

# “Developing Champions”

Pastor Al Brice | Sunday, October 20, 2019

**Matthew 14:22-31 NKJV:** <sup>22</sup> Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. <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?”

1. In this life you will have opposition!!

**Vs 24:** “Wind was contrary”:

**Ephesians 2:2 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition:** <sup>2</sup> In which at one time you walked [habitually]. You were following the course *and* fashion of this world [were under the sway of the tendency of this present age], following the prince of the power of the air. [You were obedient to and under the control of] the [demon] spirit that still constantly works in the sons of disobedience [the careless, the rebellious, and the unbelieving, who go against the purposes of God].

**Contrary:** ‘Opposed as an adversary, hostile, antagonistic in feeling or acting as an opponent.’

**1 Peter 5:8-9 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition:** <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.

<sup>9</sup> Withstand him; BE FIRM IN 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 Amplified Bible:** <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 not happening in your life!!

**1 John 4:18 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition:** <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 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition:** 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?]

3. What happened to Peter? He asked for something that he had never received or experienced, and his request was granted. Sometimes we ask God for things and don't even think about what is going to be required of me or my responsibility once I get what I asked for. Many times people forget after we've prayed, what is our responsibility?? Just like getting married and having kids or believing God for prosperity or sending more people to church to be saved and then disciplined.

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 Amplified Bible:** 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 Amplified Bible:** <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 Amplified Bible:** <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 SURRENDERED TO FEAR!!
- He took his eyes off of Jesus and The Word that he had received.

**Psalms 119:105 NKJV:** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

**2 Corinthians 5:7 Amplified Bible:** 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 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 Amplified Bible:** 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 Perfecter 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 Amplified Bible:** <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).