

## **Failure to Launch!** ***Part 4: Setting Our Sight on Jesus!***

**Mildly funny as a movie script... Not funny in real life...** Can precipitate a tragedy! 40 years of wandering in the wilderness waiting while a generation died... Like the Early Church experiencing persecution and death before dispersing their new faith... Or near tragedy! The demoniac boy leaving demonized because the disciples lacked power!

**The disciples...** Were seeing something that was keeping them from believing what they knew... Asked, 'why couldn't we cast it out?' "Because of your *unbelief!* But this kind only comes out by prayer with fasting!" Didn't have a demon problem. Mechanism of dealing with demons not fasting/prayer but authority/power! Had a doubt problem/extracted w/prayer and fasting [drawing near to God/faith!]

**God expects us to respond to Him and to life in faith! And when we don't or can't it's a failure to launch! And it's not even mildly funny!**

**So far...**

We have the proclamation of faith that prevents FTL! Speak what you see/show what you know! Start in the natural and finish in the spirit! Declare what is not yet as though it was! VAVOOM! Tunneling our way thru... VAVOOM! Stopping the flow of something destructive!

**So far...** We have the right circle of friends to get the job done if we can't help! It's important to be part of a group that can get people with needs to Jesus! Not exclusive... But in the place where someone is going to have proficiency to speak...

***For your own success you must be plugged into a mentoring square!***

**So far...** We have prayer with fasting to remove doubt! As we practice the presence of God thru our times of prayer... As we experience His sustaining hand and clarity of voice in our fasting's... The doubt that He can do anything He said is removed!

***Today add "tunnel vision" that has Jesus as the light at the end!***

**Matthew 14.22-33** Jesus compelled His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

***What began in simple faith ended in failure to launch!***

**Peter's Problem...** Was not the sea... Well acquainted with wind and waves... Certain he had been swimming more than once in open water... But what he was "seeing..." the wind *boisterous!* What he "knew" so well was keeping him from believing what was "new!"

***"Never been this way before" is exactly what faith is about!***

**Peter...** Sees Jesus and Jesus gives him the nod bidding him to come... Walked quite a distance... on the water... at His bidding... (within reach!) But he caved in by taking his eyes off Jesus and putting them onto the environment! His senses were at work against him... Eyes, ears, taste, touch, smell...

***Only the supernatural can override that!***

**The inspiration...**

***Can start out well and end with a fall, but Jesus is still there to catch you!*** Simple, humble prayer: "SAVE ME!"  
***Without Jesus there the circumstances of life would sink you!*** "When you pass thru the waters I will be with you and thru the rivers, they will not overflow you!" ***Jesus saves before He fixes!*** "Why did you doubt?" 'Help my unbelief!'

**Walk Away's...**

***Jesus has power over the natural elements of this life! YAY!*** Suspend the laws of nature/physics! Suspend the influence of our nature if we keep our eyes fixed on Him! "Who is this that even the wind and the sea obey Him?" **Mk4.37-41** "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" **v40**

***Jesus gives power over natural elements to those who believe! Hooray!*** "And Peter got down out of the ship and walked on the water to go to Jesus!" **DIFFICULTIES CEASE WITH CHRIST IN THE TURBULENCE WITH YOU!**  
"Whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith! Who overcomes the world? Those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God!" **1J5.4,5**

***When we exercise faith we have the power to have the same thing that Jesus has! Booyah!*** "Walking-on-the-water-in-the-darkness-but-still-right-on-the-target" ability! Get our eyes off Peter and the other disciples who never even got out of the boat... Fix them on the model Jesus leaves us to experience the supernatural life of God He has left for us to have!

**As Disciples...** Called to inherit all the promises of God! Believe His report/remove the giants! Called to walk out into the darkness! Like the early church we can't huddle up! Called to actively assault doubt! Word, Spirit, Friends, Prayer and fasting! Called to step up and out, walking in the power, on the pathways, Jesus walked! Going deeper... but not sinking!