

# FRIGHTENED BY MY FAILURES

The Ghosts of Christmas Past: Part 2

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## Matthew 14:22–31 (NLT)

<sup>22</sup> Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. <sup>23</sup> After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone.

<sup>24</sup> Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. <sup>25</sup> About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. <sup>26</sup> When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!"

<sup>27</sup> But Jesus spoke to them at once. *"Don't be afraid,"* he said. *"Take courage. I am here!"*

<sup>28</sup> Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water."

<sup>29</sup> *"Yes, come,"* Jesus said.

So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted.

<sup>31</sup> Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. *"You have so little faith,"* Jesus said. *"Why did you doubt me?"*

## WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU FAIL

### 1. REMEMBER, FAILURE IS COMMON.

*"Indeed, we all make many mistakes." (James 3:2a, NLT)*

### 2. RECOGNIZE FAILURE HAS CONSEQUENCES.

*"Make no mistake about this: You can never make a fool out of God. Whatever you plant is what you'll harvest." (Galatians 6:7, GW)*

*Failure isn't FINAL until you quit.*

*"Though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again..." (Proverbs 24:16a, NIV)*

### 3. REALIZE FAILURE HAS BENEFITS.

- God uses failure to EDUCATE me.

*"My troubles turned out all for the best— they forced me to learn from your textbook." (Psalm 119:71, The Message)*

- God uses failure to MOTIVATE me.

*"Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways." (Proverbs 20:30, GNB)*

- God uses failure to **CULTIVATE** me.

*"We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character..." (Romans 5:3–4, NLT)*

#### 4. REST IN GOD'S **GRACE**.

*"The Ten Commandments were given so that all could see the extent of their failure to obey God's laws. But the more we see our sinfulness, the more we see God's abounding grace forgiving us." (Romans 5:20, The Living Bible)*

*"Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it?" (Romans 6:1–2, NLT)*

### **NEXT STEPS** **SOLUTIONS / CELEBRATE RECOVERY**