

## THE DOUBT THAT DISTRACTS US

*Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14:31).*

Peter stepped out of a boat in the middle of a storm and literally walked upon the surface of the water to meet Jesus upon the waves. Matthew records that the problem came when Peter "saw the wind" and began to sink (14:30). How often do we ask for God to allow us to join him where he is only to face the wind, begin to doubt the decision and sense our hopes start to sink?

Just as Peter was distracted by the conditions around him and took his eyes off Jesus, we too can allow doubt to draw our focus away from the priority of Christ. Every doubt is based upon forgetting or ignoring something of God's character, ability or willingness.

If we say...

*I'm worried.* "We really mean, "I don't trust you, all-powerful God."

*"I'm impatient."* - "Eternal God, I am wondering if you understand the concept of time."

*"I'm in a panic because no one saw this coming!"* - "All-knowing Lord, I am living as though your wisdom has limits."

*"I must hold on tightly to everything I get."* - "God, even though you rule over all creation, I don't believe that you will provide for my needs."

*"No good can come of this."* - "Sovereign Lord, your design for my life may be incorrect."

*"I must do this myself." - "Father, I'm afraid that your grace will fall short of my need."*

Don't allow the wind to draw your eyes away from Christ. Doubt distracts our faith, but doubt is cured by attention. Turn your focus to God in prayer and remember who he is (Isaiah 26:3).

**Prayer prompt: In what areas are you most tempted to doubt. Take some time and think through each area of doubt and ask God to reveal his character to you in each situation and circumstance. Give him thanks and praise him for being a completely trustworthy God.**

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,  
the conviction of things not seen.*

- Hebrews 11:1

*For some reason, we think of doubt and worry as "small" sins. But when a Christian displays unbelief, he is saying to the world, "My God cannot be trusted," and that kind of disrespect makes one guilty of a fundamental error, the heinous sin of dishonoring God. That is no small sin.*

- John MacArthur

*Thy way, not mine, O Lord,  
however dark it be;  
lead me by thine own hand,  
choose out the path for me.*

- Horatius Bonar