

# *new* FAITH

*“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” he said.*

*Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?” (Matthew 14:28-31)*

**The disciples were** crossing the lake when a big storm rolled in. They weren’t in a yacht, they were in an uncovered fishing boat exposed to the elements. Jesus wasn’t with the disciples when they launched out, but in the midst of the storm He came out to them. Like any normal person, because a person walking on the water is not “normal”, they believed Jesus was a ghost coming towards them and this is where the verse picks up. Can you imagine how chaotic this whole scenario must have been? Between the actual storm, the disciples probably panicking trying to get the water out of the boat, arguing with each other about whose fault it is why they were in this position, fearing they won’t even make it to shore, and now there is a “ghost.” Some were probably wondering, “what else could possibly go wrong?”

While we may not find ourselves in the middle of a lake in a literal storm, we can all probably relate to what these disciples were feeling. We have all faced situations that felt chaotic and out of control and have wondered, “what else could possibly go wrong?” Storms are the times most of us will find cover, try to get out of the storm, cling to the boat, not get OUT of it. What I appreciate is Peter’s faith in this story. He was also experiencing the same storm the other 11 disciples were experiencing and he saw Jesus doing something that was not possible naturally. Jesus was walking ON the water. In that moment, instead of yelling for Jesus to stop the storm or save all of them, Peter had the courage to place a miraculous demand on Jesus and said, “tell me to come to you on the water,” and Jesus did.

Because of Peter’s faith in Jesus, he was the

only one who got to walk on water. Peter believed Jesus could do the impossible, that if Jesus called him to walk on the water he would walk on the water. Jesus is a man of His word, and doesn't call us to do things we are not capable of doing. He may call us to do things we can't do in our own strength, but with Jesus leading us, we can't fail.

This faith is not unique to Peter, this faith extends to all of us as well. This year we are calling on a new faith, a faith that places a miraculous demand on Jesus. When we find ourselves in the midst of a chaotic situation that is fighting for all of our attention, we can find Jesus in the midst of it and cry out to Him to call us to walk on the water. This year may we not allow the storms to dictate what we focus on but rather we will have the faith to do the impossible in the middle of the chaos. This is where our foundation of faith lies, in the trust that Jesus is who He says He is, He does what He says He will do. He is a man of His word and if He said it, we can do it. If He calls us to get out of the boat, it's because we can walk on the water and may we have the faith to obey.

## ***PRAYER***

FATHER, THIS YEAR WOULD YOU GIVE ME A NEW LEVEL OF FAITH. WHEN I FIND MYSELF IN THE MIDST OF A STORM OR SURROUNDED BY CHAOS WOULD YOU GIVE ME THE ABILITY TO FIND YOU. GIVE ME EARS TO HEAR YOUR VOICE CALLING ME OUT ONTO THE WATER AND STEADY MY FEET TO OBEY. REMOVE FEAR FROM DICTATING MY STEPS AND REPLACE THAT FEAR WITH FAITH. WOULD YOU DO THE MIRACULOUS IN AND THROUGH ME, THAT I WOULD BE COURAGEOUS ENOUGH TO GET OUT OF THE BOAT BECAUSE YOU ARE WHO YOU SAY YOU ARE AND YOU WILL DO WHAT YOU SAID YOU WOULD DO. REMIND ME WHEN I FORGET AND SHOW ME WHEN I CAN'T SEE YOUR FINGERPRINT IN THE MIDST OF STORMS. IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN.