

Get Out of the Boat

Taffi Dollar

5/6/20 • 10:00 A.M.

Scripture References

Matthew 14:22-36, MSG

2 Corinthians 5:7

Psalms 78:41

Genesis 19:26

Numbers 23:19

Acts 26:19

John 10:10

Romans 5:20

Romans 8:2

Summary

Our trust in God produces powerful results. Every action brings about a corresponding consequence, for good or bad. Often, what we do determines what happens—or does not happen—in our lives. If we are operating in fear, we will not be able to experience God’s plan for us. We only see the manifestation of what His Word has promised when we step out in faith. God has already provided deliverance for us; therefore, we must go forward, and not fearfully run back to what we have been delivered from. The right results come only when we break away from the world’s status quo, get out of our comfort zone, and follow God’s direction.

A. Answering God’s call requires the courage to leave behind what is comfortable.

1. Getting out of the boat and moving out of our comfort zone requires faith. Using our faith like a tool helps us to grow and develop.
 - a. It is up to us to decide whether to stay where we are with no change, or get out of the boat and do something different and uncomfortable.
 - b. Jesus challenged Peter when He called him to get out of the boat and walk to Him. Although all of the disciples were in the boat, Peter was the only one who responded.
2. As soon as the meal was finished, he insisted that the disciples get in the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he dismissed the people. With the crowd dispersed, he climbed the mountain so he could be by himself and pray. He stayed there alone, late into the night. Meanwhile, the boat was far out to sea when the wind came up against them and they were battered by the waves. At about four o’clock in the morning, Jesus came toward them walking on the water. They were scared out of their wits. “A ghost!” they said, crying out in terror. But Jesus was quick to comfort them. “Courage, it’s me. Don’t be afraid.” Peter, suddenly bold, said, “Master, if it’s really you, call me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come ahead.” Jumping out of the boat, Peter walked on the water to Jesus. But when he looked down at the waves churning beneath his feet, he lost his nerve and started to sink. He cried, “Master, save me!” Jesus didn’t hesitate. He reached down and grabbed his hand. Then he said, “Faint-hearted, what got into you?” The two of them climbed into the boat, and the wind died down. The disciples in the boat, having watched the whole thing, worshiped Jesus, saying, “This is it! You are God’s Son for sure!” On return, they beached the boat at Gennesaret. When the people got wind that he was back, they sent out word through the neighborhood and rounded up all the sick, who asked for permission to touch the edge of his coat. And whoever touched him was healed (Matthew 14:22-36, MSG).

- a. Jesus was a man of purpose and vision who understood the power of intentionally doing something. Therefore, He insisted that the disciples board the boat.
- b. The reason He ordered them into the boat was not so that they would remain where they were and drown, but so that they would get to the other side.
- c. We must be willing to take a risk and actually get into the boat, not just stand at a distance and look at it. We need to get involved with where God wants us to go.
- d. When we get out of our boats, God tells us not to be afraid. The world will react negatively when we follow His directions; however, we must know exactly what we are supposed to do so that we will not be moved by others' opinions.
- e. Peter never would have walked on water if he had not first stepped out of the boat. He made up his mind to get out of his comfort zone.
- f. We cannot look around at our circumstances like Peter did. It is okay to be informed, but we cannot get bogged down with details. We walk by faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7).
- g. Stepping out to answer God's call takes courage; we need to face our fears head on. Spectators will be watching; what they will see is the power of God on our lives.

B. If we shrink back in fear when we hear from God, we limit what He can do in our lives.

- 1. Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel (Psalm 78:41).
 - a. Lot's wife also turned back (Genesis 19:26). She may have done so out of dread of leaving what was behind.
 - b. If we turn back, we limit what God can do in our lives. We must not turn back; sometimes we need to let go to go forward.
 - c. When we find ourselves in confusing circumstances, we must trust in what God says to do, regardless of the discomfort. This is how we maintain our peace and allow Him to work in our lives.
- 2. We can trust that God will lead us in the right direction.
 - a. He is well able to do what He said he would do. God is not a man, that He should lie (Numbers 23:19).
 - b. We limit God by not having a vision, fearing the unknown, thinking small, being unwilling to take risks, refusing to step out in faith, and staying in the boat because we are afraid of change.
 - c. Before we step out of the boat, we need not just any vision, but *God's* vision. Otherwise, we will not know our assignment from Him.
 - d. We must be like Paul, who was not disobedient to the heavenly vision (Acts 26:19).
 - e. We are changed on the inside when we rely on God to bring us out of a situation; we come out stronger than before.
 - f. God is a protector. He is able to deliver us the same way He delivered Jonah from the fish, Daniel from the lions' den, and Paul from the serpent.
 - g. Viruses and sicknesses are working to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). However, God is a covenant-keeping God, even during a pandemic. We must have faith in this.
 - h. Good health from God is stronger than sickness from the enemy
 - i. ...But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound (Romans 5:20).
 - j. We must decide what we are going to focus on our minds on: the law of sin and death, or the Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:2).

For more on finding the courage to leave the familiar behind and move forward in faith when we hear God's call, click on the link below to find the DVD, *Get Out of the Boat*, in our eStore.

<https://bit.ly/GetOutOftheBoatDVD>

Category: faith

Keywords: trust, powerful, action, fear, faith, deliverance, delivered, follow