

**July 27, 2022**

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

***Mt. 14:22-32 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowd. After He had dismissed them, He went up on a mountainside by Himself to pray. Later that night, He was there alone, and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw Him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "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. (NIV)***

Now, the furnaces or storms of life have a great capacity to teach us some well needed lessons for our walk in faith. Here are five lessons we can learn if we will listen in the midst of the storm. The storms will reveal the *nature* of my faith. Do I trust in myself or other things rather than in Christ? Peter's faith was stronger than any of the other disciples, and yet when he got out of the boat and began walking to Jesus, he then looked at the waves (realizing that people can't walk on waves). The storms will reveal the *strength* of my commitment. Peter was committed to get out of the boat, but not to keep his eyes on the LORD. In his weakness, he began to sink. The storms will reveal the *level* of my maturity. This was early in Peter's walk with Christ, and so he feared for his life instead of looking to the One Who holds his life in His hands. The storms will reveal the *healthiness* of my attitude. With boldness, Peter stepped out in faith and began walking toward Jesus. But then He took his eyes off of Him and looked at the circumstances. His attitude immediately changed from boldness to fear. The storms will reveal the *measure* of my teach-ability. Again, Peter was quick to step out, but it wasn't long until he was crying out. Now in Peter's defense, he at least tried when the rest of the disciples were afraid to even consider the opportunity. We must walk by faith, not by sight. Our senses and capabilities will always scream, 'you can't!' But we must remember, with Christ, we can do all things!

**Dear LORD, make us teachable. Help us to trust in You and You alone. You are everything we will ever need. We put our trust in You alone! In Jesus Name, Amen**