

A Prayer of Faith Matthew 14: 22-32

Quite often this passage is looked at in light of the miracle of Jesus walking on the water. This is certainly worthy of our consideration. We serve One who has all power. There is absolutely nothing that He can't do or that He can't handle.

At other times it is approached from the failure of Peter as he walked on the water. There is much that we can learn from Peter's mistake in our walk with the Lord.

However, I am interested in the prayer that Peter prayed in [V.30 – Lord, save me](#). This was a simple prayer, but it was a prayer of faith. Prayers offered in faith are heard of the Lord. Peter needed a touch from Jesus and he cried out unto Him. Jesus heard and answered his prayer.

I want to look at the [characteristics](#) of Peter's encounter in the storm as we consider: [A Prayer of Faith](#).

I. The Peril He Faced (24) – [But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary](#). Bear in mind, the disciples had followed the direction of Jesus to get into the ship and go to the other side of the sea. While being obedient to His command, they found themselves in a perilous situation. Consider:

A. The Intensity of the Storm (24) – [But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary](#). As they sailed the wind picked up and the ship began to be tossed about in the sea. The word [tossed](#) has the idea of "*vexing, harassing, and even causing pain.*" The waves created a volatile situation for the disciples. Also we discover that the wind was [contrary](#). This has the idea of "*adverse, hostile, and opposing.*" While in the midst of the sea, the elements were working against them. What started out as a serene, peaceful trip, suddenly became a fight for their lives.

- We all have what we consider bad days, but often these are nothing more than a changed schedule or a minor inconvenience. However, there are times in our lives when we are faced with a contrary wind and our vessel becomes tossed about by the winds of adversity. Sooner or later we too will find ourselves in the midst of an intense storm, where it literally seems as if we are fighting for our survival. It may be a situation that came up suddenly, even unexpected, but it creates extreme concern.

B. The Isolation of the Ship (24) – [But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary](#). John reveals they had rowed about 25 or 30 furlongs, being about 3 to 4 miles from land. They were in the midst of the sea and totally isolated. It had taken much effort

and several hours of work to get where they were, and the safety of the shore was nowhere in sight. The Lord was not with them, and they were forced to deal with the storm they faced.

- Surely we have all been there at some point in our lives. The storm arose unexpectedly and we feel completely isolated in our situation, forced to face the storm seemingly all alone.

II. The Progress He Made (28-29) – Although the storm raged around them, Peter made significant progress dealing with the storm. Consider:

A. Peter's Faith (28) – *And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.* While in the midst of the storm, Jesus came unto them, walking on the water. After seeing Jesus, Peter requested to go unto Jesus on the water. Now, we are often critical of Peter, but in reality, he was the only one who had enough courage to step out of the boat. He realized it was safer on the water with Jesus than it was in the boat without Him. We cannot comprehend the faith it took to step out of the safety of the boat and attempt to walk on the water in the midst of a raging storm.

- Storms of life will test our faith. In fact, there will be times when faith is all we have. We will find ourselves in situations where we can't see the shore and we cannot begin to understand how the situation will work out or what the end result will be. In those times, we simply have to trust the Lord by faith to meet our need and keep us through the storm.

B. Peter's Focus (29) – *And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.* Skeptics claim there had to be stumps or stones in the water for them to walk on, but they were in the midst of the sea. The depths there would have made it impossible for something to have been available to stand on. Peter only had the word of the Lord and faith. He didn't allow human reasoning to stand in his way. Common sense says you'll sink, but Jesus had bid him to come. At this moment in time, Peter was more focused on Jesus than he was on the storm that raged around him.

- We discover a valuable lesson from Peter while trying to navigate the storms of life. Rather than focusing on the storm, we must focus on the Savior. Instead of telling Jesus how big the storm is, remind yourself how big Jesus is. He has the ability to walk above your storm and keep you secure in the midst of it! As long as we are following the will of the Lord, we will not sink and perish, no matter how strong the storm may be.

III. The Prayer He Prayed (30) – *But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.* It is evident that Peter lost his focus, and as he looked upon the storm, he became afraid and began to sink. However, he did not lose all faith. In that moment of

despair, Peter prayed a significant prayer. Although it was only three short words, it provided great results. Let's consider the characteristics of that prayer. We find it was:

A. A Prayer of Recognition (30) – [Lord, save me](#). Peter maintained his comprehension of who Jesus was. He never lost sight of the fact that the Lord was in his midst. The storm raged, but Jesus was there. He recognized Jesus as Lord and was confident in His ability.

- While in the midst of a storm, it is imperative that we recognize who our Lord is. We cannot be filled with doubt and expect the Lord to move in our midst. We must see Him as the sovereign, powerful God He is. We must believe that He is more than able to meet our needs!

B. A Prayer of Submission (30) – [Lord, save me](#). Peter was admitting to the Lord that he needed His help. He knew without the help of Jesus, he would surely perish. Peter knew he was in a desperate situation, one he could not handle himself. If he was to survive, Jesus would have to save him. He submitted himself to the authority and power of the Lord.

- There is no need to expect the Lord to help in our situation as long as we are trying to handle it ourselves. We must get to the place where we realize it is beyond our ability to handle, fully submitting to the power and authority of Jesus! As long as we are trying to handle it, Jesus will likely let us; but when we realize our inability and trust Him, He will move in our midst.

- We must not miss the greater spiritual truth here. This presents a picture of man's inability to save himself. As long as we are trusting in our own strength, works, or abilities, we remain in peril. It is only when we admit we can't save ourselves and trust the Lord by faith that salvation is received. Faith alone in Christ alone will save!

C. A Prayer of Expectation (30) – [Lord, save me](#). As Peter cried out unto the Lord, he fully expected Jesus to meet his need. He had faith that Jesus would respond and save him from his desperate situation. Had he not shown faith, he may have perished. Faith believed in spite of the circumstances he faced.

- We too must have faith when we pray. Our prayers will see little result if we do not expect the Lord to respond. Doubt hinders many lives. How many times have we asked the Lord to meet a need in our lives and yet doubted that He would? When we pray, we must believe in spite of the circumstances we face.

- The same is true regarding salvation. Faith is essential. One must believe that Jesus died for our sin and rose again. We must have faith in His ability to save from sin and secure eternal life. Our salvation isn't based on our merit or ability, but faith in the Lord's!

IV. The Power He Received (31) – *And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?* Peter's faith brought a powerful response from Jesus. We discover it was:

A. An Immediate Touch (31) – As Peter cried out in faith, Jesus immediately responded to his need. The Lord was moved by the cry of Peter. Although the Lord rebuked Peter for lacking the faith to stand, He responded to his cry of help. Jesus saved him before he perished.

- I am not advocating that Jesus will answer every prayer we pray the way we desire immediately. He may want to teach us something through the storm we face, but He will meet our needs. Even if He allows us to remain in the storm, we have the assurance that He will be there with us. It may not be pleasant, but being in the presence of Jesus while in the midst of the storm is always better than enjoying the sunshine without Him. He will never leave nor forsake us. He is preparing a home in heaven for the saved right now. We are secure in Him.
- When one considers salvation, the touch of the Lord is always immediate and lasting. When one cries out to the Lord by faith, believing in Him for salvation, the result is immediate. He doesn't send us through a series of steps or tasks in order to obtain salvation. Faith in the finished work of Calvary is enough!

B. An Illuminating Touch (32) – *And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.* The average Bible student is aware of the life of Peter and the failures that came along the way, but I can assure you that he never forgot this moment. In his time of desperate need, Jesus reached out and saved him. It must have made a lasting impact on his life.

- Anytime we encounter the power of the Lord, our lives are never the same. We may stray and fail at times, but the touch of Jesus is something we never get over. I still remember the day He touched me in salvation. There have been many times that the Lord has heard my prayers and met my needs. Each of those encounters revealed His glory and taught me more of Him. They create a desire to be near Him and receive His touch again. A life touched by Jesus will never be the same as before!

Conclusion: There is no doubt that Peter faced a desperate situation, but he was never alone. Jesus responded to his prayer of faith and met his need. Maybe you are in the midst of a storm right now and can see no way out. Recognize Jesus, submit to Him, and have faith that He will respond to your situation. If you have never been saved, Jesus stands ready to pull you from the sea of sin immediately. He can deliver you into the safety of the ship of grace. Call upon Him now! He will respond!