

Five years ago I had the opportunity to share a message entitled, “Faith goes”, based on [the account of Peter walking on the water toward Jesus](#) (please read it). What struck me then and still strikes me now is how limiting beliefs can be hidden in plain sight—I was used to hearing preachers focus on Peter’s doubt instead of his faith, although Peter was the only one who got out of the boat! There is only one disciple in the entire Bible who is recorded to have walked on the water with Jesus! Peter!! Wow!!! And yet some preachers portray Peter as a failure—he didn’t keep his eyes on Jesus they say, and so he started to sink. What about the other disciples that chose to stay in the boat? They clearly did not have as much faith as Peter.

Peter’s faith caused him to leave the comfort of the boat. Peter’s faith caused him to leave the comfort of the majority—the eleven other men who stayed in the boat. What’s fascinating about the account is Peter’s statement in verse 28: “Lord, if it’s you, tell me to come to you on the water.” It was a faith-filled thought. A safer statement would’ve been, “Lord, if it’s you, come into the boat.” Most people have not heard God speak to them in an audible voice. However, all of us have thoughts, and this is a primary way that God speaks. It’s the reason why it’s so important to read the Bible, to pray, to worship and praise, and to fellowship with like-minded people. We are keeping our thoughts in alignment with God.

Peter’s action to step out of his comfort zone in faith began with a God-thought: “...if it’s you, tell me to come to you on the water.” Peter’s faith went against the limiting belief that he couldn’t walk on water. Peter did not walk on water while telling himself that it was impossible. He was simply obedient to Jesus’ command to come, and if Jesus said it that made it possible. All of us possess limiting beliefs, and it is important to identify how those limiting beliefs can keep us in the boat of our comfort zone. Your self-talk reveals a lot about what you believe—I’m not smart; I can’t speak well; I’m not good enough.... Jesus calls us to come—come out of the boat of doubt and fear and grip hold of faith.

Peter’s faith led him to Jesus, but it also led the rest of the disciples to Jesus. Jesus walking on the water was a miracle, but what made the experience even more powerful was that Peter, one of the 12 disciples, walked on water, too. It caused the disciples to worship Jesus as the Son of God. We should thank God for the “Peters” he places in our lives—men and women that challenge the status quo, getting out of their “boats” in response to the voice of Jesus. I may have grown up in the projects, but I did not have a “project mentality” because I had a “Peter” in my mother who introduced me to literature, museums, plays, education, mentors, and to a loving heavenly Father despite the absence of my earthly father.

The Temple Takeaway:

Who are your “Peters”? What is your “boat”? Peter and the rest of the disciples would have been grieving the loss of their friend [John the Baptist, who had been beheaded](#) recently. Perhaps the reason Jesus walked on the water when he did was to encourage the broken hearts of his friends, reminding them that no matter what it looked like, He was still in control.