

Following Christ
Part I
Dec. 4, 2011

Pastor Gerald McGinnis

Matthew 14:27-29 (NIV)

(27) But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

(28) "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." (29) "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

We have concluded a six week series on this verse;
CONQUERING MEDIOCRITY THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD.

NOW WE BEGING A NEW STUDY ON THE SAME VERSE.

This is the beginning of Peter's lesson on faith and obedience

Peter will learn that you cannot separate the two - and that is **'faith and obedience**, Are inseparable.

Faith without obedience may lead to heresy. Why?

Obedience without faith may lead to failure. Why?

Jesus has used the word "Faith" 6 times in the K J V and 7 times in the N I V up to this point. (Matt 14:27)

But the word "Faith " is only used twice in the entire Old Testament in (KJV), and only 16 times in the (NIV).

But the word faith is used 247 times in the (KJV) and 270 times in the (NIV) in the New Testament. Even though we are introduced to faith in the Old Testament, 'Faith' is a New Testament word.

A. **Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)**

And without **faith** it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

This is not a hyper faith this is a faith in the existence of God and who he is.

B. **Matthew 14:31 (NIV)**

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. **“You of little faith,”** he said, **“why did you doubt?”**

C. **Matthew 15:28 (NIV)**

Then Jesus said to her, **“Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.”** And her daughter was healed at that moment.

D. **Matthew 17:20-21 (NIV)**

²⁰ He replied, **“Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”**

E. **Luke 7:7-10 (NIV)**

⁷ That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed.

⁸ For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

⁹ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, **“I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.”**

¹⁰ Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.

F. **Acts 6:8 (NKJV)**

⁸ And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.

Now remember, it wasn't Peter's faith that made him step out of the boat onto the water, maybe it was his boldness – his brassiness – his quickness to respond – maybe obedience, **but not his faith.**

Remember;

Jesus said in **Matthew 14:31** "O you of little faith."

That's not a compliment.

One of the great tools of Satan is to destroy your faith in God.

OK.

Life is a journey. Where are you in this journey?

Life consists of two major things.

1. Events; relevant
2. Decisions

Four Steps that bring victory in your spiritual journey:

- I. The challenge to obey Christ may confront us in darkness and trouble
 - a. **Don't wait on perfect timing from your perspective.**
- II. God allows such confrontation always to enlarge us, never to endanger us.
 - a. **God more concerned about your character than your comfort or career.**
- III. You should set identities straight before you try to follow Christ
 - a. **Many voices try to influence you.**
- IV. God speaks to his people
 - a. **Don't ever rule this out.**

There are **three Major events in your journey**:

1. The beginning of the journey.

a. **Romans 10:9-10 (NKJV)**

⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

b. **2 Corinthians 5:17(NKJV)**

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Have you started your journey?

2. The journey itself. (Getting from point A to point B) A faith B

a. **Hebrews 11:1**

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

b. **Hebrews 11:6**

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

c. **1 John 1:7-9 (NIV)**

⁷ But **if we** walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. ⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ **If we** confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

3. The end of the journey.

a. **1 John 3:1-2 (NAS)**

¹ See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

b. **1 Corinthians 15:50-58**

⁵⁰ I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— ⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”⁵⁵ “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

c. **Hebrews 11:35**

Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection.

d. **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

¹³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. ¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ **According to the Lord’s word**, we tell you that we who are still

alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ **Therefore encourage one another with these words.**

E. **John 14:1-6 (NKJV)**

¹ "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. ⁴ And where I go you know, and the way you know." ⁵ Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. **No one comes to the Father except through Me.**