

## RISK TAKERS

Risk Takers are those individuals who are willing to seize an opportunity when everyone else says no. There was a risk taker among Jesus' disciples, that man was Peter. The passage in Matthew 14:22-29 tells us of the risk he took:

And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitude away. And when he sent the multitude away, he went up unto a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, it is a spirit: and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, "Be of good cheer; it is I: be not afraid." And Peter answered him and said, "Lord, if it be though, bid me come unto thee on the water." And he said, "Come." And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. (KIV)

There were twelve disciples in that ship; however, Peter was the only one to react in faith. He took the risk. While the others remained silent, he was willing to let go of his fear momentarily and step out.

We learned before that one of the laws that governs the spirit realm is ***silence is agreement***. When we remain silent about a negative situation, we agree with it. Peter refused to stay silent in fear, so he activated his faith. He spoke out and said, "Lord, if it be though, bid me to come unto thee on the water" This risk led him to experience an awesome demonstration of God's power.

### ARE YOU A RISK TAKER?

It only takes one person to speak out. If you are easily moved or offended by criticism, you will be reluctant to take risks because you will always need someone to validate you. Peter made up his mind that he could take the risk of walking on water by himself. Here are some indications that you are afraid to take risks:

- You always need someone to go with you.
- The people closest to you discourage you the most.
- You are afraid to speak out.

Peter made up his mind that he was getting out of the boat. According to his faith he did, and as a result, he walked on the water. He did not allow what the other disciples thought or said to deter his faith. When you step out, there will always be a group of people who will criticize you.

Here are some principles about risk-taking:

- Success will elude you until you can handle criticism.
- The amount of criticism you can handle determines the amount of success you'll experience.
- If your life is always dominated by fear, you may stay in the same place for the rest of your life.

## **JESUS SAID COME**

When Peter asked Jesus to "bid me come" he was literally saying, "Ok, my faith is out there, Jesus. I trust you, so bid me to come."

When Jesus said Come, it was meant for all to come, not just Peter. Notice that he did not say, "Peter, you come." When Jesus said "come," it was an open invitation to all the disciples to come to him.

In what situation in your life is God telling you to come? Do you know? Do you want to take the risk of knowing? Do not be afraid when you hear Jesus bid you to come, He will always open the door and walk right along with you while you take the risk.

The invitation to come will not always be easy to obey, but let's be like Peter and take advantage of the opportunity. There is nothing that God has instructed you to do that you can fail at. Be a Risk Taker!

## **KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE PRIZE**

Let's continue reading in Matthew 14:30-31, "But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid and beginning to sink, he cried, saying "Lord, save me." And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand and caught him, and said unto him, "O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"

It's good to know that we can cry out to God in the midst of our falling and His hand is there to pull us up even before we sink. When Peter's faith faltered, he called out to Christ, the only one who could help. His faith faltered when he took his eyes off the prize, but the hand of our Lord is always outstretched towards us to save; if we would only call on Him. Jesus Christ is the prize. Do not take your eyes off Him. If we take our eyes off of Him and what He has asked of us, like Peter, our faith will falter.

## **NOW GET OUT OF THE BOAT**

Jesus did not go to the boat while the disciples were crying out in fear. He stayed on the water and wanted them to come out of the boat to meet him. What is keeping you in your boat? Is it

fear? Is it negative people? Or maybe you have just given up and lost all hope of ever being successful. Make up your mind that you are getting out of the boat of failure, the boat of doubt, the boat of no productivity. He will lead you to a life full of love, grace and fulfillment in Him.