

**Moving From  
Your  
Comfort Zone**

*Matthew 14:22-33*

## Matthew 14:22-33 (NIV)

22 Immediately **Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side,** while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, **buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.**

25 **During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.**

26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. 27 But Jesus immediately said to them: **"Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."**

28 **"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."** 29 **"COME,"** he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, **WALKED ON THE WATER** and came toward Jesus.

30 But when **he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink,** cried out, **"LORD, SAVE ME!"**

31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him.

**"YOU OF LITTLE FAITH," HE SAID, "WHY DID YOU DOUBT?"**

32 And when they climbed into the boat, **the wind died down.**

33 Then those who were in the boat **WORSHIPED HIM,** saying,

**"TRULY YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD."**

# Introduction

**COMFORT ZONES.** We all have them, even though we might not want to admit it.

Naturally, we tend to **gravitate toward places, situations or people that we feel safe around.** Maybe you feel **comfortable in your day-to-day routine** involving where you live, where you work and who you spend your time with. While this is not necessarily a bad thing, it can **HINDER US FROM LIVING LIFE TO OUR FULLEST POTENTIAL.**

So, what are we supposed to do when God calls us out of our **COMFORT ZONE**? As Christians, we should desire to have **A RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST** where we are continuously striving to grow **CLOSER TO HIM.**

Sometimes, **GROWING CLOSER TO CHRIST** may mean stepping **OUTSIDE OF A FAMILIAR SITUATION.** For example, God may call you to move to a new place, or He may call you to do something different in your career in order **TO MAKE AN IMPACT FOR HIM.**

*Example: Abraham ~ Move From Your Family, to a land I will show you... I will bless you....*

In the end, doing something outside of your comfort zone **CAN BE VERY REWARDING.** When God begins to nudge us out of **A COMFORT ZONE** in our practical life, it is because He **WANTS TO EXPAND US BEYOND WHAT WE CURRENTLY ARE.** This can apply to our health, our finances, our relationships, our business endeavors, our careers, our education, and many other areas.

Only you know **THE AREA IN WHICH EXPANSION IS NEEDED....**

# Introduction

In order to **EXPAND BEYOND** your current state...requires **RISK**...

**Faith** literally translates as “**risk**” .... Where there is **no risk** there is **NO FAITH**...

I believe there is **something inside of us** that tells us there is **more to life** than remaining **in a confined space**. We were made for something more than merely avoiding failure and staying average...

**Faith Refuses to Believe This Is The End**. There is something inside you that wants to **GET CLOSER TO CHRIST** —to **LEAVE THE COMFORT OF ROUTINE EXISTENCE** and transition to the **EXCITING JOURNEY OF FOLLOWING GOD**.

**IN** Essence Peter’s **DESIRE/REQUEST** Was Not To **WALK ON WATER** But To **Get Closer To Jesus**... If that means walking on water...so be it...

Doing the Exceptional includes the following factors:

**Faith, Fear, Familiarity, Focus, Faithfulness**

# Faith

Faith is Described in Hebrews 11:1 ~ as being "*certain of what we do not see.*"

It is an absolute **BELIEF** that God is **constantly working behind the scenes** in every area of our lives, even when there is **NO TANGIBLE EVIDENCE** to support that fact.

## Faith Is Produced By The Word Of God

Romans 10:17 says... Faith Comes By **HEARING** and **HEARING BY WORD OF GOD**

**Matthew 14:26-27 (NASB)**

26 When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "**Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.**"

**ASSURANCE** – The Word Provides **Confidence**, **Clarity**, and **A Challenge**

**"Take Courage, It Is I... Do Not Be Afraid"**

**ACTION** - The Word Should Inspire **A RESPONSE**

**"Lord, If It Is You, Command me to come to You on the Water"**

**ACCESS** – The Word Gives Access to the Impossible

**"Come"**

# Faith

## Access With The Right Authority

*1 Samuel 30:8 (NKJV)*

8 So David *inquired of the LORD*, saying, "*Shall I pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them?*" And He answered him, "*PURSUE*, for you shall *surely overtake them* and *without fail recover all.*"

*Faith Can't Be Confused With Foolishness ~ Faith TRUSTS THE PROMISES OF GOD, but never manipulates them toward selfish ends.*

*Matthew 4:5-7 (NLT)*

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, *to the highest point of the Temple*,  
6 and said, "*If you are the Son of God, jump off!* For *the Scriptures say*, 'He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'" 7 Jesus responded, "The Scriptures say, '*YOU MUST NOT TEST THE LORD YOUR GOD.*'"

God's Word Provides *CLARITY NOT CONFUSION*

*1 Corinthians 14:33 (NKJV)*

33 For *God is not the author of confusion but of peace*, as in all the churches of the saints.

# Fear

Fear Causes Us To **Miss Opportunities** Instead of **Maximize Opportunities**

**FEAR AND FAITH CANNOT CO-EXIST** ~ Fear cancels Faith and Faith cancels Fear

**Fear Caused The Disciples to Stay In Same Place** and **Caused Peter to Sink During Success**

**God's Desire is to Eliminate Fear ~ Give Strength To Overcome Fear**

**Isaiah 41:10 (NKJV)**

**10 Fear not, FOR I AM WITH YOU;** Be not dismayed, **FOR I AM YOUR GOD.**

*I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'*

**Joshua 1:9 (NKJV)**

**9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid,** nor be dismayed, **for THE LORD YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO."**

**Deuteronomy 31:6 (NKJV)**

**6 Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them;** for the LORD your God, **HE IS THE ONE WHO GOES WITH YOU. HE WILL NOT LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU."**

**John 14:27 (NKJV)**

**27 Peace I leave with you, MY PEACE I GIVE TO YOU;** not as the world gives do I give to you.

**Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

# Focus

Focus Is Lost *Because of Fear* ~ *What He SAW* caused him to Sink

*2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)*

*7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.*

*Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV)*

*2 LOOKING UNTO JESUS, the author and finisher of our faith.....*

Peter's focus *Has Shifted from the Savior to the Storm* ~ *Christ to the Circumstance*

*What He Sees vs. What He Heard*

*The Affects Of The Wind*

*Represents That which is contrary – against you*

*The Affirmation Of The Word*

*Romans 8:31 (NIV)*

*31 What, then, shall we say in response to this?*

*If God is for us, who can be against us?*

*Isaiah 55:11 (NKJV)*

*11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*



# Focus

*Focus Is Lost; Then **DOUBT BEGINS TO OVERTAKE YOU***

*Matthew 14:31 (NIV)*

31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of *little faith*," he said, "*why did you doubt?*"

Doubt is a loss of **SINGLE-MINDED FOCUS**

Trying to go in **DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS**

*James 1:5-8 (NIV)*

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, *he should ask God*, who gives generously to all *without finding fault*, and *it will be given to him*. 6 But when he asks, **HE MUST BELIEVE AND NOT DOUBT**, because *he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind*.

7 That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord;

8 **HE IS A DOUBLE-MINDED MAN, UNSTABLE IN ALL HE DOES.**

*Luke 10:41-42 (NKJV)*

41 And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, *you are worried and troubled about many things*. 42 But **ONE THING IS NEEDED**, and Mary has **CHOSEN THAT GOOD PART**, which will not be taken away from her."

# Familiarity

The Disciples Were familiar with great things happening **IN THE BOAT**

*Lesson #1 - Luke 5:5-6 (NKJV)*

5 But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; **nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.**"

6 And when they had done this, **they caught a great number of fish**, and their net was breaking.

*Lesson #2 – Matthew 8:23-27 (NKJV)*

23 Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him.

24 And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. 25 Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!"

26 But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. 27 So the men marveled, saying, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

He uses **Familiar Situations** To **Strengthen Your Faith**

*1 Samuel 17:34-37 (NLT)*

34 But David persisted. "**I have been taking care of my father's sheep and goats**," he said. "When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, 35 I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. 36 **I have done this to both lions and bears, and I'll do it to this pagan Philistine, too**, for he has defied the armies of the living God!

37 **THE LORD WHO RESCUED ME** from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!"

# Faithfulness

*Matthew 14:31-33 (NIV)*

31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.

33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

**GOD USES FAILURE to PROVE HIS FAITHFULNESS**

Peter's failure was God's opportunity to **rescue him** and **prove his faithfulness**

*Luke 22:31-32 (NIV)*

31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

Peter displayed **IMPULSIVE ENTHUSIASM** and **MADE MANY MISTAKES**,  
but God still used him for a **MIGHTY PURPOSE**

*Romans 8:28 (NIV)*

28 And we know that **God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God**,  
to those who are called according to His purpose.

## *In Conclusion*

*Faith ~ We Need Faith To Please God*

*Fear ~ Fear Must Be Overcome By Faith*

*Focus ~ Losing Focus Will Cause You To Doubt*

*Familiarity ~ God Will Use Similar Situations  
To Strengthen Your Faith*

*Faithfulness ~ God Uses Your Failure To Reveal  
His Faithfulness*