

Jesus Walks on Water
Matthew 14:22-36
February 7, 2016

It's not a matter of, "God, do You know what storm I am in?", but rather, "Do I trust God in my storm?"

The Disciples were:

A great **distance** from shore.

Among "boisterous" **winds**.

All of this happening in the middle of the **night** (4th watch of night).

How do we navigate the storms of life?

1) I must know Jesus.

Before I can overcome any obstacle or have any victory in my life, I must first know Jesus. Not just to know **about** Him, know a lot of scripture verses, be able to tell every "Bible story," quote verses in Greek and having read the Bible 14 times, but know Him. All of these are not bad, but if I know **of** Jesus and I don't know Jesus, I am simply an imposter.

Salvation is placing the weight and trust of my soul on Jesus and what He has done for me, and then walking in that. This is knowing Him rather than knowing about Him.

"Jesus is not looking for fans but followers who truly know Him" ~ *Not a Fan* by Kyle Idleman

2) I must see Jesus.

And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."
Matthew 14:28

Nothing reassures our faith like God working in our life. Peter was saying, "Jesus I know what you can do, I have seen you work; so if it is you, let me come to you."

Peter was so confident not in his abilities or to make a name for himself, but so confident in the work and power of God that this would be nothing for Him.

Adrian Rogers said of Peter, "Lord, what looks like it was going to be over my head is already under Your feet."

How have you seen God work in your life (past tense) and how is God working in you life right now (present tense)? If we are living only on the past tense and not in the present tense, then we have stale faith and stale faith is stagnant faith and stagnant faith is not effective.

3) I must walk and hear from Jesus.

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. 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.
Matthew 14:22-23

If I know Jesus and have seen Jesus, but not walking with Jesus now, I will live an **ineffective**, beat **down**, defeated and overwhelming life.

In my daily life, when things are going well and when things are falling apart, I **NEED** a word from the Lord.

After Jesus had just healed many and fed some 20,000 people, He sends the disciples away, He sends the multitudes away and goes up the mountain by Himself to pray.

Do you get this? Do you see this? I say this often, but my intentional, focused and uninterrupted time with Jesus is the most important time of my day. I have to have it, it is my lifeline, it is everything, and it sets the tone of my day and navigates my course.

Jesus was calling a time out. We need daily time outs everyday and sometimes several times a day. Jesus wasn't giving up His ministry, He wasn't throwing in the towel, He wasn't quitting, but He was seeking God.

Jesus was getting in "**tune**" with God; we need to be in tune with the **Holy Spirit**.

4) I must **obey** Jesus.

So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. **Matthew 14:29**

Peter gets a bad rap for sinking, but he was the only one that got **out** of the boat. He was the only one that **asked** to.

I must trust Jesus with my problem. When I take it to Him and He directs me, I must obey; not balk at obeying. Peter didn't balk, He took the first step.

5) I must **always** keep my **eyes** on Jesus.

But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" **Matthew 14:30-31**

Storms will come. The devil will seek to destroy us and have us take our eyes off of Jesus.

Jesus is the author and perfecter of our faith!

Prayer focus:

-Do I know (not just know of) Jesus?

-Am I daily walking and hearing from Jesus?

-Am I obeying Him (am I listening to the Holy Spirit's leading)?

-Have I taken my eyes off Jesus? Put them back on Him!