

"When Faith Seems Impossible"

Recognize my stubborn resistance to faith:

My wounded pride: I feel like a failure

My selfish greed: I don't want to sacrifice

My uncertain fear: I must maintain control

Identify where I really live:

In myself: Self-centered and selfish

For others: Fame and acceptance

For the Lord: Obligation and Duty

In the Lord: Freedom and Security

Make sure I am living by faith:

Believe Him to love me

Know Him as my Savior

Obey Him out of love

Make Him Lord of my life

Understand my journey toward trust:

Felt needed in my disappointment

Grew urgent in my discouragement

Became necessary in my despair

Some practical suggestions:

Commit for today every day

Use a symbolic act of faith

Make yourself accountable to someone

Can I hear God's the invitation to faith?

Jesus says "Come"

John 15:5-8

5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Matthew 14:22-33

22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

25 During the fourth watch of the night 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?"

32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. 33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

NIV

Sermon Notes

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John 15:5-8

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Pastor Philip C. Rogers

Middletown

Church of the Nazarene

Middletown, Indiana

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