

Sink Or Stand

Matthew 14:24-31 (AMP) But the boat [by this time] was already a long distance from land, tossed *and* battered by the waves; for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night (3:00-6:00 a.m.) Jesus came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately He spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I! Do not be afraid!" ²⁸ Peter replied to Him, "Lord, if it is [really] You, command me to come to You on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come!" So Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw [the effects of] the wind, he was frightened, and he began to sink, and he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Immediately Jesus extended His hand and caught him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

✓ Jesus is with us in the storm.

Matthew 14:28-29 (AMP) Peter replied to Him, "Lord, if it is [really] You, command me to come to You on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come!" So Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

✓ One step toward Jesus and the impossible becomes possible.

Matthew 14:30-31 (AMP) But when he saw [the effects of] the wind, he was frightened, and he began to sink, and he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

³¹ Immediately Jesus extended His hand and caught him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Doubt: Greek; distazo (dis-tad'-zo); to waiver, hesitate, to go in two ways, shift between two positions.

- ✓ We can't walk in two directions. We must focus on one.
- ✓ Whatever we focus on determines whether we sink or stand.

How To Stand:

1. Fix

Hebrews 12:2 (AMP) [looking away from all that will distract us and] focusing our eyes on Jesus, who is the Author and Perfector of faith [the first incentive for our belief and the One who brings our faith to maturity]...

Looking: Greek; aphorao (af-or-ah'-o); to look away from other things and steadfastly or intently toward a distant object. **To fix one's eyes on something.**

- ✓ When we fix our eyes of faith on Jesus, we are reminded that He is bigger than what we are facing and He can handle it.

2. Feed

- ✓ The Scriptures are food for our faith.

Romans 10:17 (NKJV) So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- ✓ Choosing to live by the truth of God's Word and letting it direct our lives not our circumstances.

2 Corinthians 5:7 (AMP) ...for we walk by faith, not by sight [living our lives in a manner consistent with our confident belief in God's promises]—...

3. Fellowship

- ✓ Jesus works through His body, the local church community, that we are a part of.

1 Corinthians 12:27 (AMP) Now you [collectively] are Christ's body, and individually [you are] members of it [each with his own special purpose and function].

4. Follow

- ✓ We were created to have an intimate relationship with God.

John 17:3 (AMP) Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true [supreme and sovereign] God, and [in the same manner know] Jesus [as the] Christ whom You have sent.

- ✓ Jesus paid the price so we could be made the children of God.

Romans 5:8-11 (NLT) But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. ⁹ And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation. ¹⁰ For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. ¹¹ So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.