

“Do I Focus on Faith or Fear?”

Based on Matthew 14:22-33 (*Jesus Walks on Water*)

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Matthew 14:24-27

24 and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

25 Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.

26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified.

"It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

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

† Sudden storms on Lake Galilee are a common occurrence.

† In the hour of the disciples' need, Jesus came to them.

† Jesus comes to me in my storms of life.

† If my focus is on the fear, then my reaction is fear.

† If my focus is on God through Christ, then my reaction is faith.

Matthew 14:28-31

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.

30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

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

† Like Peter, I often hold out or demand a grand demonstration of divine power from God and I feel let down when it does not come as I want it.

† God through Jesus is always there for me, just not how I may expect.

† When I focus on fear, I fail to recognize that God is already present with me.

† When I focus on faith, I realize the blessings I have already received from God.

Applying Today's Message to My Life:

† What "storms of life" have I faced?

† How did I get through those "storms"?

† When "storms of life" hit me, how do I respond:

- In fear? - In faith? - Moving between fear and faith?

† How am I currently blessed by God to help me weather the "storms of life"?

† What is one way I can sharpen my focus on faith and lessen my focus on fear?