

# “Keep on Walking”

Pastor Al Brice | Sunday, November 17, 2019

**Matthew 14:24-31 (NKJV Strong's):** <sup>24</sup> But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. <sup>25</sup> Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. <sup>26</sup> And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear. <sup>27</sup> But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.” <sup>28</sup> And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” <sup>29</sup> So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!” <sup>31</sup> And immediately Jesus stretched out *His* hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

1. In this life you will have opposition, distractions, and temptations to entice you give up and quit walking with Jesus, to stop coming to church, to become apathetic, to stop praying and reading the Word of God.

**Vs 24:** “the wind was contrary”

**“Contrary”** - ‘Opposed as an adversary, hostile, antagonistic in feeling, or an opponent.’

**1 Peter 5:8-9 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC):** <sup>8</sup> Be well balanced (temperate, sober of mind), be vigilant *and* cautious at all times; for that enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring [in fierce hunger], seeking someone to seize upon *and* devour.

(Before I read **vs 9**, what is the devil after, his primary focus? **Mark 4:15 Amplified Bible (AMP):** <sup>15</sup> These [in the first group] are the ones along the road where the word is sown; but when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them.)

<sup>9</sup> Withstand him; BE FIRM IN THE FAITH [against his onset—rooted, established, strong, immovable, and determined], knowing that the same (identical) sufferings are appointed to your brotherhood (the whole body of Christians) throughout the world.

Storms, attacks, trials, adversities, offenses, rejections, disappointments, etc... WILL show up in your life.

**1 Peter 4:12 AMP:** <sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal which is taking place to test you [that is, to test the quality of your faith], as though something strange *or* unusual were happening to you.

2. In your trials, adversities, problems, and circumstances, do not doubt or call into question God's love for you. Do not judge God's love by what is or is not happening in your life!!

**1 John 4:18 AMP:** <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love [dread does not exist], but full-grown (complete, perfect) love turns fear out of doors *and* expels every trace of terror! For fear brings with it the thought of punishment, and [so] he who is afraid has not reached the full maturity of love [is not yet grown into love's complete perfection].

**Romans 8:31 AMP:** <sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to [all] this? If God is for us, who [can be] against us? [Who can be our foe, if God is on our side?]

**Psalms 27:13-14 AMP:**

<sup>13</sup> *I would have despaired* had I not believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD  
In the land of the living.

<sup>14</sup> Wait for *and* confidently expect the LORD;  
Be strong and let your heart take courage;  
Yes, wait for *and* confidently expect the LORD.

3. What happened to Peter? Why did he begin to sink?

a. He experienced a miracle, believed the Word of Jesus, "Come," and he started walking on the water. Compare this to being born again:

**2 Corinthians 5:17 AMP:** <sup>17</sup> Therefore if anyone is in Christ [that is, grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior], *he is* a new creature [reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit]; the old things [the previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away. Behold, new things have come [because spiritual awakening brings a new life].

**Colossians 2:6-7 AMP:** <sup>6</sup> Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in [union with] Him [reflecting His character in the things you do and say—living lives that lead others away from sin], <sup>7</sup> having been deeply rooted [in Him] and *now* being *continually* built up in Him and [becoming increasingly more] established in your faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing in it with gratitude.

b. Why did Peter BEGIN to SINK?

**Matthew 14:30-31 AMP:** <sup>30</sup> But when he saw [the effects of] the wind, he was frightened, and he began to sink, and he cried out, "Lord, save me!" <sup>31</sup> Immediately Jesus extended His hand and caught him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

(**"Doubt"** - 'Allow yourself to be drawn in two directions, to become double minded.')

**\* Peter saw the problem as being more powerful than the Word of God. He allowed the circumstances which he faced to speak louder than the Word of God!!! Negative thoughts were quickly allowed to dominate what he believed was going to be his final outcome.**

\* He **SURRENDERED TO FEAR** instead of taking authority over the spirit of fear.

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NKJV:** <sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, <sup>5</sup> casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

\* He took his eyes off of Jesus and The Word that he had received.

**2 Corinthians 5:7 AMP:** <sup>7</sup> for we walk by faith, not by sight [living our lives in a manner consistent with our confident belief in God's promises].

c. What was the root of Peter's problem? He had not developed his faith!! Little, undeveloped, faith gives way to fear and the thoughts of doubt, which are the seeds of failure and defeat. If these seeds of doubt are allowed to be rooted in our minds, then they give birth to unbelief and we will begin to sink.

**Hebrews 12:1-2 AMP:** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [who by faith have testified to the truth of God's absolute faithfulness], stripping off every unnecessary weight and the sin which so easily *and* cleverly entangles us, let us run with endurance *and* active persistence the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> [looking away from all that will distract us and] focusing our eyes on Jesus, who is the Author and Perfector of faith [the first incentive for our belief and the One who brings our faith to maturity], who for the joy [of accomplishing the goal] set before Him endured the cross, disregarding the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God [revealing His deity, His authority, and the completion of His work].

d. He cried out for mercy; Jesus saved him!!

**Ephesians 2:4-5 AMP:** <sup>4</sup> But God, being [so very] rich in mercy, because of His great *and* wonderful love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were [spiritually] dead *and* separated from Him because of our sins, He made us [spiritually] alive together with Christ (for by His grace—His undeserved favor and mercy—you have been saved from God's judgment).