

# Gathering

## FAITH

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2 Corinthians 5:7 "For we live by faith, not by sight"

**W**e read in Matthew 14 of the death of John the Baptist, the miraculous feeding of the five thousand, and lastly, an event that epitomizes the idea of "living by faith, not by sight". The disciples had gathered the leftovers from the 5 loaves and 2 fish Jesus had distributed to the five thousand and were now instructed by Jesus to cross the lake to the Gennesaret plain. It was night... it was dark... and after they had gotten some distance from the shore, the small boat in which they were crossing the lake was "buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it". Likely the lake was calm when they left Jesus on the shore, however because of changing wind patterns, conditions would deteriorate, and their journey would come to a potentially perilous standstill.

Suddenly, in the darkness of the night, a figure approaches who appears to be walking on the water. Thinking it might be a ghost they are afraid... but then Jesus speaks these words: "Take courage! It is I, don't be afraid." Peter boldly states, "...tell me to come to you on the water." He then steps out in faith...at least briefly. The realization that he was doing the impossible was too much. He went from "living by faith" to "living by sight". He sinks in fear and just when he felt hopeless, Jesus reaches out His hand and saves him. We know the rest of the story... the wind and the waves calm, the disciples worshipped, and in a short time they reached their destination where Jesus would again demonstrate His worthiness to be the object of our faith.

After reading the scripture, consider these questions:

- What does it mean to live by faith rather than by sight?
- In what ways does "living by faith" involve venturing into what seems to be impossible....for instance walking on water or other seemingly impossible tasks?
- How does fear impact our willingness to "live by faith, not by sight"?
- Are you able to think of a time where you stepped out in faith into the unknown and God has proven to be worthy of your faith and trust?

Complete your monthly report and turn it in to the Corps Officer.

2 Corinthians 5:7

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“For we live by *faith* not by sight”

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- How often have we doubted God's faithfulness? Does doubt weaken or strengthen our faith?

**JAMES 1:6 NIV**

*"But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind."*

- On what can we base our confidence in God's faithfulness? How can we be assured that "He's got us" in every situation?

**HEBREWS 11:1 NIV**

*"Now faith is the confidence in what we hope for and the assurance about what we do not see."*

- How can we be assured of the "salvation of our souls" and know this "glorious and inexpressible joy"?

**1 PETER 1:8-9 NIV**

*"Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls."*



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