



Series: Experiencing the Power of God	Date: April 23rd 2017
Topic: How to Walk on Water	Speaker: Pastor Joe Ong

## WELCOME

This week Pastor Joe shares with us a powerful message of how each of us can experience God powerfully in our lives.

For the ice breaker this week, share your answers to the following question: What is the worse bad dream that you can remember having?

## WORSHIP

Start the worship time by encouraging people to share praises for what God has done in their life this past week. Sing worship songs from the Sunday services or select your own.

## WORD

**I. Spiritual Objective.** At the end of the discussion, members will:

- A. Discuss the difficulty of getting out of the boat and taking the first step of faith.
- B. Talk about the areas of your life that are difficult to surrender and where is God calling you to walk on water.

**II. The Sermon Synopsis:**

This week we look at the story of Jesus walking on the water in the Gospel of Matthew. One of the amazing things that occurs in this story is that Peter, on the disciples, gets out of the boat himself and momentarily walks on the water himself.

While this story is often used to highlight the doubt or failure of Peter who begins to sink, Pastor Joe highlighted the fact that Peter was able to take that first step of faith and step out of the boat. God wants us to experience His power in our lives. However, God cannot act powerfully if we are not willing to take that first step and leave our comfort zones. God is calling each of us to walk on water in our lives, what that looks like is different for each person. However, for each of us taking that first step out is often the most difficult step of all.

## The Text:

<sup>25</sup> Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.  
<sup>26</sup> When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup> But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."  
<sup>28</sup> "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." <sup>29</sup> "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" <sup>31</sup> Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

(Matthew 14:25-33 NIV)

## Discussion Questions

**III.** If we want to walk on water, to experience the miracles of God, we must be willing to be like Peter and step out of the boat. *What does stepping out of the boat mean for you? What worries you about stepping out of the boat and relying on God?*

**IV.** Pastor Joe talked about the principle of the first step. Every journey begins with one small step. Peter's faith to step out of the boat was built one small step at a time. *What is your first steps? What small things can you do build your trust in God? How much do you trust God now?*

**V.** In order to experience the power of God we must be willing to get our feet wet. To trust God, we must be willing to step outside our comfort zone. *Are you naturally a risk taker or a more cautious person? How will this affect your willingness to get your feet wet? What are some ways you can begin to test the water?*

**VI.** The principle of faith is that it grows in steps. Rome was not built in a day and neither is our trust in God. Our growth is a gradual process that involves many experiences and builds over time. *What experiences have you already gone through that has helped to build*



*your faith? In what ways are you already on a journey that is building your faith? If you are not, would you like to be?*

**VII.** Pastor Joe asked the question: “When and where is God calling you to walk on water?” *What is your comfort zone? What areas do you struggle to trust God in? Do you feel as if God is calling you to step out of the boat in any area of your life? Share these areas as a group so you can pray and encourage one another.*

## WORK

- **Pray** for the courage to take the first step, get out of the boat, and begin to experience God powerfully in your life. Ask God when and where is He calling you to walk on water in your life and begin to take the first steps.
- **In addition to the above prayer requests, please also pray for our Building Expansion Project (BEP):**
  - ❖ **Permits.** 1) Continue praying for our re-application to the Bldg. Dept. for the modification to our (CUP) Conditional Use Permit to be approved with our current parking plan of 113 stalls by mid-May. 2) Also pray that they will issue our grading permit as soon as the CUP is issued. 3) Finally, pray that our architect will apply for our building construction permit soon.
  - ❖ **Architect.** Continue praying that our architect will work with our contractor in a design-assist partnership and work with their engineering consultants to complete their drawings so that we need to move forward with our Building Permit.
  - ❖ **Giving, Grants & Guaranteed Loan Commitment.** 1) Pray for the continued generous giving of our congregation toward the 3-year pledge and additional gifts as God provides. 2) Pray that God will grant us favor with the foundation that we are approaching for a grant through our grant writer. 3) Pray for wisdom and direction as we continue to seek a loan commitment to fund part of the construction costs if God is leading us through this source of funding.

- ❖ **Evaluation Meetings.** Pray for our upcoming Communications meetings on Thu, 4/27 and Sun, 4/30 and our Special Business Meeting on Sun, 5/7 to approve an increase in our BEP budget and a new addition to our by-laws. Pray that our leaders will accomplish what God wants for our church as He leads us.

## Announcements:

1. **Seniors BEP Update Meeting** on Thu, 4/27 at 10:30am and **Ministry Leaders BEP Update Meeting** on Sun, 4/30 at 12:00noon. Come hear about reasons for the \$5.75M to \$6.25M budget change; proposal to fund the \$500K increase and updates on Grants from foundations.
2. **HOME Group Leaders Meeting.** Sun, 4/30, 1:30pm. to discuss and articulate our plans and goals for the rest of the year.
3. **Great Commandment Course #1.** Sat, 5/6 at 8:45am to 1:00pm. God wants us to be fishers of men and loving one another is a big part of doing that. We begin with Part 1 of this course for those who didn't have a chance to participate last year.
4. **Special Business Meeting of the Membership.** Sun, 5/7 at 7:00pm. All are welcome, and members will vote on an increase in our BEP budget and a new addition to our by-laws. (“Meet Our HOME Group Leaders Sunday” and our HOME Group Open House Wk. have been postponed)
5. **Car Wash and Workday.** Sat, 5/13, 9:00am to 12:30pm. Come and help wash the cars of the seniors in our community and help maintain our church building and grounds.
6. **Baptism Class.** Sat, 5/13, 9:00 to 11:30am. Learn from the Bible what baptism is all about and how it is an important act for every believer. Child care available with advanced request. Afterward, we will have a baptism service on Sunday, 6/11 at the Family Camp.
7. **Armed Forces Day Service & Potluck Luncheon.** Sun, 5/21 at 12:00 pm after the 2<sup>nd</sup> service. Come help us honor and show our appreciation for our active military and their families on this Sunday by sharing a potluck meal with them.