



## *Taking Risks*

*Matthew 14:22-33*

Demonstrating mature faith can seem like risky business. Perhaps God has called you to an assignment that made you say, "What? There's no way I could do that!" The truth is, however, that the Lord calls His followers to radical obedience every day. And when we hear Him speak, He expects us to act!

Just think about what the disciples in the boat must have thought in Matthew 14:22-33, when Peter stepped out onto the water: He's crazy! Somebody grab him! Nevertheless, Peter trusted the call of Christ.

Isn't it interesting that Peter had no trouble walking on the water until he took his eyes off Jesus? As long as his total focus was on Christ, he was fine. Yet, when he allowed himself to be distracted by human fears, he fell neck-deep in trouble—literally!

This demonstrates an important principle: When doubts prevent us from obeying God, we are doomed to failure. But when we step out in faith, God always assumes full responsibility for the consequences of our obedience.

The story of Peter's walk on the lake teaches us three things. First, we can trust that God will call us into challenging situations which force us to face our fears. Second, we are assured of the enduring presence of Christ, who stands ready to rescue us when we cry out to Him. Third, we know that the Spirit of God will never let us fall beyond His reach.