

***“Growing Strong in Faith”***  
**Matthew 14:22-33**

Matthew 8:26 – “Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?”

Matthew 16:8 – “You men of little faith, why do you discuss among yourselves that you have no bread?”

Matthew 17:20 – “Because of the littleness of your faith, for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘move from here to there’ and it will move.”

## **John 6:15**

“Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.”

# **I. Faith if Counting on the Presence of God**

*A. Struggling in the Storm*

*B. Jesus Shows Up*

## **John 8:58**

Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, *I am.*”

*“Peace is not the absence of trouble,  
but the presence of God.” -J.O. Sanders*

# **I. Faith if Counting on the Presence of God**

*A. Struggling in the Storm*

*B. Jesus Shows Up*

# **II. Faith is Stepping Out of Comfort Zone to Obey God**

*A. Peter's Request*

*B. Peter's Motivation*

## **John 14:12**

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also, and greater works than these he will do because I go to the Father.”

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*B. Peter's Motivation*

*C. Peter's Obedience*

“Attempt something so great for God that it is  
doomed for failure unless God be in it.”

- John Haggai

“Faith does not operate in the realm of the possible. There is no glory for God in that which is humanly possible. Faith begins where man's power ends.” -George Mueller

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# **III. Faith is Undermined by Doubt**

*A. Peter's Doubt*

## **Mark 11:23**

Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him.

## **James 1:5,6**

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

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# **III. Faith is Undermined by Doubt**

*A. Peter's Doubt*

*B. The Problem With Doubt*

# **IV. Faith Leads to Worship**

## **John 6:21**

“So they were willing to receive Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.”

*I was suddenly feeling very nervous .... What was I really afraid of? As I thought about it, I feared humiliation. If my little justice ministry idea didn't work, no one was going to die. If IJM turned out to be a bad idea and collapsed, my kids weren't going to starve. We'd probably just have to live with my parents for a while until I could find another job, but with my education, odds are I would soon find a job. The fact is, I would be terribly embarrassed. Having told everybody about my great idea, they would know that it was a bad idea or that I was a bad leader. Either way, it would be humiliating. So there it was. My boundary of fear.*

*I sensed God inviting me to an extraordinary adventure of service, but deep inside I was afraid of looking like a fool and a loser. This was actually very helpful to see, because it helped me get past it. When I am older, do I really want to look back and say, Yeah, I sensed that God was calling me to lead a movement to bring rescue to people who desperately need an advocate in the world, but I was afraid of getting embarrassed and so I never even tried? ... Fear is normal, even among the earnest and devout, and it can be overcome. But first we must see the opportunity it provides—a revelation that only comes as we step to the precipice of action.*

