

***It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.***

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

**Isaiah 55:11** So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

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**Matt. 14:25-26** And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. <sup>26</sup> When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.

Points of doctrine in review -

**POD: Hindrances to fulfilling the will of God are to be expected.**

**POD: Sometimes what the Lord asks you to do is beyond your ability to accomplish.**

**POD: God is aware of every barrier or hindrance the believer will face in fulfilling His will.**

**POD: Be encouraged. The Lord knows when we are having a tough time and is present to come alongside and help us in our time of need.**

**POD: Even though the Lord is with you the storm may continue to rage onward.**

**Matt. 14:27-33** But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." <sup>28</sup> Peter said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

If the Lord says, "Come," Peter immediately knows two things:

1. It is the Lord.
2. It is the Lord's will for Peter to walk on the water.

<sup>29</sup>And He said, "Come!" . . .

Since the Lord's will is expressed in His commands, it is the Lord's will for Peter to obey the command "come."

Peter now knows where the Lord wants him to go and what it is the Lord wants him to do.

There is a huge difference between knowing what it is the Lord wants you to do and doing what the Lord wants you to do.

The link between KNOWING and DOING is faith!



**2 Cor. 5:7** *for we walk by faith, not by sight--*

*Peter obeyed the Lord's command.*

*... And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus.*

- He got out of the boat by faith.
- He began to walk on the water by faith.

**POD: Faith takes the believer to where God wants him to be and enables the believer to do what God wants him to do.**

However, when you have arrived in the place God wants you to be it requires faith to remain in that place because you are going to face hindrances.

Peter is doing great- *he is walking by faith* - but he does encounter some difficulty.

*<sup>30</sup> But seeing the wind, he became frightened . . .*

The wind is a hindrance to doing what the Lord has commanded him to do!

Just because the Lord leads you, by the Mentorship of God the Holy Spirit, does not mean it will be free of difficulty.

- Peter lost his focus on the Lord when he considered the wind.
- The wind is a detail! The wind and the waves and the darkness are also details!

***“All things are possible with God.”***

*... and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” <sup>31</sup> Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him . . .*

- The Lord prevented Peter from drowning – even though he stumbled a bit.
- The Lord will prevent you from drowning, as well.

You might get a little wet, but the Lord will provide the required help, just in time, when you call upon Him.

*... Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, “You of little faith, why did you **doubt?**”*

➤ **Doubt** – **διστάζω** – **DISTAZO** – Why did you “begin to doubt”?

- Faith enabled Peter to get out of the boat.
- Faith was taking Peter where the Lord wanted him to be.
- Peter failed to maintain his walk of faith – gradually.
- As Peter’s doubt became greater, he began to sink.

**POD: Faith will enable the believer to begin fulfilling what God wants Him to do, but the believer must maintain his walk of faith.**

How do you maintain your walk of faith once you are out of the boat?

- Prayer
- Dependence
- Application of Doctrine

All the while in fellowship!

Peter was in the will of God!

Peter was in the presence of Christ!

Just because you are in the geographical will of God and have His indwelling presence does not equate to being successful in accomplishing what our Lord has commanded us to do.

- ✚ It requires more than being in the geographical will of God.
- ✚ It requires more than knowledge of God - Bible doctrine.
- ✚ It requires more than having the presence of Christ.
- ✚ It requires faith in the Person of Christ to sustain you.

**Heb. 13:5** “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

- ✚ It requires faith to fulfill the will of God for your life.

<sup>32</sup> When they got into the boat, the wind stopped.

- The Lord walked with Peter back to the boat. He didn’t tell Peter, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” in front of the other disciples.
- He respected Peter’s privacy.
- He saved Peter as Peter requested; this taught Peter something.

*The Lord is faithful to deliver and restore our walk of faith when we fail.*

<sup>33</sup> And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, “You are certainly God’s Son!”

- ✚ During the time all this was happening the disciples grew in their knowledge of the Lord.

- ✚ They failed to learn anything from the feeding of the 5000.

**Mark 6:51-52** Then He got into the boat with them, and the wind stopped; and they were utterly astonished [*driven out of their senses*]. <sup>52</sup> for they had not gained any insight from the *incident of the loaves*, but their heart was **hardened**.

- **Hardened** – **πωρόω** – **POROO** – “*To be hardened, made dull, to blind*”

The disciples failed to understand the significance of the feeding of the 5000.

- Their heart was hardened because they were focused on the PROBLEM rather than the SOLUTION.
- They failed to trust in the Lord.

**POD: We may not always have the spiritual insight the Lord wants us to have in Bible class but as long as we are consistent, the Lord will provide insight.**

- Their consistency with the Lord pays off because when they land, the Lord teaches them the significance of the miracle.



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*All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.*