



“BOAT CHRISTIANS”

Joshua 1:2 Fellowship

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Monthly Newsletter

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BOAT CHRISTIANS

MATT. 14:28-31

“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?” And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.” Walking on water today is: Trusting Jesus with all your heart. A total surrender of your will to do His will. Obedience to God through your headship, your Pastor! Having the faith of God in your heart. A praying man with a prayer closet. Focusing your eyes on Jesus in spite of failure and mistakes in your walk with Jesus. The Cross and all its benefits. Today many Christians and leaders are comfortable in their boat of: Carnality (Pleasing their fleshly desires) Self-confidence and self-efforts. Doing their own will for their life and rejecting God’s will. Content in being an ordinary Christian. The devil has lied to them that they can never walk on water! You can never be in the ministry. You can never be anointed like

Pastor or evangelist so and so. You will never change and become more like Jesus. You will never have victory over that secret sin. And the devil continues to lie to you, “You will never walk on water, so you need to stay on that Boat”

* WHY DO SOME CHRISTIANS BECOME BOAT CHRISTIANS?

THEY DON’T BELIEVE THAT THEY CAN WALK ON WATER

“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” he said, **Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.**” (VV. 28-29)

When Peter saw that it was Jesus walking on water, he had the faith to do the same. He wanted what Jesus had to offer him. A new walk with Him. Walking in the supernatural. Peter believed Jesus’ Word when He told him to ‘COME’ and by faith he stepped out of the boat and started walking in the power of His resurrection, walking on water. The other 11 disciples did not believe or have faith to step out of the boat and also walk on water like Peter.

The 11 disciples were content to stay in the boat and were not willing to take a chance in

walking on water. They were not willing to enter into a new walk with Jesus like Peter. They were actually saying, ‘that kind of walk is not for us, maybe for Peter, but not for us.’ The 11 disciples limited the power of God in their lives. They were okay in being ‘BOAT CHRISTIANS’ Many Christians never respond to the calling of God in their lives because they feel safe in their little boats.

* **WHY DO SOME CHRISTIANS BECOME BOAT CHRISTIANS?**

THEY DON'T WANT TO SURRENDER THEIR WILL TO DO GOD'S WILL



“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

“Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. (VV. 28-29) Peter surrendered his will to do God’s will, and that was for him to walk on water like Jesus and to experience a new walk with God. Many Christians want to serve God but according to their own will. Jesus said, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” God’s will for the 12 disciples was for them to all walk on water and experience a new walk with Jesus. Jesus wanted to enlarge the borders of their

hearts so that they could be used in the power of His might. Jesus had prophesied to them “Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.” John 14:12. The Bible declares that God has already designed the plans for our lives. He has a blueprint in heaven designed by God Himself with your name on it! “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jer. 29:11 God’s plan for all the disciples was for all of them to walk on water that night, but only Peter had the faith and was the only one who believed that he could walk on water like Jesus. Today, God desires to use every born-again Christian in a powerful way, but like the ‘Boat Christians’ of Jesus’ days, they are content to remain in their boats. These ‘Boat Christians’ don’t want to pay the price in serving God. They don’t want to die to self and self-pleasure and still love the pleasures of the world. They are content in doing their own will. Peter wanted to please God and do His will. He remembered the words that Jesus spoke to him when he was called to the ministry. “As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. **“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”** At once they left their nets and followed him.” (Matt. 4:18-20) If walking on water was to be part of his training in for him to be a great fisher of men, (winning souls) so be it; I WILL WALK ON

WATER! In Acts 4:3-4 it reveals to us Peter walking on water, (power of the Holy Spirit flowing through him like rivers of living water), “They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand. Walking on water today will cause you plenty of spiritual warfare from the Devil, but souls will get saved! Peter surrendered his will to do God’s will and it cost him much suffering. Jesus did God’s will and they killed Him on a cross. ‘Boat Christians’ don’t want to surrender their will to God because they know it will cost them pain, sacrifice, sufferings and dying to self. So, they say, ‘It’s nice over here inside this warm and comfy boat. Peter can walk on water, but we are okay inside the boat. We are ‘Boat Christians’

* WHY DO SOME CHRISTIANS BECOME BOAT CHRISTIANS?

THEY DON’T WANT TO FIGHT IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE



“**But when he saw the wind**, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him.” The Bible shows us that Peter saw the wind and he became afraid. The wind he saw were the powers of hell

coming against him as he desires to walk in a new dimension with Jesus and getting closer to God. When the devil saw that Peter was now walking like Jesus, in the power of His resurrection it put fear in his evil heart. Satan launched out an all-out attack against Peter to try to get him to abandoned his faith that he could walk like Jesus on water. The devil saw a war-club in the making that God was going to use in a mighty way to destroy his kingdom of darkness. The devil was trying to steal his faith and for him to totally abandon his trust in God in this new walk with Jesus. But Peter was no fool, he called upon the name of Jesus, “beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” He did not call upon the 11 disciples but on his Drill Sergeant to save him. His trust was not on man but on God. Proverbs 3:5 says, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;”

When we call on Jesus in times of fierce spiritual warfare or even in our failures, Jesus will never forsake you or abandon you, but come to your rescue because He loves you. Hebrews 13:5c says, “**Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.**” The Bible says that Jesus immediately comes to Peter’s rescue! “But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” **Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him.**” (VV. 30-31) The problem with the 11 Boat Christians was that they also saw how satan had viciously attacked Peter and almost drown him, that they said, ‘That’s the reason I don’t want to walk on water.’ **Too much spiritual warfare!** They were probably saying to one another, no way I want that kind of satanic attacks in my life. I rather be

a 'Boat Christian' because there is no warfare over here. It is safer inside the Boat than outside and walking on water getting closer to Jesus! So, these Boat Christians limit the power of God in their lives! They put handcuffs on the Holy Ghost and cannot function in the supernatural. Do you want to become a 'Boat Christian' or a Christian like Peter walking on water in spite of failures and mistakes? The choice is yours to make. The 11 disciples made that decision on that very special day that Peter walked on water. They said 'No Thanks' to Jesus and probably told Jesus, 'it is more comfortable in the boat and more secure.'

CONCLUSION:

Why do some become 'Boat Christians'? They do not believe they can walk on water. They do not want to surrender their will to do God's will. They do not want to fight in spiritual warfare. But Jesus is saying to all Christians, "**Come,**" he said. **Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus."**

