

# “The Ups and Downs of Life”

Pastor Al Brice | October 14, 2018

**Matthew 14:23-33 NKJV:** <sup>23</sup> And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. <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?” <sup>32</sup> And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

<sup>33</sup> Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.”

**#1.** If you’re a born-again believer, a Christian, Jesus is still praying for you!!

**Hebrews 7:25 NKJV:** Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

a. What is He praying?

**Luke 22:32 NKJV:** But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”

**2 Timothy 2:13 NKJV:** If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

**#2.** He sent them out!! Jesus has sent all of into this world to be a witness of His love, mercy, and grace!!

**Mark 16:15-20 NKJV:** <sup>15</sup> And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup> He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. <sup>17</sup> And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; <sup>18</sup> they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

<sup>19</sup> So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. <sup>20</sup> And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with *them* and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.

- a. As we go, work, and do life together, we will experience opposition and situations that can be life threatening!!!

**John 16:33 AMP:** I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace. In the world you have tribulation and distress and suffering, but be courageous [be confident, be undaunted, be filled with joy]; I have overcome the world." [My conquest is accomplished, My victory abiding.]

**#3.** Satan's number one weapon: the spirit of fear!! In **Matthew 14:26**, the disciples were fearful, anxious, panic-stricken, full of dread, distressed, worried, and confused.

Because of the storm, they believed that it was over, they were going to drown!! They believed that there was nothing that they could do.

- a. But, in **Matthew 14:27**, the Word speaks to them!!!

**#4.** When you get a Word from God, it will give you hope and embolden you to walk by faith.

**Matthew 14:28-29 NKJV:** <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.

a. What is the devil going to do once you get the Word?

**Mark 4:15 NKJV:** And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.

**1 Peter 5:8-11 NKJV:** <sup>8</sup> Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. <sup>10</sup> But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle *you*. <sup>11</sup> To Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**#5.** You can start in faith, but you must have a solid foundation and be rooted deeply in the Word of God.

**Mark 4:16-17 NKJV:** <sup>16</sup> These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; <sup>17</sup> and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word’s sake, immediately they stumble.

**Ephesians 3:17 NKJV:** that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love...

**Colossians 2:6-8 NKJV:** <sup>6</sup> As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

<sup>8</sup> Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

**Matthew 7:24-27 NKJV:** <sup>24</sup> “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: <sup>25</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

<sup>26</sup> “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: <sup>27</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

## #6. Our responsibility....

**Proverbs 18:21 NKJV:** Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

**John 6:63 NKJV:** It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life.

### a. Pray the Word and pray in tongues.

**1 John 4:14-15 NKJV:** <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

**1 Corinthians 14:1-5 NKJV:** Pursue love, and desire spiritual *gifts*, but especially that you may prophesy. <sup>2</sup> For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands *him*; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. <sup>3</sup> But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. <sup>4</sup> He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. <sup>5</sup> I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies *is* greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.