

Central Pentecostal Ministries

From the Pulpit...

Where Is Your Faith?

Pastor Donald Shoots

“Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth. But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down **a storm of wind** on the lake; and they were filled *with water*, and were in jeopardy. And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm. And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.” Luke 8:22-25

Let us speak briefly about **what was to follow this storm**. In vs 26-38, we see Jesus and His disciples in the country of the Gadarenes, and here they see a man living among the tombs, naked, and possessed by many devils. Jesus Himself would deliver this man and set him free. Now, that is where they were going. They were in the boat, in a lake, in a storm, but that is where they were going!

*Storms always attempt to distract
and cloud where you are going.*

Jesus said, “*Let us go over unto the other side of the lake*” and the disciples got into the boat. However, unknowingly, they were headed to the country of the Gadarenes to minister to a man who was naked, possessed by devils and living in the tombs. To live this Christian life is to walk by faith. Meaning, any forward movement must have faith in it. It is not enough to abstain from sin and obey the Ten Commandments, we must have faith! “*The just shall live by faith*” (Hebrews 10:38). Now, that was what was *going* to happen *after* they got to the other side, **but right now**, they are in a storm.

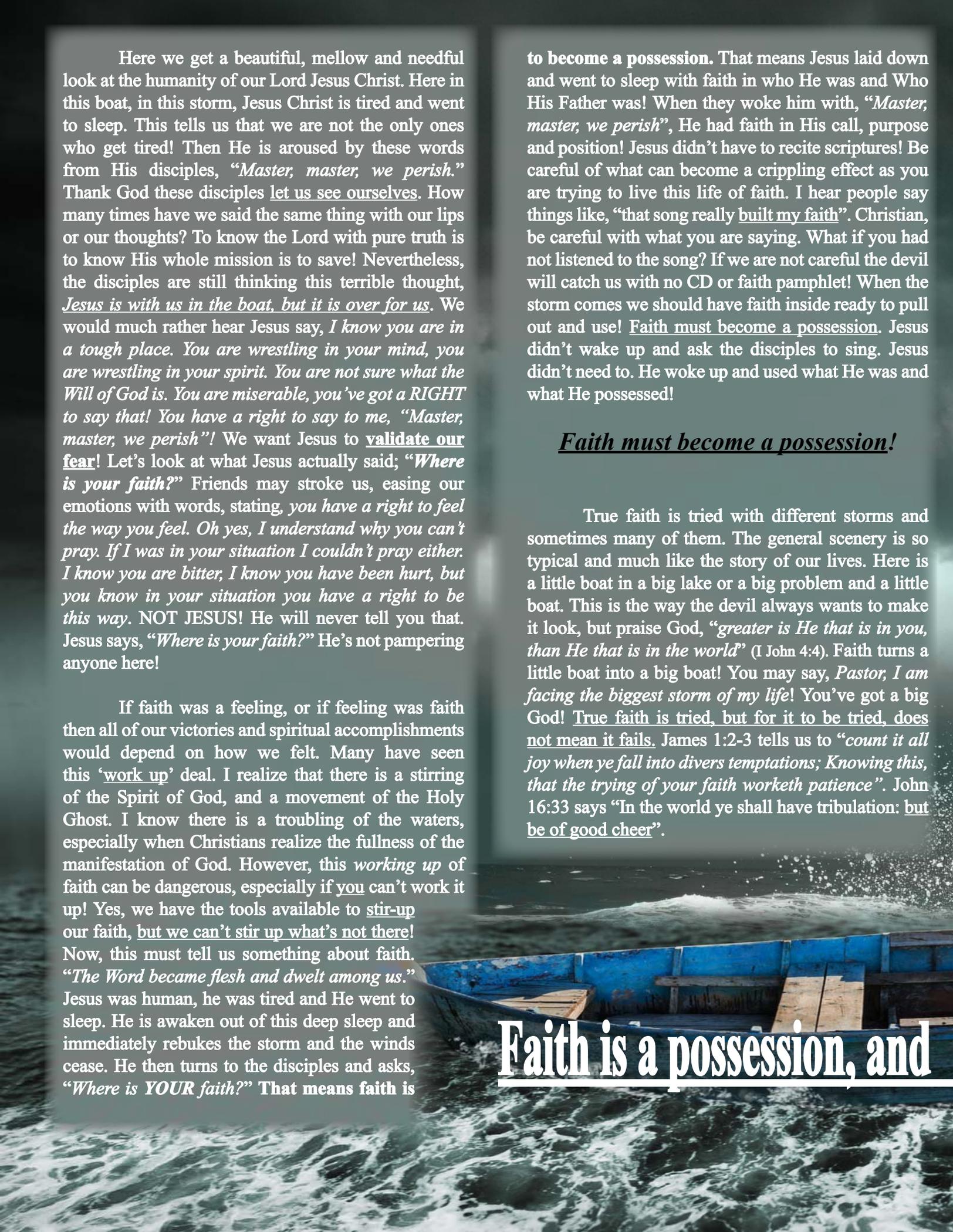
Here we get a beautiful, mellow and needful look at the humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ. Here in this boat, in this storm, Jesus Christ is tired and went to sleep. This tells us that we are not the only ones who get tired! Then He is aroused by these words from His disciples, *“Master, master, we perish.”* Thank God these disciples let us see ourselves. How many times have we said the same thing with our lips or our thoughts? To know the Lord with pure truth is to know His whole mission is to save! Nevertheless, the disciples are still thinking this terrible thought, *Jesus is with us in the boat, but it is over for us*. We would much rather hear Jesus say, *I know you are in a tough place. You are wrestling in your mind, you are wrestling in your spirit. You are not sure what the Will of God is. You are miserable, you’ve got a RIGHT to say that! You have a right to say to me, “Master, master, we perish”!* We want Jesus to validate our fear! Let’s look at what Jesus actually said; *“Where is your faith?”* Friends may stroke us, easing our emotions with words, stating, *you have a right to feel the way you feel. Oh yes, I understand why you can’t pray. If I was in your situation I couldn’t pray either. I know you are bitter, I know you have been hurt, but you know in your situation you have a right to be this way.* NOT JESUS! He will never tell you that. Jesus says, *“Where is your faith?”* He’s not pampering anyone here!

If faith was a feeling, or if feeling was faith then all of our victories and spiritual accomplishments would depend on how we felt. Many have seen this ‘work up’ deal. I realize that there is a stirring of the Spirit of God, and a movement of the Holy Ghost. I know there is a troubling of the waters, especially when Christians realize the fullness of the manifestation of God. However, this *working up* of faith can be dangerous, especially if you can’t work it up! Yes, we have the tools available to stir-up our faith, but we can’t stir up what’s not there! Now, this must tell us something about faith. *“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”* Jesus was human, he was tired and He went to sleep. He is awoken out of this deep sleep and immediately rebukes the storm and the winds cease. He then turns to the disciples and asks, *“Where is YOUR faith?”* That means faith is

to become a possession. That means Jesus laid down and went to sleep with faith in who He was and Who His Father was! When they woke him with, *“Master, master, we perish”*, He had faith in His call, purpose and position! Jesus didn’t have to recite scriptures! Be careful of what can become a crippling effect as you are trying to live this life of faith. I hear people say things like, *“that song really built my faith”*. Christian, be careful with what you are saying. What if you had not listened to the song? If we are not careful the devil will catch us with no CD or faith pamphlet! When the storm comes we should have faith inside ready to pull out and use! Faith must become a possession. Jesus didn’t wake up and ask the disciples to sing. Jesus didn’t need to. He woke up and used what He was and what He possessed!

Faith must become a possession!

True faith is tried with different storms and sometimes many of them. The general scenery is so typical and much like the story of our lives. Here is a little boat in a big lake or a big problem and a little boat. This is the way the devil always wants to make it look, but praise God, *“greater is He that is in you, than He that is in the world”* (I John 4:4). Faith turns a little boat into a big boat! You may say, *Pastor, I am facing the biggest storm of my life!* You’ve got a big God! True faith is tried, but for it to be tried, does not mean it fails. James 1:2-3 tells us to *“count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience”*. John 16:33 says *“In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer”*.



Faith is a possession, and

Not knowing this truth opens to a world of depressing questions. Questions like, "Why is this happening?" Now, this message is not for the one who got out of the Will of God. You knew God told you not to do that, but you did it anyway and now you are paying the price for disobedience. I am not talking about the one with one foot in the church and one foot in the world. I am talking to the believer who loves Jesus with all their heart, soul, mind and strength, but they are in a storm! Satan will move in and always attempt to use a storm to his advantage! Do not engage in conversation with the devil, just rebuke him and move on! The hole of doubt gets deeper and deeper if pure faith is not revived.

Mark 4:38 brings greater light on the response of the disciples. "*Master, carest thou not that we perish?*" What could be more hurtful to a Father, especially our loving Creator? Now the disciples are saying this to Jesus, the One who is about to give His life on the cross! What an indictment to say to the One who loves you more than you will ever be loved by anyone on earth, "*You don't care if we die?*" The disciples **have allowed** this storm to plummet them to a state that they would say to Jesus, *you don't care if we die!* Maybe you are the one who needs to answer the question, "*Where is YOUR faith?*" For Jesus to ask this question implies that they had faith at some point. Where is it now? In other words, Jesus was saying, *you are in a storm; pull faith out and use it!* We must consider faith and feeling, then learn that faith cannot be based on my feeling! To have a bad event cannot dictate or erase our faith. Everybody will have a bad day, a bad event, a storm, a difficult place they must walk or even a valley. There will come a time for all believers when the enemy will attempt to kill you.

That is the place to hear Jesus say, "*Where is YOUR faith?*" Have you lost it? Did you let someone steal it? Did you leave it at the last battle you were in? The disciples had it when they obeyed with faith to get into the boat with Christ! Where is it now? For the sake of Christ and Victory, pull out your faith and use it! Faith is a possession! When you were born again, you were dealt a portion of faith, then faith grows by hearing and receiving the Word of God. Hopefully, as you matured in your walk with Christ, your faith has grown. The air conditioning unit may not always be on, but it is always there, ready to be turned on! Faith is a response to truth.

"*Where is your faith?*" Meaning, why don't you apply it here. Why don't you apply it to your situation? If you will find your faith you can bring it back and put it against the storm! These disciples had allowed this difficult place that they were in to control them. If they would have just asked themselves this beautiful, but simple question. "*Peter, who do you say that I am?*" , "*Thou, art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*" Well, *that is who is in this boat.* Isn't it sad and amazing how we plummet so quickly to, '*master, we all are going to die?*' Here I must ask, what did they think would happen to Jesus? How foolish can we get? *Jesus is with me, He said he would never leave or forsake me!* The flesh allows for a lot of foolishness. The flesh wars against faith! Carnality wars against the life of victory! Oh my, to hear the disciples say, *we are going to die even though Jesus is in the boat.* Is it possible that the disciples are insinuating that Jesus might drown too, which reveals how foolish man can become? God will not step down to your erroneous feelings and perceptions of doubt and fear, but He does want to bring you up out of them. Let faith be a possession! Don't let anyone or anything steal it. Don't lose it to silly thinking of carnal proportions, for remember, Jesus said, "*let us go over unto the other side*". Let's go to the other side, church! Jesus asked His disciples, "*Where is YOUR faith?*" In other words, get it, wherever you lost it, go find it, whoever stole it, go get it back and apply it to this place you are in! Jesus wasn't talking to the lost, He was talking to the disciples. "*Where is your faith?*"

your possession will be tested.

This storm was not to be a graveyard or a stopping place. This was an indicator that something big was going to happen when the other side became reality.

STORM:

S - Satan
T - Thinks
O - Obstacles
R - Reverse
M - Me

**Praise God the devil is still a liar, Press on!
Live to see the Will of God performed!**

Where is your faith?

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The purpose of this publication is to benefit those truly seeking to follow Jesus Christ. If you or someone you know would be encouraged and strengthened by receiving these Full-Gospel messages, please contact us at:

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