



# Peter Walks On Water

A South Pacific Christian Ministries Sermon

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## About Us

South Pacific Christian Ministries is a Non-Denomination Missions Oriented Ministry that sprang out of a small tourist focused church in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. After 16 years serving as the Senior Pastor the LORD redirected our steps from the little chapel by the sea to the small island communities of the South Pacific.

Our Vision is to bring the living water to the small islands of the South Pacific; a vision summed up in the Hawaiian phrase Ke Ola Wai, which means the living water. Ke Ola Wai encompassing our greatest spiritual and physical need, pure spiritual and physical water.

Our Mission is to meet the spiritual and physical needs of the people who live on the small islands of the South Pacific that can only be reached by boat. To bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to their shores, assisting local Pastors, providing Bible Training for believers and conducting outreaches to draw in non-believers. To provide gravity fed, family sized, reverse osmosis water filters; emergency medical supplies; medical services; and disaster response training.

## Summary

Peter walking on water is one of the most remarkable and important events recorded in the Word, but is it more than his failure after stepping out in faith?

## Scripture References

Matthew 14:22 - 33      Philippians 4:13  
Isaiah 55:10-11      John 14:12-14  
Genesis 1:3-4



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## Sermon Notes

God's provided His Word, the Holy Bible to serve as our standard in this life. His Word is the absolute truth. That means it is the measure that we use to determine what is true or false. His Word tells us who God is and His Character. His Word tells us what God considers right and wrong. His Word does not change because society's view on something changes. His Word enables us to learn about who we are in and because of Jesus Christ. His Word enables us to get through difficult times and to find comfort in Him. His Word has the power and authority to change reality.

Today I want to talk with you about an event recorded in the Book of Matthew. This event tells us of the power of believing God's Word and how He will respond even when we mess up.

I use the term event because it is not just a story; something made up by the author. It is something that happened. While the Word of God is full of passages with symbolic meaning, all of the events described are real historical events. Some might seem fanciful, they are none the less true events.

Peter walking on the water is one of those events. It is also a favorite of mine. Because it speaks of the average man doing something extraordinary and the mercy of God when we fail.

Matthew 14:22 - 24

- 22 And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.
- 23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.
- 24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

Jesus had spent the day ministering to a large group of people. As the day came to an end He told his disciples to get into a ship and go to the other side. He remained behind to send the people home and to spend time in prayer. He also had another purpose, but that would be revealed later that day.

Now the sea the disciples were trying to cross is the Sea of Galilee. It is known for sudden violent storms, where the waves can top 10 feet high. It is about 8 miles across and very deep.

The disciples were attempting to do what Jesus told them but they were being hindered by circumstances. A storm was tossing them about and the wind was blowing against them. They are in the middle of the sea and they were getting scared. The fisher men among them knew well the dangers of that sea. They knew that their lives were at risk.

Matthew 14:25 - 26

- 25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.
- 26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

It is understandable that the disciples were frightened by what they saw. They are in the middle of the sea of Galilee. It is dark and stormy. Suddenly they see something in the distance that appears to be a man walking on the water. Based on their understanding, people could not walk on water. Not unreasonable that they should respond with fear.



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On a side note, fear never based on an event that has taken place. It is always based on a potential event. A great acronym for fear is "Faith in Evidence Appearing Real." Once an event takes place the emotion of fear regarding that event is replaced with other emotions. That said, you might still experience fear, but it will be in reference to another potential event.

Matthew 14:27 - 28

- 27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.  
28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.  
29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

Note that Jesus begins speaking to them right away as soon as they have seen Him. He is there at that moment for a reason. He is there to enable Peter to enter a new level of faith. He is there to enable Peter to do something he never thought was possible. He is there to show us some significant truths about faith, circumstances, and His character.

Now Peter's response to Jesus, tells you a lot about Peter. If it is you LORD tell me to come to you on the water. It is a good thing that it was the LORD or Peter would have been in trouble.

Keep in mind Peter was a fisherman. Until he met Jesus, he had spent his life on the water. His experience says you can not walk on water. But his faith and trust in Jesus says, Jesus is doing it, then so can I at his command.

Jesus spoke the word, Come. That word gave Peter the power, authority and ability to defy the laws of nature. In that one word Jesus imparted everything Peter needed to fulfill the task at hand.

Isaiah 55:10-11

- 10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:  
11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

God's Word contains the power and authority to perform that which is said. His Word can not fail to perform. It must accomplish the assigned task.

Genesis 1:3-4

- 3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.  
4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

Prior to God saying, "Let there be light", light did not exist. He spoke and His Word created light. It had the power and authority to create something out of nothing. Just as when He created the stars and all of the other objects in the universe, His Word made what He had declared. He even made the beams of light from the most distant stars to the earth so that they could be seen. Everything made because He spoke those words and His Word went forth and accomplished what He wanted done.

Matthew 14:30

- 30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.



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When Peter received the Word of the LORD he had the ability to do that which the LORD had said. He was walking on the water, a natural impossibility. So what happened? Why did he sink?

Peter looks about and considers the wind. He became focused on the circumstance around him. He focused on what appeared to be difficult; in fact impossible. Peter went from Jesus said I can do this, so I can do this; to this is impossible. The same wind that was blowing before he stepped out of the boat was still blowing. What changed?

As soon as Peter goes from "I can do this" to "this is impossible" he got wet. The Word in which he placed his faith and trust in is no longer holding him up. He failed, because he allowed unbelief to steal his success.

Jesus did not say, "step out of the boat and swim."

Jesus did not say, "Peter give it a try, maybe you will, maybe you wont."

Jesus said one word full of power and authority.

He said "Come".

While it is important to understand why he failed, it is equally important to not miss how Jesus responded to that failure.

Matthew 14:30-33

31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

32 And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

Jesus did not stand there as Peter began to drown rebuking Peter for his lack of faith. He did not say, "Peter you messed up."

Jesus immediately stretched forth his hand and caught him. Jesus was in the distance before Peter started sinking, far enough so that they were not sure who it was before He spoke to them, suddenly he was there reaching towards Peter when Peter falters.

Jesus was instantly where Peter was reaching down and grasping Peter's hand. Jesus secures Peter in the boat where he is safe before He corrects him.

When we step out in faith and falter because we start looking at our circumstance, or get discouraged, Jesus does not chew us out as we struggle in our situation. If we stumble and fall, the LORD is quick to pick us up and secure us to His side.

If you just focus on Peters failure, you will miss the most import part of this passage. You might think that I'm not a Peter. I could never step out in faith like that.

The truth is, you are more than what Peter was at that point in time. Peter was a disciple of Jesus, but he was still under the old covenant. Peter was just a man, like any other of his day. If Jesus Christ is your LORD and Savior then you are something much more than what Peter was at that time, because of the Work of the Cross. You are a child of God, transformed and made righteous by the Work of the Cross.

Philippians 4:13

13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.



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You might be thinking what am I doing here, I can't take this; I can't make it. But God's Word says otherwise. He will enable you to succeed. Trust Him.

When fear or self doubt fills your mind start praising God for helping you succeed. When you turn your eyes to Him instead of focusing on your situation, you will overcome that situation.

You are the most important thing there is to God. Jesus choose to die on that cross and rise again, because of His love for you. If you make a point of spending time with Him and in His Word, you can have a close relationship with Him. That is what God desires more than anything else. He wants a close, personal relationship with you.

Step out of your boat, your comfort zone as He commands. Step out without fear. Step out expecting God's provision and blessings to enable you to do what He has placed on your heart to do. You can do anything that He has asked you to do because it is His Word and Power that enables you to do it.

John 14:12-14

- 12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.
- 13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
- 14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

Jesus said that if you believed on Him, then you could do the works that He did and greater works. If He said it, then it is so. There is nothing that you can not do in and through Him. His Word enables you. His Word backs you. His Word goes before you.

Step out and do what God has put on your heart to do.

If God has put something on your heart to do don't assume that you are at a red light waiting for it to turn green. Assume that you are at a green light and get moving. Trust God to tell you when you need to stop, change direction or slow down.