



## “HOW” TO WALK BY FAITH

During the month of October, we are studying four practical lessons on “Walking by Faith” (2 Cor.5:7).

Paul outlined the intentions of this series of lessons in:

**(Col.2:6-7)** “Therefore as you have received Jesus Christ the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.”

Last week we studied the “why to” of walking by faith from (Matt.21:18-22). This week we will study the “How to” of walking by faith from (Matt.14:22-33).

Today’s lesson is taken from one of the most famous incidences in the life of Jesus and Peter, **Walking on Water**. Many jokes, cartoons, and analogies have been made of this incident.

<p><b>In today’s lesson, we will study FIVE aspects of HOW TO WALK BY FAITH.</b></p>
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This incident is recorded in three of the four Gospels (Matt.14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52; and John 6:15-21). In each case, it followed the ‘Feeding of the 5,000’.

### **1. We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following six homiletical points.**

- |                 |                  |         |
|-----------------|------------------|---------|
| • Sending       | (Matt.14:22-23)  | Will    |
| • Storm         | (Matt.14:24-25)  | Waves   |
| • Superstition  | (Matt.14:26-37)  | Walking |
| • Sight walking | (Matt.14:28-30a) | Wind    |
| • Sinking       | (Matt.14:30b-32) | Water   |
| • Son of God    | (Matt.14:33)     | Worship |

#### **Key bible verse:**

“You of **little faith** (oligopistos) (Matt.6:30; 8:26; 16:8), why did you doubt (diatazo / a.a.ind.2ps) [Double-minded]?” (Matt.14:31; Matt.21:21; 28:17 and James 1:6-8)

#### **Key doctrinal point:**

Little faith meant falling short of what was needed rather not enough. It refers to falling short of completing the faith cycle. Doubt and fear hindered completing the faith cycle.

### **2. We will refer to this incident as the disciples “Storm” Trial and Test.**

#### **Key Bible verse:**

(James 1:2-4) “**Consider** (hegeomai / a.m.impv.2pl) **it all joy**, my brethren, when you encounter various trials (peirasmos), **knowing** (ginosko / p.a.ptc.nplm) that the testing (dokimion) of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, **so that** you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

## Key Doctrinal point:

These spiritual advancing disciples of Jesus were given the “Storm Test” because they had failed the “Feeding Test” (Matt.14:1-21) of “How to Walk by Faith.”

They are spiritually stuck in Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD) thinking and cannot move on spiritually until they learn to put OMCD off and put on New Man Divine Viewpoint (NMDV)

(Eph.4:22-24) “For they had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves, but their heart was hardened.”

(Mark 6:52) **Therefore the testing goes on in the lives of these spiritual advancing believers.**

### 3. Jesus allowed the “storm test” to reach a place of intense distress in the disciples’ souls.

Doing so forced them to putt off OMCD (reverting to their former manner of “walking by sight”) to putting on NMDV thinking (completing the faith cycle).

Blown off course: (John 6:19) “When therefore they had rowed about three or four miles.”

Storm stress: (Mark 6:48) “Straining at the oars, for the wind was against them.”

Most of the disciples in the boat are familiar with this sea and the risk of bad weather. They use all their human knowledge and resources to battle the storm. When it did not work, the “storm” moved inside the disciple’s souls in the form of stress and that stress led into distress (doubt) and finally into panic (fear).

This is OMCD processing rather than NMDV faith cycle.

### 4. This shut down the faith cycle – “So that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing (Jms.1:4)

**Hearing** (Rom.10:17)  
(Will meet on other side)

**Completing** (James 2:22)  
(They did not understand loaves / harden hearts)  
(Jesus intervened / testing will continue)

**Believing** (Heb.4:2)  
(Got in the boat and set sail)

**Applying** (2 Cor.5:7)  
(Blown off course; straining; doubt, fear, terror; superstition)

### 5. Their core beliefs needed to change regarding faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ

(**Matt.16:21-23**) From that time, Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “God forbid *it*, Lord! This shall never happen to You.” But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.”

Jesus had the power to walk **upon** the sea (Matt.14:25) (epi+accusative of motion) It wasn’t because of His deity, but because of His faith.

Once again, Jesus allowed them to experience His faith. This time by walking **on** the sea (Matt.14:26) (epi+genitive of contact) What they saw wasn’t what they believed, Jesus or a Sea Ghost?

## **Doctrinal point:**

### **False assumptions:**

Lead to **false interpretations:**

Lead to **false expectations:**

Lead to **false applications.**

**A WOW moment:** Peter jumps out of the frying pan into the fire (Matt.14:27-30).

Why did you do this Peter? "I wasn't thinking?" He was thinking but not NMDV thinking (2 Cor.5:7).

**Peter's OMCD pattern** is to run away from one unresolved problem into another without evaluating doctrinally (Feeding 5,000 to Storm to Walking on water).

This pattern will continue into Acts 15 and the Book of Galatians (2 Cor.2:11-21) (read 1Pet.1:6-8; 2:1-2).

## **Two doctrinal points:**

- When Peter took his eyes off the object of his faith and put them on the object of his fear, he sunk  
  
(Matt.14:30) "But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"  
  
(Heb.12:1-2) "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- Once the faith cycle starts, it must be completed  
  
(1 John 5:4-5). For whatever is born of God overcomes the world and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?