

# ***Faith in the One God Sent***

## ***Part 2***

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If you all remember in part 1, we started by asking how important is faith in our walk of life? In our religion? Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. If we think of the example in Matthew 14, where Jesus, after feeding the five thousand, sent His Apostles across the Sea of Galilee, and He went up on the mountain to pray. After spending most of the night in prayer, in the fourth watch of the night, He went to the Apostles walking on the water.

Now the sea of Galilee is seven miles wide and thirteen miles long, so it is a very big body of water. It says the sea was tossing and the winds were contrary. So, the rowing was very strenuous and slow.

The Apostles boat was probably in the middle of the lake. And when Jesus was still at a distance, the apostles caught sight of Him walking on the water and proclaimed, it is a ghost. Just think of the sight the apostles were seeing. Jesus probably in a light-colored garment, against a black and angry looking sky. And doing something that is impossible for any mortal to do. So, you can see why they thought it was a ghost; why they were so frightened.

Then as He got closer, He said to them, be of good cheer, it is I, do not be afraid. But still doubting in their minds, not believing what they were actually seeing. Peter said, if it is really You, command me to come to you on the water.

So, you can see they were still having doubts about what they were seeing. Thinking is this really true, can someone really walk on water, is this really Jesus, or are our eyes playing tricks on us?

They had just seen Jesus take two fish and five loaves of bread and feed five thousand men not counting the women and children, they had seen Him turn water into wine, heal a paralyzed man, a man with leprosy and now this, walk across the sea of Galilee as if it was a stroll in the park.

By all these miracles Jesus was showing His Apostles why they should put their faith in Him. And after all these, even the Apostles still had doubts. But is not it said that all power and authority was given to Jesus, that God has put all things under Jesus' feet, all things in heaven and on earth.

But just remember Jesus's ministry had just started, a year before, may two, two and a half. Just think of the way of travelling, back then, the way of communication, compared to the present time. How we are so blessed to have the bible, where we can go and look up any passage we want, in seconds, especially online.

So, you can understand the amazement they were seeing and feeling. Every one of the apostles were still trying to understand who Jesus was, every miracle was a new wonder, a new amazement. The man that was born blind, that Jesus cured, said to the Pharisees, that it was unheard of, since the world began, that someone could be cured of blindness. So, you can understand the amazement, the skepticism. Even the unbelief.

Then Jesus said "come". Did we ever make a statement like this to someone, then when we are told to go ahead, then realize Uh-oh what did I just agree to? Especially thinking, this is not even possible? So, here was a great decision Peter had to make, do I step out of the boat, knowing that it is a known fact that no mortal person can really walk on water. I will add in his own strength.

So, at that very moment every one of the Apostle's eyes were on Jesus, their full attention on the Messiah, the only One that could really walk on water. Then Peter made the decision to have complete faith on Jesus and step out of the boat.

Now remember it says the boat was being tossed by the waves and the winds were boisterous. As he got out of the boat and walked on the water towards Jesus, his faith was strong, probably getting stronger every step he took towards Jesus, but only while he had his eyes on the Savior.

But then he took his eyes off Jesus. He looked at the angry waves, the boisterous winds, and doubt crept into his thinking. Probably the thought of, this is impossible, I cannot be doing this, this is too much for me.

But what does Jesus tell us, we can do all things through Him, through Christ who

strengthens us. Not through ourselves, but through Christ who strengthens us. Where do all doubts and fears come from? The father of lies the devil himself.

So, once Peter took his eyes off The Savior, doubt crept in, and Peter expected it as true, and he began to sink. Now how frightening would that have been? In the middle of the great swelling waves, boisterous winds, hundreds of feet deep?

Peter hollered out, "Lord save me!"

How many times in our trials did we proclaim those very words, Lord save me, have mercy on me. Especially when the devil is trying to put doubt and fear in our minds, and we are trying to resist the devil. A lot of the time it is fear of what could be wrong with us, what could happen, fearing the future. That is where our faith needs to get stronger, our resistance of the devil's more intense, when our eyes need to stay on the Savior, on the uplifted one.

Then it says that Jesus reached out His hand and caught Peter and got back to the boat. Then Jesus said, O you of little faith, why did you doubt? Why did you lose faith in Me?

Let us think on this, here is Peter stepping out of the boat, in pitch darkness, into an angry sea, with boisterous winds, doing something that is a known fact that no mortal can do. So, we can see that Peter did have great faith, or he would not have even stepped out of the boat.

But with each step, the devil was there, putting doubt and fears in his mind. Probably saying look at these huge waves, and these strong winds, you will never reach Jesus. Doubt crept in and Peter took his eyes off The Savior and began to sink.

How many times does this happen in our trials? We start out with great faith, and if things do not happen instantly, we start to lose faith, we take our eyes off the cross. This is the devil trying to drive a wedge between us and the Lord. The very One that redeemed our every sin.

If in our trial. Our condition worsens, and we start to think, this is impossible for me to be healed. Just think of Peter stepping out of the boat, doing the impossible, because the Lord said "come".

He is telling each and every one of us the same thing, come to me all of you who are burdened and heavy laden, and I will give you

rest, deliverance. So, let us all take His yoke upon us and learn from Him. Because He told us His Yoke is easy, and His burden is light.

To those that do not know, a yoke is a large wooden beam that is shaped to go across the necks of two oxen, so they both have to go the same way. We need to be yoked to our Lord and Savior, so that His ways are our ways, His thoughts are our thoughts and His love for us is the same as our love for Him, and His Faith in The Father, is the same as our faith in Him.

In Faith part 1, I also said this. Jesus said if we have the faith the size of a mustard seed, we can move mountains and have trees uprooted and planted into the sea. So, you can see it is not the amount of faith that we have, it is who we have faith in.

And this is so true, but as James says in James chapter 1, ask in faith, with no doubt, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. Was not that what Peter was feeling after he took his eyes off Jesus, driven and tossed by the wind.

James continued; for let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord. And that is exactly what happened to Peter, as soon as he started to lose faith, he started to sink. So, the amount of faith can be the size of a mustard seed, but it cannot be a wavering faith but needs to be continuous faith.

And the only way we can have continuous faith is to keep our eyes on the cross. But we can, as our Savior says, be of good cheer because He our Redeemer is the Author and Finisher of our faith. And remember what Peter told us that at the end of our faith is the salvation of our souls. That is the end of our continuous, unwavering faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Another great example in the Bible is the woman from Canaan that was seeking healing for her daughter. Now remember this is a gentile woman from Canaan, these are the people that the Israelites were to destroy, idol worshipers that were occupying the land that was promised to the Abraham and his descendants.

It says, then Jesus went from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying Have mercy on me O Lord Son of David. My daughter is

severely demon-possessed. But Jesus answered her not a word.

Why was that, why did he not acknowledge her? And not only that, but then His Apostles came and urged Him, saying send her away for she cries out after us. Here is a woman in deep distress, her daughter possessed with a demon.

A woman of Canaan, the people that the Jews were to have absolutely nothing to do with. They were considered unclean people, people who worshiped foreign gods. So, Jesus's apostles did not want to have any mercy on her. They said send her away, she is annoying us, we should not have to put up with this continual crying after us. His apostles were feeling unclean, having interaction with a woman, one of pagan birth.

But Jesus wants all to be saved, no one to perish, all to come to repentance and put their faith in Him. And that was exactly what this woman was doing. But Jesus wanted to see that she had faith in Him. That She had set aside all her idols, that she did believe that He was the Son of God.

So, then Jesus finally answered and said, I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. What a rebuke. Here is the Apostles saying send her away she is annoying us and Jesus Himself saying, I was not sent to the Canaanite people, but only to the children of Israel.

That there would have turned many away. But it says, she came and worshiped Him. Here again, falling at Jesus feet showing that she believed in His Sovereignty, believed He was the Son of God. She proclaimed, "Lord help me!" Pleading with Him, Lord help me. Also, she called Him Lord. That was great faith.

Then came another rebuke, Jesus said it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs. That was like saying I cannot take My blessing, my healings and give it to someone who is not worthy.

But even this rebuke did not turn her away, she showed her great faith once again, by not being discouraged, but only showing greater faith, by coming back with a great response, a very strong response, but a very respectful response, once more calling Him Lord. She said

yes Lord yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from the master's table.

That was not only calling Him Lord and Master, but also humbling herself before Jesus, and remember she is on her knees before Him, saying she would except the crumbs that fell from the Master's table. That is great faith!

And after that profession of faith, calling Jesus Lord Son of David, Lord, and master, acknowledging His Sovereignty by falling at His feet worshipping Him, Jesus could no longer refuse her. Jesus said O women great is your faith, let it be unto you as you desire. And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

That is what great faith can do, but as I said in the beginning, our faith must be "in" The Lord and Master, Jesus Christ our Lord. So, you can see we cannot give up no matter how many times we are rebuked, pushed down, we have to keep the faith, keep our eyes on the Savior, as this woman did.

The master Himself said He didn't come to heal her, couldn't take the Jewish people's healing and give it to a Canaanite woman, yet she did not give up, she got the crumbs that fell from the masters table, and that was enough to cast a demon out of her daughter.

We can marvel at the great faith this woman had, but most of all marvel at what a Great and Marvelous, Loving Savior we all have. One that wants no one to perish, but all to come to repentance and be saved.

So, this woman went from an unclean woman of pagan birth to a saved child of God, with a healed daughter, by faith in the One God sent. That is what faith in the Lord and Savior can do.

So, let us reflect on these two examples, the example of Peter stepping out of the boat and the example this Canaanite woman who was seeking healing for her daughter. Now every thing Jesus did in the Bible was a teaching moment, there is a message for every one of us in each example.

In the case of Peter, he showed great faith by stepping out of the boat, but he did not keep his eyes on Jesus, he looked away, his faith wavered, and he let the devil put fear in his mind. We can argue the point and say, Peter had Jesus right in front of him, he had every chance to keep

his eyes on The Savior, but we cannot see the Savior. He is in heaven with the Father.

But we all know He is with us in Spirit, even if we cannot see Him, it is by faith, faith in Him is how we keep our eyes on Him. And if we look away, or lose faith as Peter did, it is the same as when we look for another option, another way to be healed, delivered from any difficulty, oppression.

So, you can say we need to keep our “faith eyes” on Him, do not be discouraged, and especially do not lose faith. And we need to remember what Jesus has done for us, to even get a chance to be reconciled to God the Father.

We all know that we can not even come to the father except through the Christ our Lord, without our debt being paid, without our every sin being washed as white as snow, we would not have a chance of being delivered for our slightest oppression.

So. In our trials we need to keep our “faith eyes” on Jesus, on the cross, on the One that had no sin, the One God made to be sin for us, the One that bore our every sin on the cross. Our free gift.

And the case of the Canaanite woman that was seeking deliverance for her demon possessed daughter, a pretty serious oppression wouldn't you say? And remember she came from a place that worshipped idols, that worshipped the devil. And the devil was tormenting her daughter. So, her belief would have had to change dramatically.

Just think of the work that God did in her heart and mind. God changed her heart one hundred and eighty degrees. And if we think about it, it is amazing the faith she had in Jesus, even after being rebuked by the Savior twice, and even the Apostles were annoyed with her, yet she did not give up, but I think her faith grew stronger.

She is showing all of us to not lose heart, not give up, keep the faith. So, just remember if our prayers are not answered immediately, do not lose faith, do not be discouraged, God is working in our life, trying to perfect our faith.

And just think how patient God is with us, haven't we sinned many times? Does He feel the pain every time we sin; does he hear the cries crucify again? He paid the debt that He did not owe, for a creation that could never pay the debt.

So, we need to keep our “faith eyes” on the Savior, and not give up, not lose faith. He is faithful and true and will forgive our every sin, which are many.



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