

Stronger Faith

Stronger faith gets more result

The Bible episode of Peter walking on water (below) is very illuminating: (1) Jesus measures our faith by the miracle we get, (2) God's power moves based on the strength of our faith, (3) stronger faith moves more power to manifest results faster than little faith. This is another example of " . . . according to your faith be it unto you," Matthew 9:29.

Peter Walks on Water

Matthew 14:24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O **thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?**

1. Jesus' "come" (verse 29) expressed God's will. Peter acted according to God's will, when Peter walked on water. [See the "Bible Miracles Explained" study.] God's power was holding up both Jesus and Peter. But the wind whipped up the waves (an adverse circumstance, like sickness or rumors of job layoff). Peter saw it and was afraid (that God's Word was not good enough). Notice that it was the adverse circumstances that caused Peter to be afraid. Peter could believe God's word (when Jesus said "come"), or he could believe the wind and waves would overwhelm God's power/will to support Peter.

2. Peter was afraid, and he probably did something to express his doubt (like stop walking, as one pastor thought). Then a bit of God's power left Peter, because Peter "began to sink." It appears that God's power cannot coexist with doubt of God's power, and, by extension, with doubt of God's

word. God's power acted/reacted instantly and by degrees to Peter's agreement/disagreement with God's Word.

3. Jesus had no trouble standing on water. God was not weak. One pastor thought that even as Peter started to sink, Peter could have risen back up to the top of the water, if Peter had remembered that God is God and God can easily support Peter. [See the "Bible Miracles Explained" study.]

4. Jesus attributed Peter's sloshing through water to Peter's doubt, for Jesus said, "why did you doubt?" Jesus commented on Peter sloshing through water as "little faith." Sloshing through water is still a miracle, although a smaller miracle than walking on water. So, doubt results in "little faith," and "little faith" results in smaller miracle. This episode shows the inverse of Mark 11:23 and is an example of ". . . according to your faith be it unto you" (Matthew 9:29). This example tells us that the degree of our belief in what God says regarding receiving from God regulates how much we receive when we do faith. Mark 11:22-24 says that we need to believe we receive when we do faith. [See the studies: "What Jesus Means by Faith," "How Not Receive From God," and "Fight the Good Fight of Faith."]

This passage shows the biggest hurdle to man receiving miracles: building stronger faith. [See the "Fight the Good Fight of Faith" study.] Most Christians do not see miracles manifest regularly and on demand. Many are taught miracles are not for this time. Consequently, if they do not search the Bible for themselves, then it is difficult to believe they receive from God when they pray (Mark 11:22-24).

Therefore, our job is to steadily build up our faith. [See the "Fight the Good Fight of Faith," "The Work We Do," and "Prayer Authority" studies on how to do this.] In the meantime, continue to do more faith. [See the "Jesus Paul Do More Faith" study.]

One time, I said to Terry Mize (something like), "I have a notion that big jobs require more faith." Terry replied, "That sounds about right."

Another Example

Acts 19:13 Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the LORD Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth.

14 And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so.

15 And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?

16 And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

The stranger in Mark 9:38 was able to cast out devil by using Jesus' name. But in Acts 19:13-16 (above), the sons of Sceva were not able to cast out evil spirits. Why the different results? The evil spirit did not respect them. They needed to make their faith stronger.

More stronger faith

To manifest miracles faster (to get prayers answered faster): (1) more faith, (2) stronger faith, (3) more stronger faith. Here is an example of "more stronger faith":

Mark 8:22 And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him.

23 And he (Jesus) took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought.

24 And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking.

25 After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.

Mark 16:18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

In Mark 8:22-25 above, Jesus kept on laying hands on the blind man (faith action in agreement with Mark 16:18 above) until God's will manifested on earth: the blind man's vision restored. Jesus has strong faith. Therefore, this is an example of "more stronger faith."

Christians do "more stronger faith" to save Peter

Acts 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.

2. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

3. And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

4. And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

6. And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.

7. And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.

8. And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

9. And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.

10. When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.

11. And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the LORD hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

12. And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where **many were gathered together praying**.

This is a fascinating episode. God did not save James, but God sent an angel to save Peter. Bible says God treats everyone the same. So, why the different outcome?

James did not have many praying for him. Once the Christians found out Herod killed James and then captured Peter, presumably to do the same, many Christians prayed endlessly for Peter (Acts 12:5). They did 1 Thessalonians 5:17. This is an example of "more faith."

Peter was asleep when the angel came. So, it must have been late. Acts 12:12 says that many Christians were still praying for Peter this late into the night. So, these Christians were definitely doing "more faith" because many were praying for long duration.

More stronger faith to beat a short deadline

One unique factor in this episode is that these Christians were trying to beat a hard, short deadline. So, I think these Christians who were still praying when Peter showed up were doing "stronger faith" because they knew they could beat a short, hard deadline. People who do not have confidence in beating short deadlines would have contributed and then went to bed. After all, they all have to work the next morning. This is a great example of how to get a miracle fast, beating a deadline. They all did 1 Thessalonians 5:17. Lastly, Peter was asleep. Peter was saved by intercessors' "more stronger faith."

It is also interesting that the angel came so late to save Peter. No angel came to save James. Even with many Christians doing faith to save Peter, the angel still came so late. It could be that this angel was delayed by a devil like Daniel's angel was delayed (Daniel 10:13). Or, it could be that this job just requires large amount of faith. Either way, the smart way to "destroy" devil's work (John 14:12/1 John 3:8/John 10:10) is to pour in faith "without ceasing" like these Christians did.

This episode demonstrates God protecting us and supplying our needs. This episode demonstrates Jesus saying, "my grace is sufficient for you." [See the "The Big Picture" study.] This episode also demonstrates ". . . according to your faith be it unto you," Matthew 9:29 and ". . . my God shall supply all your need . . .," Philippians 4:19.

If you should be falsely charged like the "January 6 protestors" were, you and your circle of powerful intercessors should follow this example.

This is an exemplary example that we should emulate.

If we continue to grow our faith stronger, then we can also do "more stronger faith." [See the "Fight the Good Fight of Faith" study.]

Disclaimer:

This is not a tutorial. Only the key Bible verses are listed. You may need to look up the context, the surrounding verses, to get the full message/meaning. The verses here are in the King James translation. Here is a popular Internet Bible with many translations and languages: www.biblegateway.com. You may find translations such as NIV and AMP easier to understand. The Bible verses are in Courier New 11 font, and the clarifications that I inserted into a Bible verse are inside parentheses in italics. If you want more precise translation, go to www.blueletterbible.org, choose the King James Version (KJV), input the book and chapter, and turn on the Strong word option. The returned web page will show Bible verses as well as each word's Strong number, its meaning, and cross references.

Also, using the name of Jesus to receive healing does not mean refusing medical care. You should receive medical care because God wants you healthy. But you should also use Jesus' name to pray the prayer of faith to receive healing from God.

Lastly, these Bible studies do not address other Bible issues. Other issues are well addressed by other Christian sources. These studies only focus on how to receive miracles faster.
