



FAITH vs FEAR

Overcoming fear with faith

Bates Alheit



(Matthew 14:22-36)

22 Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home.

23 After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone.

24 Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves.



25 About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water.

26 When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!"

27 But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!"

28 Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water."



29 “Yes, come,” Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus.

30 But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. “Save me, Lord!” he shouted.

31 Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. “You have so little faith,” Jesus said. “Why did you doubt me?”

32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.



33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

34 When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret.

35 And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him

36 and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.



5 observations:

1) Fear is always waiting

- (vs 22-24)

vs 24 ...the disciples were in **trouble** far away from land, for a **strong wind** had risen, and they were **fighting heavy waves.**”

- Fear is always waiting for a chance to enter our lives



Fear is that **sensation**, feeling or inner knowing that anything could happen and the result of what happens **will not be good.**

- Intruder
- Car crash
- Failure
- Confrontation



2) Fear blinds us from seeing Jesus

- (vs 25-26)

vs 26 ... they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, “It’s a ghost!”

- Fear will blind you



“Fear is like the monster under my kids’ beds — its power is fuelled not by what’s really there, but by what *might be*, what we imagine *could be*. Fear is a hollow darkness in the future that reaches back through time to rob our joy now by belittling the sovereign goodness of God.”
(Jonathan Parnell)



3) Fear stems from unbelief

- (vs 27-31)

vs 31 ... “You have so little faith,” Jesus said. “Why did you doubt me?”

- Fear = Unbelief



- **Intruder** – God is with me and will protect me. (Ps 118:6)
- **Car crash** – Gods plans are perfect, He up holds me. (Ps18:30)
- **Failure**- God will provide for me every need. (Phil 4:19)
- **Confrontation** – God defines my identity. (Rom 8:31, 2Cor 5:17)



What about the fear of the Lord?

(Psalm 111:10)

The **fear of the Lord** is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.

- It's a reverential fear



4) Faith in Jesus calms the storm

- (vs 32-33)

vs 32-33 “...the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “**Truly you are the Son of God.**”

- The opposite of fear is faith



(Hebrews 11:1)

Now faith is **confidence** in what we hope for and **assurance** about what we do not see.

- Hope = a strong and confident expectation.
- There is a difference between misplaced and well placed faith.



5) Faith sends us

- (vs 34-36)

vs 35 “And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country.”



“God our Father has made all things depend on faith so that whoever has faith will have everything, and whoever does not have faith will have nothing.”
(Martin Luther)



How do we overcome fear?

1. Take all our fears to **God**
(Ps 34:4)
2. Receive Gods **love**
(1John 4:18)
3. Receive Gods **Spirit**
(2Tim 1:7)



How do we grow in faith?

1. Understand that faith is a **gift** from God

(Eph 2:8-9)

2. Spend time in the **word**

(Romans 10:17)

3. Spend time in **prayer and worship**

(Psalm 119: 10, 11, 15)

4. Experience **adversity**

(James 1:2-4)



“To live by faith is to live joyfully, to live with assurance, untroubled by doubts and with complete confidence in all we have to do and suffer at each moment by the will of God. We must realize that it is in order to stimulate and sustain this faith that God allows the soul to be buffeted and swept away by the raging torrent of so much distress, so many troubles, so much embarrassment and weakness, and so many setbacks. For it is essential to have faith to find God behind all this.”

(Jean-Pierre de Caussade)



(Heb11:6)

"Without **faith** it is impossible to please God."