

# LIVING FEARLESS: Imagine Your Life without Fear

## FEAR OF OVERWHELMING CHALLENGES

July 4, 2010; Part 4

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### They Did Not Expect To See Jesus

"A ghost!" they said, crying out in terror." *Matthew 14:26 MSG*

"Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!" *Matthew 14:27 NLT*

- Facing overwhelming odds is made possible when we know we are not alone

*Philippians 4:5; John 14:20; Matthew 28:20; John 10:28; Romans 8:38*

### Storms Prompt Us to Go Beyond What the Mind Says Is Possible

"Lord, if it's You, command me to come to You on the water." "Come!" He said. And climbing out of the boat, Peter started walking on the water and came toward Jesus." *Matthew 14:28-29 HCSB*

- Peter would not have made this request on a calm sea

### Do Whatever It Takes To Keep You Focus on Jesus

"But when he saw the strength of the wind, he was afraid. And beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me!" *Matthew 14:30 HCSB*

- We are to counterbalance the challenges of life with long looks at God's accomplishments

"For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it." *Hebrews 2:1 NASB*

### Feed Your Fears, and Your Faith Will Starve. Feed Your Faith and Your Fears Will Starve

"I am one who has seen affliction under the rod of God's wrath; he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light; against me alone he turns his hand, again and again, all day long." *Lamentations 3:1-3 NRSV*

"He has made my flesh and my skin waste away, and broken my bones; he has besieged and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation;" *Lamentations 3:4-5 NRSV*

"He has walled me about so that I cannot escape; he has put heavy chains on me; though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer; he has blocked my ways with hewn stones, he has made my paths crooked." *Lamentations 3:7-9 NRSV*

"But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "**therefore I will hope in him.**" *Lamentations 3:21-24 NRSV*

### The Storm Didn't Cease but His Discouragement Did

"Save me, Lord!" he shouted. Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?" When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped." *Matthew 14:30-32 NLT*

- Jesus could have stilled the storm hours earlier. But he didn't – Why?
- God uses the challenges of life to teach us not to fear but place our focus on Him