

Walking on Water

How do we know whether or not to get into the boat or out of it?

Noah got in to avoid the storm. Peter got out in the midst of the storm. Both heard from the Lord.

If you want to “walk on water” you have to get “into” the boat in order to get out of it. Walking on water is a picture of overcoming fear and rising above eternal and spiritual destruction. It is a picture of doing something “supernatural,” of rising above the norm.

You walk on water when you face the present storm with faith, obedient to your instructions, which is pleasing to our God. Heb 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Faith is trusting the Lord’s Word. Heb 11:1-3

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2 For by it the men of old gained approval. 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

1. Each person has to get into the boat, before they can get out of it. Gen 7:18

The water prevailed and increased greatly upon the earth, and the ark floated (walked) on the surface of the water.

A. It begins with realizing there is a coming disaster.

- 1). For the unbeliever the coming disaster is hell.
- 2). Wisdom, even in the human realm, says to avoid it if possible.
- 3). A ship is needed to rise above the “lake of fire.”
- 4). The ship must be strong enough to survive.

B. Only one ship, a grace ship, can escape it.

- 1). The “ship” is the Lord Himself.
- 2). All are invited but each individual must enter by faith.
- 3). In Him is safety, like being in the Father’s hand.
- 4). Inside this “ship” is still a life of faith and ministry.
- 5). As an occupant of the ship which has risen above the storms of life and is “walking” upon them, thus you are in the storms of life.
- 6). But you may not realize it and thus not have “rest” during the storms of life.

2. The Believer will still face the “storms of life” but at times has the opportunity to “get out of the boat” and “walk on water.”

A. When do you know “when?” You get out of the boat when you are willing to risk your safety and security in time to honor your king.

Trying to get out of the boat because of foolish pride will cause you to sink. When you get out to honor your King, that is when you really live. VN veterans.

B. If you could see the storm coming, would you still be obedient? Heb 11:7

(Like the birth pangs of the Tribulation. Hide in the Ark or get out of it?)

By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

C. The Believer faces a potential disaster at the Judgment Seat of Christ. 2 Cor 5:10

You believe that there is a coming disaster because the Lord has promised it. In this world you have tribulation. What will it be in your life?

3. When we see others “walking on water” it tends to scare us. Mark 6:47-52

(If I could walk on water, you'd complain I can't swim. Spring ice explanation. Well placed stones. MSNBC: Scientist says Sea of Galilee could have had frozen patches in Jesus' day)

When it was evening, the boat was in the middle of the sea, and He was alone on the land. 48 Seeing them straining at the oars, for the wind was against them, at about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea; and He intended to pass by them. 49 But when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed that it was a ghost, and cried out; 50 for they all saw Him and were terrified. But immediately He spoke with them and said to them, "Take courage; it is I, do not be afraid." 51 Then He got into the boat with them, and the wind stopped; and they were utterly astonished, 52 for they had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves, but their heart was hardened.

A. Some Believers would dare to join them. Matt 14:24-31

But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary. 25 And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. 26 When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." 28 Peter said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." 29 And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

B. It is the role of those “walking on water” to encourage others to not be afraid. John 6:18-21

(well-meaning dragons tend to caution others from their own fears.)

The sea began to be stirred up because a strong wind was blowing. 19 Then, when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat; and they were frightened. 20 But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." 21 So they were willing to receive Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

4. We "walk on water" when we:

A. Face the unknown with confidence in the Lord. Heb 11:8-10

By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; 10 for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

B. Trust God when the world tells us otherwise. Heb 11:11-12

By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore there was born even of one man, and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants AS THE STARS OF HEAVEN IN NUMBER, AND INNUMERABLE AS THE SAND WHICH IS BY THE SEASHORE.

C. Trust His divine timing in all things. Heb 11:13-14

All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. 14 For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own.

D. Trust Him to provide the Best. Heb 11:15-16

And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.

E. Consider and explore ways that He can keep His Word when it seems impossible. Heb 11:17-19

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; 18 it was he to whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED." 19 He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.

F. Humble yourself by admitting wrong. Heb 11:20-21

By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding things to come. 21 By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

G. Trust the prophetic word and its promises. Heb 11:22

By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones.

H. Totally relinquish control of that which we love the most to His sovereignty. Heb 11:23

By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's edict (put him in an ark).

I. Trade wealth for honor. Heb 11:24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.

J. Trust God instead of fear man. Heb 11:27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that he who destroyed the firstborn would not touch them. 29 By faith they passed through the Red Sea as though they were passing through dry land; and the Egyptians, when they attempted it, were drowned. 30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.

K. Risk our own life to save others. Heb 11:31 By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace.

L. Who become willing to die to honor the Lord in the circumstances of their life. Heb 11:32-40

And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, 33 who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. 35 Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection; 36 and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated 38 (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground. 39 And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, 40 because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.