

Speaker : Associate Pastor Peter Ong

Title : Little Faith

Text : Matthew 8:23-27

Introduction

- Whenever JESUS demonstrates FAITH something tremendous happens!
- Faith is a necessity for one's journey in this life because we are dependent beings with all kinds of DIS-type symptoms!
- Faith in God through Jesus Christ is the only remedy for this life! **(EPH 2:8-10)**

The account of Jesus waking, rebuking the winds and the sea, and bringing a great calm in **Matthew 8:23-27** has very interesting observations about faith.

Matthew, Mark, and Luke records the statement of Jesus to the disciples in Matthew 8: 26, variedly, but each does not imply the absence of faith. The faith may be little but it is the presence of faith that can make the difference.

- I.** Fear can easily hinder one's little faith whereas dynamic faith can certainly destroy one's fear **(MT 8:26.27)**.
 - a. The appearance and fact of nature's elements were very real. The disciples were afraid! Fear always appears more dangerous than the danger itself! The disciples responded to the situation in the flesh
 - b. Fear can be destroyed! Jesus showed that faith in God can change the situation. In responding spiritually He believed God was in control and He rebuked the winds and the sea to calm. The disciples forgot about their perishing but marveled at what Jesus did!
- II.** Little faith is often focused on self but dynamic faith seeks to fulfill God's purpose and will **(MT 8:25,26; see MK 4:36)**
 - a. The disciples followed Jesus. They had faith in God through Jesus but it was for what they have received and experienced. Jesus was a wonderful blessing to them.
 - b. God had purposed for them to be fishers of men. They have already received God's call for their lives. Jesus was leading them to live with dynamic (energetic, continuous, productive) faith ... a Spirit filled life!
- III.** Little faith when translated to dynamic faith will cause you to brave whatever storms and sea you have to go through **(MT 8:24,26.27)**.
 - a. Jesus asleep on the boat was a testimony that He was as human as any other disciple. He was tired after ministry but when there was a situation that needed action the Holy Spirit's anointing was evidenced through His dynamic faith.
 - b. To translate one's faith to be dynamic is not an overnight or a one-time adventure but a continual yielding to the work and leading of the Holy Spirit in one's life.

Conclusion

What storms or waves are you facing? What fears keep visiting you? What is rocking your life?

Rise up with faith in God through Jesus today ... and pray believing!