

Get Out of the Boat (Part 2)

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5/13/20 • 10:00 A.M.

Scripture References

2 Corinthians 3:2
Ephesians 3:20, *AMPC*
Ephesians 3:20, 21 *MSG*
Matthew 14:22-31, *AMPC*

Isaiah 26:3
Hebrews 12:1, 2, *AMPC*
Revelation 22:13, *AMPC*

Summary

*Having the courage to respond to God's call requires a willingness to exercise our faith. When Jesus called Peter to get out of the boat and walk on water, Peter obeyed, although he could never had done so in the natural. Like Peter, **we** can do supernatural things when we are willing to leave behind the familiar and the comfortable, and move toward the unknown. Living the kind of life God wants for us is not for the spectator, but for the person who trusts Him enough to get involved in His plan for their lives. To free ourselves from others' opinions and live outside the box, we cannot be afraid of change; instead, we must embrace it. God is a big God with no limitations, and He wants to do something different that exceeds our expectations. We allow Him to do this when we rely on Him to lead us forward.*

A. Stepping out in faith is scary. Most people lack the courage to respond God's call.

1. We must rise to the challenge of getting out of the boat and stepping out in faith when God calls us.
 - a. People will be watching us to see what happens and what we do. We are living epistles (2 Corinthians 3:2).
 - b. Obeying God requires a willingness to depart from established tradition and take a risk.
 - c. To enable God to work in our lives and make us into different people, we need to allow ourselves to be stretched. This begins by thinking differently.
2. Now to Him Who, by (in consequence of) the [action of His] power that is at work within us, is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly, far over *and* above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams] (Ephesians 3:20, *AMPC*).
 - a. God is bigger than any circumstance or situation we could ever face. Expanding our capability to receive from Him allows Him to do powerful things in our lives.
 - b. When we understand this Scripture, we will not put pressure on *ourselves* to carry out *His* purpose.
 - c. God is able to reward us beyond the prayers we can pray in our articulate speech. However, He can only do that if we are not walking in fear, unforgiveness, or strife.
3. God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us (Ephesians 3:20, 21, *MSG*).
 - a. God is able to work according to our faith.

- b. God puts hopes, dreams, wishes, and aspirations into our hearts; they can become reality for us because He can do *anything*. He wants to remove all limitations.
- c. God prospered Abraham and Joseph in tough times; He can do the same for us.

B. When Peter heard God calling him, he responded. This is an important lesson on faith.

1. Then He directed the disciples to get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent away the crowds. And after He had dismissed the multitudes, He went up into the hills by Himself to pray. When it was evening, He was still there alone. But the boat was by this time out on the sea, *many furlongs* [a furlong is one-eighth of a mile] *distant from the land*, beaten and tossed by the waves, for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch [between 3:00—6:00 a.m.] of the night, Jesus came to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified and said, It is a ghost! And they screamed out with fright. But instantly He spoke to them, saying, Take courage! I AM! Stop being afraid! And Peter answered Him, Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water. He said, Come! So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water, and he came toward Jesus. But when he perceived *and* felt the strong wind, he was frightened, and as he began to sink, he cried out, Lord, save me [from death]! Instantly Jesus reached out His hand and caught *and* held him, saying to him, O you of little faith, why did you doubt? (Matthew 14:22-31, *AMPC*).
 - a. We must make the decision to trust God and take Him at His Word. Trusting Him allows us to overcome the fear of failure.
 - b. Regardless of what others say, it is time to step out of the boat when we are positive the Holy Spirit is leading us. People stay *in* the boat because they are afraid.
 - c. Out of twelve people on board, Peter was the only one willing to take a chance and leave the safety of the boat. Not everyone has the courage to walk in faith.
 - d. One Word from God changes our lives and turns them upside down. When He gives us a Word and a vision for our lives, it will give us the support and the sustenance we need. Where there is vision, there is provision.
 - e. We must keep our eyes on Jesus, not on the circumstances; in this way, we find peace.
 - f. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee (Isaiah 26:3).
2. Therefore then, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [who have borne testimony to the Truth], let us strip off *and* throw aside every encumbrance (unnecessary weight) and that sin which so readily (deftly and cleverly) clings to *and* entangles us, and let us run with patient endurance *and* steady *and* active persistence the appointed course of the race that is set before us, Looking away [from all that will distract] to Jesus, Who is the Leader *and* the Source of our faith [giving the first incentive for our belief] and is also its Finisher [bringing it to maturity and perfection]. He, for the joy [of obtaining the prize] that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising *and* ignoring the shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:1, 2, *AMPC*).
 - a. Doubt, fear, negative emotions, and others' unbelief weigh us down; we must strip off these weights.
 - b. Even with faith in our *hearts*, doubt in our *minds* can hold us back.

- c. Each of us has a different calling; we must stop comparing ourselves to others, and run our own race.
- d. The enemy wants to distract and detour us from our appointed course.
- e. Jesus—not us—finishes the work inside us. He always finishes what He begins.
- f. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last (the Before all and the End of all) (Revelation 22:13, *AMPC*).
- g. People in the boat resist those who step out in faith. Just like Jesus ignored the shame when He willingly went to the cross, we should ignore the naysayers. We must make a quality decision to be different.
- h. Most people are afraid to fail. However, if we are not stretching ourselves and believing God for something bigger than what we can produce on our own, we have *already* failed.

For more on finding the courage to respond when we hear God calling us, click on the link below to find the DVD, *Get Out of the Boat (Part 2)*, in our eStore.

<https://bit.ly/GetOutOftheBoatPart2DVD>

Category: faith

Keywords: courage, respond, faith, familiar, comfortable, unknown, trusts, rely