive under the water for hours but to walk on the water, Jesus only had done it. We may not believe, we don’t understand, or we may wish to experience the event and make it come true in our lives. But the fact that we know Jesus and have faith in Him, we are living with Him, He is living with us, and symbolically we are walking on the water along with Him. Like Peter who by faith was able to walk on the water but started to sink when he doubted, by faith we walk along with God even on the waters. Jesus who is God had come down from heaven and took the form of human to live among His people. He is God who continuously works in us and through us because by faith we are His children. While God transforms our lives we start to witness His real presence. We overcome problems and trials, we see wonders, miracles and unexpected events that we cannot explain or imagine. We are walking on the water with Jesus

Believing in Jesus as Lord and Saviour is our security and assurance of eternal life. Jesus suffered for our sin, died on the cross and raised from death so that whoever believes in Him will have eternal life. *“For God so loved the world that He gave His One and Only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)* Faith is the assurance of what we hope for, that leads to eternal life. It comes by knowing Jesus and hearing His words. By faith we are sure that we are saved and we will rise up from death. That same faith with increasing measure is also extended toward impossible things or events that Jesus can perform in our lives.

1. **The disciples saw Jesus walking on the lake:** Jesus did many miracles. He did not only walk on the water but He also healed many sicknesses. Nowadays, there are lots of diseases that have no medicine like cancer, AIDS and some other deadly diseases. We hear the doctors say, *“no medicine, no cure!”* No one can walk on the water but Jesus. Likewise, no one can heal but Jesus can. Even for problems that we think there is no solution, yet Jesus can solve. For us and to the world certain matter is impossible but for Jesus all things are possible because He is God. *(Matthew 19:20)*

2. **Jesus immediately said, “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”** Life’s events are full of hurdles and turmoil that bring fears, anxieties, pain and groans. But the presence of Jesus gives peace into our hearts. We can see that in the lives of people who don’t have faith in Jesus, their lives are full of fears, suspicions, negative expectations and pessimistic ideas. They are living in an unsecured atmosphere, they have no real hope, and for them future is a fear from unknown. Their real problem is not that they are in trouble but they don’t have Jesus in their heart that in times of trouble they hear from Him, *“Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”*

3. **Peter replied, “Lord, if it’s you tell me to come to you in the water.”** The water is the source of fear for everyone. It represents the difficult areas in our lives that we try to avoid. Or, it may be the new ways of opportunities for us to become better but we are reluctant to move because we have doubts and we don’t have enough faith in Jesus Christ. As a result, we cannot step forward to march on difficulties and hurdles. In spite of all these, Jesus gives us the courage to take the first step of faith. We hear His voice calling, *“Come!”* His call helps us to take the decision to pass through the new trial and welcome the new eternal life with Jesus. Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came towards Jesus. But when he saw the wind he became afraid, doubted and so began to sink. We may criticize Peter why he doubted the call of the Lord Jesus. However, nice things had happened:

*A- Peter cried out, “Lord, save me!”* This teaches us to rely and to focus to Jesus alone. He is the only Saviour who died on the cross for everyone to receive salvation while believing in Him. This is a kind of a moment where we realize that we cannot be saved by any other name but the Lord Jesus Christ.

*B- “Immediately Jesus reached out His hand and caught him.”* The disciples witnessed how Jesus reached out his hand for Peter. In such moment of distress, the hand of Jesus will not only rescue us, but will build up our faith in Him, proving that He is never late and always available at all times when we call to His name. Seeing all what had happened, the disciples worshipped the Lord Jesus, saying *“Truly You are the Son of God.”*

We rejoice while we know and experience God’s great love and compassion, as **the Lord interferes actively in our lives; that is if we invite Him to come into our hearts.** Let us take this moment to be encouraged to worship and acknowledge our living God.

*My dear and beloved:* Living with Jesus is a style of life. In His love we live, in trials our faith is increased. Peace and joy we receive, praise and thanksgiving we give as we pray; *“Father God in heaven, thank you for your Son Jesus and for your real presence in our lives. O Lord, increase our trust in You, and continue to work in our lives. Mold us and guide us by your Holy Spirit. Rescue us in trouble and help us not to doubt in times of need. Thank you Lord for your faithfulness. This is my prayer in Jesus’ name, Amen.”*