

Walking On Water Part 1 June 3, 2018

Have you ever been around someone who was afraid of the water? My mom was. She never learned how to swim and because of it she was always afraid of the water. This is why she made sure my brothers and sister took swimming lessons and boy, do I remember those lessons.

We rode our bikes what seemed like miles, it was only 8 blocks to the local pool. The water temperature must have been just about freezing, it was probably in the 60s but we did have those lessons at 7:30 in the morning so it was pretty cold to us.

The good thing, I did learn how to swim and I am not afraid of water. I do remember being around someone at an apartment pool and we were horsing around and she got pushed into the deep end and even though she was right next to the side of the pool, she panicked so much, was flaying so violently she couldn't reach out and save herself. I grabbed her and pulled her to the side and helped her out of the water. The fear in her eyes and her violently thrashing around is burned into my memory.

I don't know if she ever learned how to swim but if she didn't then the fear of water, even shallow water, is still with her today.

One of the passages I have for us today is **Isaiah 26:3**, **“The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, because they trust in You.”**

That is a big statement isn't it? The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace because they trust in you.

Such a great promise from the Lord, that we would keep in perfect peace, but it is one of the conditional promises of God. It is conditional upon two things.

Having a steadfast mind and trust. These two work together to bring God's peace into our lives and that is what we need and what we want isn't it?

When we are operating in peace then there is no flaying around and no fear, no matter how deep the water is we are swimming in. And that is good thing for sometimes, the pools God expects us to swim in are pretty deep and pretty turbulent.

Let's look at the first statement that is made. Steadfast in mind. What does it mean to be steadfast? Firm, stable, unwavering.

This led me to a passage in James. Look with me. **James 1:5-8, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶ But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do."**

Double-minded leads to instability in life and that is not a very peaceful place is it? Being double-minded or unstable in your thoughts and your heart and in your relationship and trust in God will lead you to being tossed and blown by the wind.

Have you ever felt like that? In your relationship with your spouse you think at times, what in the world, this is not what I signed up for. In your relationship with your children, they do something and your heart breaks and they keep breaking it. In your work or the many other circumstances you face in life you feel like you just being pushed along by some unknown wind. The waves are getting higher and you wonder if soon, you will be under the water. You're like my friend, scared and flaying about, close to drowning.

These are not just abstract thoughts but real possibilities. There is the real possibility that you will drown if you don't get some swimming lessons and get them fast.

There was another biblical person who faced the possibility of drowning in the sea. Who was this? Peter. Look with me at the familiar story of Peter and his experience with deep water and let's see if we can learn something from his experience.

Matthew 14:25-31, “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.” 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?”

Most times, when you hear a teaching on this passage, the teacher focuses on Peter's lack of faith. I don't want to focus upon that as much as the faith it took for Peter to get out of the boat and the fact that Peter did walk on the water.

I wanted to focus upon this because Jesus wants you to walk on water to and He will empower you just like He did Peter.

Looks think a moment about Peter, who he was and what he was able to do.

1. Peter knew Jesus

Peter and the apostles had been hanging around Jesus for possibly a couple of years when this even occurred.

Peter had personal knowledge of Jesus, who He was and what He could do. He watched as Jesus taught, healed the sick and cast out demons. In fact, if you read Matthew 10 and Luke 9 & 10, you will see that Peter was given the power to cast out demons and heal the sick and he used that power very successfully. So he had experienced who Jesus was and the power he had. He had faith in Jesus.

2. Peter **asked** Jesus to ask him to walk on the water

Peter didn't step out of the boat on his own. Peter wanted to jump out of the boat in faith but he resisted his own impulses until he checked with Jesus.

I don't know about you but it seems in my life, most of the deep water I get into is because I jumped in before I asked. I saw something that I thought needed to be done, to be said and I jumped in blindly and found myself in over my head. And at times I began flailing around, drowning and pulling down anyone who happened to be around me.

Have you ever been there? Run right in on impulse or emotion only to find yourself in deeper water than you expected. It usually doesn't turn out very pretty does it. This is being unstable and double-minded.

3. Peter walked on the water in **perfect trust** in Jesus

This is the key isn't it? Faith. Faith and trust in who Jesus is and what He wants for your life. Faith is the common idea in each of the passages that we have looked at.

Does anyone here know what the biblical word manifest means? As it is used in the Bible?

Manifest: to bring the spiritual into the physical

Bringing the spiritual realities, the things that are true in the spiritual kingdom of God and seeing them become a physical reality that you and everyone around you can see.

The best example of this is when God became man in the flesh. God, who is Spirit manifested Himself, became a physical reality in the person of His Son Jesus.

When Jesus performed miracles, turning the water into wine, healing the sick, casting out demons and even when He was raised from the dead, this was a manifestation of the power of heaven becoming a physical reality. When Peter walked on the water it was the power of heaven over-coming the physical laws of nature. It was the manifestation of heaven's power.

Is everyone following what I am trying to explain concerning manifestations, manifesting?

Well, I want to tell you this morning God is still in the miracle business. He desires that each of us know and trust Him so well that when the time comes for you to manifest His power and glory you will step out of the boat and walk on water.

I don't know about you but this is the place I want to be. I want to be a water walker in my marriage, in my relationships with other people, in the difficult circumstances that come up, in the ministry God has called me into in this place.

Can you imagine what it would be like if all of us, in our great faith and trust in God, walk on water in all the different circumstances and people that are in our lives? Can you imagine how bright and full of the glory of God this place would be? People would drive from miles around just to bask in His glory in this place. To find healing in their lives physically, emotionally and spiritually.

This is what God wants for His church but it begins with each of us individually. It begins as we avail ourselves to swimming lessons, water walking lessons.

How can we begin our lessons? Let's follow Peter's plan.

Steps to walking on water, manifesting the power and glory of God in your life.

a. Look back at what God has accomplished in your life and give Him praise for it.

I believe that most Christians have spiritual ADD. They soon forget just how blessed they have been and are in their lives. God has been working in your life for years. He is still working and will continue to work and for this we can give Him our praise.

Peter knew Jesus, had seen what Jesus could do and had done. So when it came time for him to walk on water he put His trust in Jesus. Giving God praise for who He is and what He has done in your life is key to keep your faith at walking on water level.

b. Ask God what's up, ask Him what He is doing in your life

This is what Peter did, He wanted to know what Jesus wanted him to do. This is what James was talking about when he said ask for wisdom. Jesus wants you to know what's up. He wants you to know what to do or not to do so ask Him.

c. Allow Jesus time to speak and unfold His plan, be patient!

This is probably the hardest step isn't it? To step back and not do anything. To pray and be patient to see what Jesus is going to do or ask you to do. Peter didn't step out of the boat until Jesus asked him to.

d. When you see/hear what Jesus wants you to do, do it! Step out on the water and leave the results to Him.

Ask for courage then be obedient. God loves and will bless obedience. Being obedient to the things Jesus shows us is the biggest step of faith. He will bless your obedience by doing the miraculous. He will bless you in your marriage, in your relationships, with your kids and in your circumstances.

Jesus wants you to walk on water, over your circumstances, over your problems so that you will have peace in your life and so His glory and power will be seen, manifested into the world.

I want to be a water walker don't you?

I want all of us to be water walkers so we are going to continue to break down these last four points over the coming weeks.

Amen? Amen!

Walking On Water Outline

Isaiah 26:3, "The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, because they trust in You."

Steadfast: Firm, stable, unwavering.

James 1:5-8, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶ But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do."

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Jesus wants you to walk on water!

1. Peter _____ Jesus

Vs. 28, “Lord, if it is You.

2. Peter _____ Jesus to ask him to walk on the water

“tell me to come to you on the water”

3. Peter walked on the water in _____ in Jesus

“Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.”

Manifest: to bring the spiritual into the physical

Steps to walking on water, manifesting the power and glory of God in your life

- a. Look back at what God has accomplished in your life and give Him praise for it.
- b. Ask God what’s up. Ask Him what He is doing in your life and what He wants you to do.
- c. Allow Jesus time to speak and to unfold His plan, be patient!
- d. When you see/hear what Jesus wants you to do, do it! Step out on the water and leave the results to Him.