

## Do Not Lose Faith: Jesus is With You

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### Scriptures:

**Mark 4:35-41**

**Hebrews 11:1**

**Isaiah 55:11**

### Introduction

In a previous message, “Confidence in His Word” from John 4:43-54, Growing in Christ’s Grace focused on discussing faith. The message pointed out that faith is having complete trusting in the Word of God, even when the outcome is unclear. Listeners were encouraged to hold on to faith even when circumstances are clouded by uncertainty and the fog of doubt blocks their view of the shore, being assured that faith is choosing to trust God regardless.

This lesson extends the foundational concepts of faith. In this lesson, the central Scripture, Mark 4:35-41, underscores the fundamental principle: faith entails unwavering confidence in the Word of God.

### Faith Defined

Faith, in its purest form, is unwavering confidence in God’s Word, even when the evidence seems contrary. Hebrews 11:1 reminds us that faith is “*the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*” Whether it is believing for a promotion that hasn’t come yet, reconciliation that has not occurred, or healing that hasn’t manifested, faith allows us to trust God’s promises before the results appear.

Faith is expressed as a decisive “period” in our spiritual lives. What does that mean? It means, despite whatever challenges arise, come hell or high water, we trust God. Faith does not waver in storms, disappointments, or delays. It remains anchored in the certainty of God’s Word.

### Jesus in the Boat

The context of Mark 4 is vital. Earlier in Capernaum, Jesus had been ministering to large crowds, preaching, healing the sick, and casting out demons. As evening fell, Jesus and His disciples embarked on a journey across the Sea of Galilee to the Decapolis, a region of ten cities influenced by Hellenistic culture and pagan worship. This was unfamiliar territory, a place where the Gospel had yet to take root.

Jesus' instruction to His disciples, ***"Let us go to the other side,"*** was more than a simple travel plan, it was prophetic. In that Word, He revealed the outcome to His disciples. The other side was exactly where the Lord intended for them to arrive. The Word is the assurance that we will reach the other side, even when the storm rages and crashed against our boat. If the Lord said it, then it is so and cannot be otherwise! The Word of God is not just advice; it is divine declaration. What the Lord speaks, He performs (2 Chronicles 6:15). This means that the Bible, the written and recorded Word of God, is absolute Truth. God's Word never fails and never returns void; it fulfills precisely what it declares it will accomplish (Isaiah 55:11).

In life, as followers of Christ, we are called to believe first. We may not see the shoreline or know the exact path ahead, but we are to remain steadfast. Faith is trusting God in the unseen, holding onto His promises when circumstances are chaotic.

### **The Word of God as Proof**

The Word of God is proof of what is yet unseen. Hebrews 11:1 teaches that faith gives substance to our hopes. The Bible is our receipt, our tangible evidence that God will fulfill His promises. Every scripture that speaks of God's provision, healing, victory, or favor is confirmation of what we can confidently believe.

For example, if you are praying for a financial breakthrough, Scripture assures you of God's provision. Every promise of healing, reconciliation, or favor is proof that God is faithful. His Word cannot return void. God's Word is reliable because of His unchanging character. He is Dependable, Trustworthy, and Forever Faithful.

### **The Storms of Life**

To be sure, faith does not eliminate trouble. We live in a fallen world where storms are inevitable. Absolutely, storms will roll into our lives and rage. Bad things happen to good people, and good things sometimes happen to the wicked (Matthew 5:45). The righteous are not exempt from affliction and "will suffer persecution." However, the Word reminds us that God delivers His people from all their troubles (Psalm 34:19; 2 Timothy 3:12).

Faith is not about expecting life to be free of challenges. It is about trusting God through the storms. When Jesus and His disciples faced the sudden tempest on the Sea of Galilee, the disciples panicked. Yet Christ, fully aware of the storm before it even arose, slept peacefully. His calm assured them that He was in control.

### **Jesus: Humanity and Divinity**

This story beautifully illustrates the dual nature of Christ. His humanity is seen in His sleep; He was fully man and experienced the need for rest. His divinity is displayed when He

rebukes the wind and the waves, instantly calming the storm. Even nature obeys the voice of its Creator.

Faith allows us to rest in God's sovereignty, knowing that no storm is beyond His control. While we are anxious, He is attentive. While we struggle, He is working.

### **Faith in Action**

True faith involves actively believing while walking through reality. Rowing through the storm with the waves crashing against your boat. True faith does not require pretending that pain, sickness, or sorrow do not exist. Instead, faith acknowledges reality but holds firmly to the promises of God. As 2 Corinthians 10:13 teaches, we *"call those things that be not as though they were,"* speaking God's Word into the circumstances of our lives.

### **Jesus Knew the Storm Would Come**

Jesus, the Alpha and Omega, knew the storm was coming even before He left Capernaum. He was never surprised or caught off guard. Likewise, God is omniscient in our lives. The trials we face are not outside His knowledge or control. Even when circumstances seem chaotic, He already knows the outcome.

### **Wait, Prepare, and Move in Faith**

Faith requires readiness. Spiritual disciplines, prayer, study of God's Word, and praise, prepare us for life's storms. Waiting on the Lord does not mean passivity; it means actively participating in God's mission, trusting Him to provide the desires of our hearts, and walking faithfully in His timing.

### **Take Jesus Along**

The disciples took Jesus into the boat, and likewise, we must invite Him into every journey. Faith ensures we arrive safely at the other side, confident in His promises. No storm, trial, or challenge is too great for Christ to overcome.

### **Testimony**

Seven years ago, I had reconstructive surgery to repair a torn ACL and meniscus in my left knee. The recovery process was long and arduous, marked by unexpected complications that left me feeling discouraged, emotionally drained, and filled with doubt. But, through God's providence, I encountered a man name Brian, a physical therapist, who became an instrument of God's faithfulness in my recovery. Despite facing multiple setbacks and moments when I wanted to throw up my hands, give up, and walk away, Brian refused to let me quit or fail. Instead, Brian remained in the "recovery boat" with me, helping me row across the choppy waters of recovery all the way over to the shore of wholeness. Our heavenly Father is the same and much, much more. He orchestrates every step of our journey, demonstrating that He is indeed a promise keeper. He is faithful. He will never leave you.

Trust the Lord to remain in “the boat” with you during the storms of life, helping you row across the choppy water and over to the other side. This testimony reminds us that God works all things for our good, even when the process seems difficult.

### **Conclusion**

This message encourages us to trust Jesus in every storm. No challenge is too great when He is in the boat with us. He will guide us to the other side safely. Faith is not denial of reality but assurance of God’s promises. It is calling into existence what God has already spoken, knowing that His Word is unfailing.

Let us take Jesus with us in every moment, every trial, every journey. With Him on board, we will always arrive at our destined shore, victorious, renewed, and confident in His unchanging Word.