

FAITH IS ACTION

NOVEMBER 2024 • VOLUME 63 • NUMBER 11

ONE WORD FROM JESUS

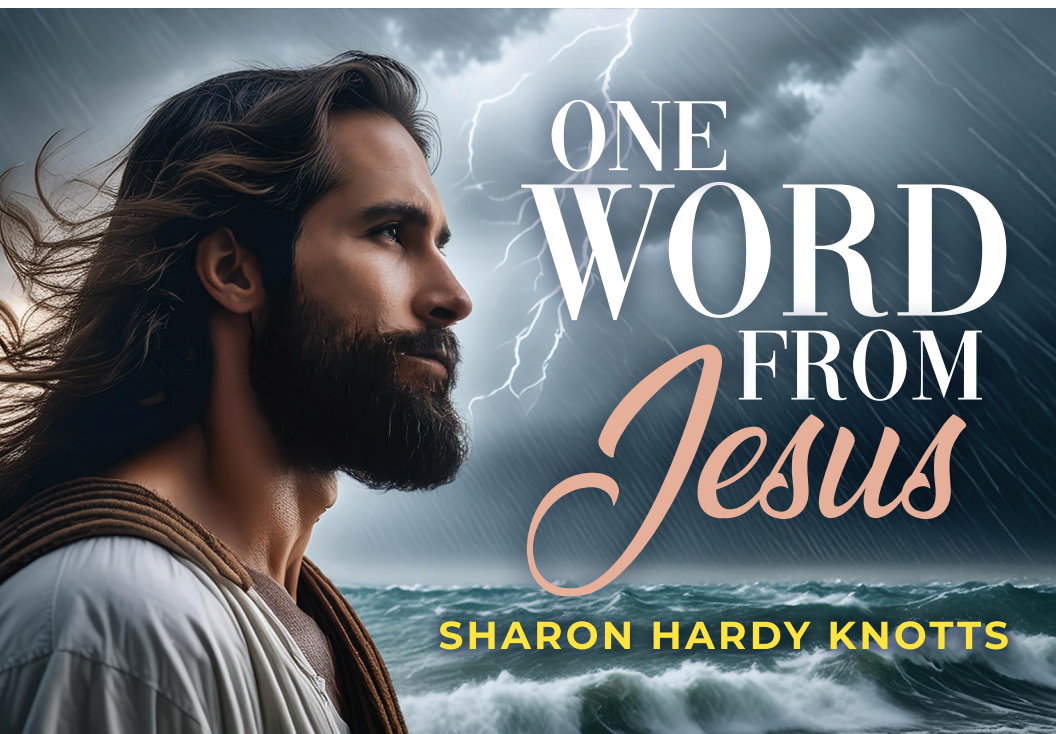


My life is built upon the firm foundation that cannot be moved, regardless of the things that come against me (Mt.7:24-25). Sometimes we get hit hard and even *struck down*, Paul said: “*We are cast down, but we are not destroyed*” (2Cor.4:9). You cannot destroy the faith of a true child of God. You may face the hardest blows and things that could totally devastate your life, but if you are a believer in Jesus Christ, it cannot destroy your faith. You may feel yourself shaken, but when God allows us to be shaken, it is so that you can see what cannot be shaken and what remains (Heb.12:27). In other words, God shakes you to show you that you can stand, because you are standing in Him: You are standing on the Rock of Ages. So when trouble comes, it does not destroy your faith—it strengthens it! It fortifies

your faith. Proverbs 24:10 says, “*If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small,*” but if you stand firm in the day of adversity, your strength is in Jesus Christ, and you can do all things when He is your strength! (Phil.4:13).

I WILL NEVER LEAVE NOR FORSAKE YOU

Satan cannot destroy faith that is rooted firmly in Jesus. He will lie to you to tell you that he can. He will tell you that your faith is going to fail you this time; that this time you can't possibly make it through. He's a liar, and even when you feel uncertain and don't feel that strong assurance that you want, Jesus is always there. He said, “*I will never leave you nor forsake you*” (Heb.13:5). The Greek text is emphatic and means, “*I will never leave you when you are in a hard place; when you are going*



ONE WORD FROM *Jesus*

SHARON HARDY KNOTTS

through difficult things in life.” But when it says, “I will not forsake you,” it means, “I will absolutely never leave you in the lurch, when you feel like you have been abandoned by everyone and everything, when you are at your lowest point.”

Actually, in order for us to get the impact of the meaning of the Greek text, we would have to say it **five times**: *“I will never, never, never, never, no, not ever leave you nor forsake you!”* That’s just how powerful it is!

Jesus is always here, but sometimes you don’t feel Him as much as other times. Because some times what you are going through, and the powers of darkness, and the spiritual warfare, and all of the anguish and agony they generate, can cause your senses to speak louder through the turmoil in your emotions. You feel the tears coming down your face and the knot in your throat. You feel the anxiety and the fear, and all those lies of the enemy are pounding away at you. Jesus is just as near as He ever has been and ever will be, but you are surrounded by the beating winds and rising floods of an evil storm.

A MIRACULOUS DAY & NIGHT

It reminds me of the story that we all know well about Peter walking on the water, but we need to back up a little to the event earlier in the day. Jesus had just fed 5,000 men, *“besides women and children”*, so we can guess-timate that there were probably 20,000 or more, because most Jewish men would have had a

wife and children. He fed this multitude with only two fish and five loaves of bread. Out of all the miracles Jesus did, this is the only one that all four Gospels recorded. This says to me that it really made an impact on them: One little boy’s lunch of two fish and five little biscuits fed 20,000 people. You would never forget this one, especially, if you were one serving it up!

I imagine it took a tremendous burst of dynamic supernatural energy to produce this creative miracle. There had to be such power that went through Jesus to miraculously multiply two fish into thousands. So Jesus was really tapping into the supernatural, and it still happens today. I haven’t heard about it in America, but I have read testimonies of it happening in Africa.

MOZAMBIQUE MIRACLES

Over 30 years ago, a young American couple, Rolland & Heidi Baker, left their safe, middle-class, comfortable life in America and went to Mozambique, one of the poorest nations in Africa. They now have orphanages where they feed thousands of children. But in those early days, there were times when they had gotten down to no food to feed those children. They only had a little bit, so they prayed over it and began to serve it up, *and it multiplied*. This has happened several times when food was multiplied after prayer (*“Always Enough”* Heidi Baker).

Jesus fed the multitude, and when they had all had eaten, *“they were all*

fed and all filled.” He not only fed them, but they were satisfied. And they had twelve baskets left over. He said, “Gather it all that nothing is wasted.” God doesn’t waste anything. (Some people wonder why they don’t get blessed: it may be because they waste their blessings.) Then Jesus told His disciples, “Go get into the boat and go to the other side.” They must have objected, because Mark 6:45 says, “He constrained His disciples.” When you constrain someone, you put pressure on them to compel them. Why didn’t they want to go? Maybe they didn’t want to go without Jesus. Maybe they wanted to hang around and see if He was going to do some other miracles. I don’t know, but He had to say, “I’m going to stay here and dismiss the crowd, and you leave now, get in the ship, and go over to the other side.” Why did Jesus do this? The obvious reason is stated in Matt. 14:23: “And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up into the mountain **apart** to pray: And when the evening was come, He was there alone.”

Sometimes you need to get apart and alone, especially when you come off of a spiritual high. You really need to be careful then, because it’s so easy to “coast” after that, and you can coast for a while on a spiritual high. Sometimes after Sunday night service, I could coast till Wednesday, but if I do that, I may open up a door to the enemy. Jesus needed to get away immediately, because He had spent Himself and the anointing in

ministry and miracles. Anyone who has ever ministered under a heavy anointing knows that while you are under that anointing, you feel like you could fly home. But when it lifts, you feel like you can’t get out of the chair, you are so exhausted! Jesus must have been exhausted, and He wanted time to recuperate. He went up in the mountain, alone, apart in prayer, to get recharged. When you spend and use up your spiritual battery and physical strength, you have to get them recharged.

THE SUPERNATURAL STORM

In the meantime, the disciples have gotten on the boat, and “they were in the midst of the sea”, which means just what it says: “in the middle.” They were halfway across the Sea of Galilee, which is really a lake about four miles wide. So they were about two miles in when the storm came. “The ship was tossed with waves for the wind was contrary.” This infers demonic activity and not just a natural storm. They were in the midst of a vicious storm, and Jesus was over two miles away at least, because they were in the middle, and He was up on the mountain. But He knew they were in trouble.

Now the last time they got in trouble in a boat when a storm came, Jesus was in the boat with them. He was there sleeping on the boat so it was easy for them to say, “Master, Wake up! Don’t you care that we all are going to die?” (Mk.4:35-41). But this time Jesus was at least two or so miles away,

yet He knew that they were in trouble. He knew they were in danger and their lives were threatened. You see, the devil is such a coward. Jesus had performed a great miracle of feeding thousands and the devil was not going to just sit down and say, “Oh well, that’s one for you.” No, he was mad, but he didn’t go after Jesus. *He went after His disciples.* Sometimes the devil is so cotton-picking mad at God, he doesn’t know what to do, *so he comes after you, and he comes after me.* He can’t get to God, so he thinks, *Well, I’ll pick on His kids.* But let me tell you something, the Lord is not going to sit up there on the throne and let him get away with it!

Jesus knew they were in trouble: *“For He saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them, and about the fourth watch, he came unto them”* (Mark 6:48). No matter how alone you may feel sometimes and may feel that you’re in the worst trial you’ve ever been in your life, and nobody understands, *but Jesus knows. He is touched with the feelings of your infirmities* (Heb.4:15-16), and He knows exactly what’s going on, and He will come to you in the midst of your storm.

“And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them walking on the sea.” The fourth watch is between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m., and according to scientists and the medical profession, this is the time when it is the hardest for a person to stay awake. And spiritually, it is often

around the 3 a.m. hour that Satan attacks people in their sleep. If you have a pattern where the devil regularly comes against you at night, oftentimes when you look at the clock, it’s around 3:00. Bill Wiese, who wrote the book *23 Minutes in Hell*, said that he went to Hell at 3:00 and came back at 3:23 in the morning. I have experienced many demonic attacks around this time.

It was between 3 and 6 a.m., and that meant the disciples had to be totally exhausted by then. We can only assume that they hadn’t slept yet. We don’t know how long they had been dealing with this storm, but we know Jesus wouldn’t have dismissed the people at night. He would have dismissed them during daylight, which means the disciples must have been toiling hours out there. Moreover, this was not an ordinary storm; this storm had all of the connotations of demonic activity.

THE SEA-WALKER

Jesus came walking on the water in the midst of that freakish storm. This is important because when Jesus came walking on the water, the wind was still blowing and the sea was still raging. The storm was still kicking up, and the disciples looked out and saw Jesus and thought it was a spirit. They thought they were seeing a ghost, and they cried out for fear. They were then more scared of this than the storm! At least the storm was something they understood. Have you ever been in a test that you hated, but at least you understood it? You’re

going through the test and all the while you're thinking, *I'm going to get through this thing. I'm going to come out of this*, because you understood it. It was the kind of test that you've been through before, and you got through it, and you know it won't last always. But those tests that you don't understand, that come up "out of the blue" are much harder to deal with, and you're thinking: *I don't get this one, Lord. I don't understand it.* They can really get to you, when in the back of your mind you feel like you don't know how to fight the battle, because you don't know what you are dealing with. When you know what are dealing with, you can bind it in Jesus' Name! You can speak whatever needs to be spoken.

JUST ONE WORD...

The disciples saw this "thing" coming closer. Jesus had not identified Himself at this point, but somehow or another, there was something that kicked in for Peter. He looked out there, but Jesus was not close enough for him to be sure, or he would not have said, *"Lord, if it be You, bid me to come to You on the water."* He couldn't really see clearly, and sometimes we can't really see what is happening around us in the midst of our storm. I don't hear any of the others saying anything. There were no other volunteers to get out of the boat.

Here's the thing: Jesus didn't say, *"Well, of course, it's Me! Who do you think it is?"* In fact, He only said *one word*: **"Come!"** That was

it. Jesus did **not** say, "Oh, Peter, you know you need to believe. You need to just step out here on faith. Of course, you know it is Me. Don't you know and recognize Me?" No, but He just met Peter at the point of his faith and said, **"Come!"**

You know how it is in those times when you are in a severe trial, when you are going through a wicked storm that is demonically controlled against you, O Lord, what you would not give for a prophecy! Have you ever been in a fierce test when you just wished that God would give you a prophecy? Have you ever flicked through the Christian TV stations just hoping that somebody would say, *"This word is for Sharon. She is sitting there with a red dress on."* (Come on, I know how it goes!) Or you wished they would say, *"I don't know who, but the Lord is giving me this Scripture for someone,"* and you just highlighted in your Bible that morning. You may know what it's like to plead with God: "O Lord, just give me a *prophecy!* Just give me a *Scripture!*" And all He gives you is *one word*: **"Trust!" "Believe!" "Obey!" "Stand!"**

You wanted God to give you a great flowery prophecy filled with wonderful words, but He said, *"When you have done all that you know to do — **Stand!**"* Let me tell you, when you are in the midst of your storm, and all you get from the Lord is one word: **Trust! Stand! Believe!** — *One word from Jesus is all you need!* I said, *One word from Jesus is all you need*, so hang on to

that **one word** and don't let it go!

For on that *one word*, Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water. He believed that word, and he stepped out on that word. You can step out on one word, and you won't sink. It will hold you up. He walked on the water, and there's nobody else in the entire Bible that ever did that but Peter.

YOU WON'T SINK!

I want to point out to you: the storm was still roaring, the winds were still blowing; in fact, the word in the KJV is *boisterous*, and the waves were crashing. When he obeyed the voice of the Lord and acted on the word, the storm had not stopped. Jesus hadn't calmed it. He did not say, "Let it all calm down. Now come on, Peter, Come on out here and step on this beautiful glassy sea." No, he had to get out of the boat with the spray of the waves smacking him in the face and the wind punching him in the back. He had to step out as the waves and the wind continued to rage, because sometimes you have to make your move in the midst of the storm. When Jesus says, "*Come*", you can't wait for everything to be peaceful and still.

Peter began walking on the water! *On the stormy sea!* But when he saw the winds so boisterously, when he felt the waves and the water slapping at him, he was afraid and began to doubt. You know your senses can be your worst enemy, because 2Cor. 5:7 says, "*We walk by faith and not by*

sight." **Faith walks. Sight sinks.** By faith you can walk on the water. By sight you will sink in the sea of doubt.

When he *saw* the waves and *felt* the turmoil of the water, he doubted, and he began to sink. But even if you do that, just do what Peter did. He cried out, "*Lord, Save me! Lord, Help me! Lord, Deliver me!*" When you cry out in your desperation, Jesus is going to reach out with the everlasting arms that are an eternal refuge. He is going to swoop you up. He's not going to let you sink – The devil is a liar! Oh, you may find yourself floundering a little in the water. You may feel like you go down and come up, and go down and come, but I promise you, He will deliver you!

The Psalmist said, "*He sent from above; He took me, and He drew me out of many waters.*" (Ps.18:16). Jesus will sweep you up just in time. He lifted Peter up, and they both took one big step, and they were safely on the boat. *Then* the wind ceased, and the storm died down. Only after Peter had stepped out on faith and Jesus acted to deliver him, did the storm cease. When they were all safe and sound and everything had calmed down, they were probably sitting there drying off trying to take it all in. You talk about a momentous 24-hour day! Miraculously feeding 5000 people, spending half the night out in a storm in a boat and almost drowning, thinking that they were seeing a ghost, watching Peter get out of the boat and

walk on water, and then he almost drowned, these guys were exhausted.

Jesus said to Peter, “*Oh you of little faith, why did you doubt?*” He didn’t give him some big sermon. That was all He had to say. Sometimes that is what the Lord says to us, “*Why are you doubting? Just believe, because you’re not going to sink. I’m not going to let that happen.*” You would have to turn your back on Jesus and walk away from Him, and then you’ll sink. But if you’re reaching out to Jesus, and you’re calling on Him, He’s not going to let you sink. He will deliver you. Yes, Peter should have believed. Yes, he shouldn’t have doubted, and he shouldn’t have allowed his physical senses to throw him a curve to overwhelm his trust in Jesus. But I want you to know that if you are ever in that place, the Lord is going to deliver you just like He delivered Peter. He may give you a little sermon afterwards. He may say, “Ah, you shouldn’t have doubted. You should have believed”, but you need to know that He will rescue you.

I think it’s interesting that the only one that got a “sermon” and a finger of reprimand shook at him was the only one who got out of the boat. The rest of the guys didn’t even get out of the boat. But you see, Jesus was actually *encouraging* Peter, sort of saying, “*Man, you were on your way. You were doing what I was doing. You were stepping out with Me on the water, so why did you doubt?*”

Always remember, when the

Lord reprimands us, it is because He loves us. It is because we are His kids and He is proud of us. He sees the effort that we are making, that we are striving to walk in obedience. He is proud of what we’ve done, but oh, He sees we have so much more potential. There is so much more that we can do as He works in us and through us. If Peter did that *with doubt*, what could he do *without doubt*? And like Peter, we too are growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord, and our faith is being stretched all the time.

MY WALK OF FAITH

There were often times in my faith-walk and spiritual journey when I would beat myself up terribly for doubting. I didn’t need the Lord to scold me; I’d beat myself up, because I doubted and allowed the enemy to put fear on me. For instance, I would get a touch from the Lord in my back, and then a couple of days later, if I started having a problem, I then doubted that I ever got a touch in the first place. I can’t tell you how many times I went through that, and I hated it. I would beat myself up and say, “*Now why did you do that? You know the devil is going to come after you receive a healing touch to challenge you. So you should be ready.*” It’s so easy to say that, but when you are in the throes of it, when you are in the middle of that storm and being hit from all sides, that’s when you want to cry out: “*What’s wrong with my faith?*”

Remember: **You have faith!**

(Rom.12:3), and there is *nothing wrong* with it! Your faith is *the gift of God* (Eph.2:8-8), and God didn't give you faulty, defective, weak, or anemic faith. He doesn't have that kind of faith. He gave you the good stuff. That is all He has. Everything He gives is *good and perfect* (Js.1:17).The thing that bothers, and troubles, and hinders us is when doubt comes in. Jesus said in Mark 11:23: "*If you believe, and shall not doubt in your heart, you shall have whatever you say.*"

Regardless OF what you're going through, no matter how the storms rage in your life, you know Jesus is with you and for you. You may feel like He's a distant far away, but like when He was up on that mountain alone, He saw the disciples in trouble. He knew what the enemy was up to and what he was trying to do to take them out, and He was not going to let the devil get his way. He came

to rescue them, and He will come to deliver you too. He delivered me from many troubled waters, and He is no respecter of persons.

Several years ago, I remember one night when a voice spoke to me in the middle of the night. I had been in a long, drawn-out difficult time of suffering, along with the mental and spiritual warfare that it can bring. I didn't see anything, but I briefly recognized the voice as that of an "angel" that I had seen and heard in a previous dream. This time he spoke only *one word*:

"P-A-T-I-E-N-C-E." It wasn't exactly the word I wanted to hear right then, but I was grateful that the Lord had even given me that *one word* to encourage me that He knew what I was going through.

When *one word* from Jesus is all you have, one word is all you need. Obey that word, and you too will see your breakthrough.

SOUND OF FAITH MINISTRIES

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