

Getting out the Boat/By Faith

The objective of this teaching is to encourage you to get out of your comfort zone and begin to walk on your fears by trusting the Lord by faith. Whether its an opportunity to witness, transition to a new job or buying a home by the Lord's leading-by faith move.

Sometimes we are afraid to move because we are waiting on the perfect scenario, ideal situation, perfect opportunity before we make a move. Conditions or scenarios are not always going to be perfect before you decide to step out or take a risk. **The world says, when all the stars aligned then I will pursue this opportunity, or I knew that he or she was the one when all the stars aligned. It does not always work like that in Gods' kingdom. And the stars aren't aligning for no one but GOD!**

Most of the time there will be no perfect situation, no ideal timing, perfect partner or even perfect opportunity, sometimes you will have to walk by faith and trust the leading of God. Essentially, there are times where you won't know until you show up! Sometimes God just need us to show up!

We don't even walk by sight as believers; we are called to walk by faith. Scripture says in 2 Cor 5:7- For we walk by faith, not by sight. If it was easy, then it would not require faith. It requires faith because you do not always know the outcome, nor will you always have the natural ability to do it. **(Talk about your fear of public speaking or teaching now and how the Lord is doing it through you)**

This is not easy in our own strength, but we have to rely upon the Lord our God for his strength. Scripture says, blessed is the man whose strength is in you (Psalm 84:5-7)

Most of the time we as believers will not venture out or take risks because of fear, we are comfortable with our current job, comfortable where we are presently living, comfortable being in an unhealthy relationship and even comfortable with our present relationship with God. God is calling you and I out of our comfort zone so that we may grow and he may show his ability in us. About 90 percent of the time where God is leading you is going to require faith, and there will be some

element of fear-but precisely because God want you to overcome it. (talk about your experience being afraid of water and yet jumping into the deep end of the pool as a young man-fear of water was my comfort zone)

But we have to initiate, we must take the first step. Scripture says, I will guide thee with mine eye (psalm 32:8). I don't want to get to heaven and see all the opportunities that I have missed as a result of fear and comfort. The enemy knows that we love comfort; so, he keeps us in comfortable environments whereas God is calling us to get out of the boat. Now the boat is your comfort zone, your safe and familiar place, the place where you believe you got it together.

God is always in the business of expanding us, stretching us, leading us out of our comfort zone for the express purpose of totally depending upon him by faith. (talk about your experience leaving the marines in 2003, for a job in corporate America, here along with no family and how God moved on your behalf-the Marines was my boat; my comfort zone)

Case in point, I am about to be a father again at the age of 46. I was done with kids, my oldest is almost 20 and is a junior in college so I was looking forward to sailing in the seas, But God snatch me out of my comfort zone again and said I want you to be a father again. And If I am honest, I was resisting and I wasn't excited at all. But the Lord reminded me that you will not be alone as you were not alone the first time you became a father and its not going to be by your strength. God was calling me back out the boat!

Remember brother Peter, Matt 14:28- Lord, if it's you tell me to come to you on the water! Peter took the first step in spite of the noise of the waves, noise of the other disciple's fear, noise of the wind. You too at times will have to take the first step, in spite of the noise of your fear, noise of you check book, noise of your skillsets, noise of your inadequacy. Most of the time the Lord is telling you to face your fears for the express purpose of conquering them. He is calling you out of your comfort zone, or your boat. If you want to walk on water and experience total dependence upon the Lord and witness his supernatural power, then you will have to get out of the boat.

You will have to get out of the boat of trying to control and influence that wayward child and simply give them over to the Lord, you actually may be in the

way and the reason why the Lord can't get to that child because you keep rescuing them, whereas God wants them to be strip of all dependency outside of him so that they will come to themselves and call upon him. You must get out of the boat of control and trust God.

Examples of our brothers that got out of the boat by faith:

Abram experience getting out of the boat. Gen 12:1 says that the Lord said to Abram, go from your country and from your kindred and from your fathers' house to the land that I will show you. God did not show Abram the land first, he commanded Abram to leave first, Abram had to take the first step. As a result of his obedience the whole earth is blessed because the seed of the woman (Jesus) was continued through his bloodline

Jonathan and his armor bearer got out of the boat when the two of them defeated a company of the Philistines. Sam 14:6- and Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armor, come and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised, it may be that the Lord will work for us for there is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few. As a result of their obedience, they defeated a company of the philistines army.

Even in my life, at the age of 17. The Lord led me to leave my family house, family place of origin and join the Marine Corps and experience marine corps boot camp and as a result of that one act of obedience, I am in a position where I am a blessing to the entire family. It wasn't easy, but I had to do it all by faith.

I will like to read from the author John Ortberg take on getting out of the boat and walking on water. If you want to walk on water, you have to get out of the boat.

John says, "I believe there is something-someone inside of us who tells us there is more to life than sitting in the boat." You were made for something more than merely avoiding failure. There is something inside you that wants to walk on water-to leave the comfort of routine existence and abandon yourself to the high adventure of following God!

He goes on to say, "What's your boat? John says, your boat is whatever represents safety and security to you apart from God himself. Your boat is whatever you are

tempted to put your trust in especially when life gets a little stormy. Your boat is whatever keeps you so comfortable that you don't want to give it up even if it's keeping you from joining Jesus on the waves. Your boat is whatever pulls you away from the high adventure of extreme discipleship.

Do you want to know what your boat is? Your fear will tell you. Ask yourself this: what is it that most produces fear in me- especially when I think of leaving it behind and stepping out in faith?

Again, your boat could be a job that you are miserable in, but afraid to leave because of your comfort there and the fear of the unknown at a new job.

Your boat could be leaving an unhealthy relationship, you know this relationship is detrimental to the things and word of God, but yet you stay because you are afraid of being alone financially, or being alone period. Scared to walk away because you don't want to hurt his or her feelings, yet you know that being in this relationship is not the will of God. You have no peace in this relationship

Your boat could be leaving a church where you know you and your family are not growing spiritually, but you are afraid to leave because of the opinion of man

Your boat could be hiding a secret. Secrecy could be your boat. Engaging in an activity that you know isn't right, but afraid to confess your fault to God or man because of fear of exposure. Not realizing that healing from God comes when we bring it to the light of his presence.

God is calling all of us out of the boat and to leave our fears! It's going to require you to get uncomfortable at times, uneasy and you will have fear but you must move in order to see God move. Again, if it was easy, then it would not require faith. You have to take the first step!

Remember the Lord commanded Joshua to take twelve men from the tribe of Israel, from each tribe a man to cross over the river Jordan (a literal river). The Lord said when the soles of the feet of the priest bearing the ark of the Lord rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off from flowing. (Joshua 3:13).

Nothing was going to happen until the feet of the priest touch the waters of Jordan first. God gave them a specific command, but they had to act, they had to get their feet wet first; reminding us of the scripture that faith without works is dead (James 2:26)