

**Review of Part 1**

**Overcoming the Overwhelming by Grace through Faith Not Law: *Faith Comes by Hearing of His Grace***

- 1 • In Part one we discussed the importance of GRACE in overcoming the overwhelming.
- 2 • An OVERWHELMING situation needs supernatural intervention. You cannot fix it.
- 3 • Most Common Overwhelming Situations: Money, marriage, children, sense of
- 4 worthlessness, poor health, people who hate you, imperfections, the past
- 5 • What does law look like: Blame and shame, formula living, behavior modification, New
- 6 Year’s resolution, books & conferences, advice, try harder
  
- 7 • We walk out this life and our overwhelming situations the same way we got saved: by
- 8 grace through faith, not by law through works.
- 9 • Our faith can grow (2 Thess. 1:3).

The GRACE of God is good news. When we hear the good news, faith comes.

*Romans 10:17*

Now FAITH COMES through HEARING and hearing by the WORD OF GOD (the glad tidings of good things).<sup>1</sup>

In order for faith to come to us, we need to hear of the glad tidings of good things; that is to say, of the GRACE of God: His goodness, His unending love toward us, what He has provided, and what He has promised to provide.

What are “the glad tidings of good things”  
about your overwhelming situation?

**Faith expresses itself in ACTION:**

- **Confession:** i.e. salvation, speaking to mountains, speaking to the storm
- **Taking action:** Peter walking on water, touching the hem of His garment, etc.)
- **IMPORTANT:** Whatever we confess or do is based on the faith we already have and not to prove we have faith or to coerce God into doing something.

GRACE/GOOD NEWS EXISTS  
 SOMEONE PREACHES IT  
 WE HEAR IT  
 FAITH COMES  
 WE TAKE ACTION  
 MIRACLES HAPPEN: THE UNSEEN IS MADE VISIBLE

“**WHOEVER** says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have **WHATEVER** he says.”

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise stated, all Scripture is quoted from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Lesson Two

Part Two

33 **Overcoming the Overwhelming by Grace through Faith NOT Law: Walking by**  
34 **Faith Not by Sight**

I. **DEFINITIONS AND ILLUSTRATIONS**

35 **A. We Overcome by Our Faith in Jesus**

36 *1 John 5:4-5*

37 *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory*  
38 *that has overcome the world—our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is he who overcomes the*  
39 *world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.*

Faith in Jesus  
qualifies us as  
overcomers.

40 **1. Our faith in Jesus is the victory that overcomes!**

41 **B. WHAT IS FAITH?**

42 *Hebrews 11:1*

43 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

44 **2. Faith (belief) is the substance of things hope for.**

45 **Substance**

46 *Thayer definition*

47 *1) a setting or placing under*

48 *1a) thing put under, substructure, foundation*

49 *2) that which has foundation, is firm*

50 **2a) that which has actual existence**

51 *2a1) a substance, real being*

Faith is something you actually HAVE,  
even though you can't see or touch it. It is actual and real.

52 **3. Hope is joyful and confident expectation of good.<sup>2</sup> (More on hope below)**

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56 **4. Faith is the evidence of things not seen.**

57 **Evidence**

58 *Thayer Definition: 1) a proof, that by which a thing is proved or tested,*

59 *2) conviction*

60 *Strong's: proof, conviction: - evidence, reproof*

61 In other words, faith CONVINCES US OF and is THE EVIDENCE OF the truth,  
62 even though the truth is not yet visible.

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<sup>2</sup> Definition taken from Strongs and Thayer

## ALL TOGETHER NOW:

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**Faith is the proof—the evidence—the conviction that I actually have what I am hoping for, even though I cannot yet see it.**

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*Vincent says, "It is important that the preliminary definition be clearly understood, since the following examples illustrate it. The key is furnished by verse 27, as seeing him who is invisible. **Faith apprehends as a real fact what is not revealed to the senses. It rests on that fact, acts upon it, and is upheld by it in the face of all that seems to contradict it. Faith is real seeing.**"-Wuest*

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**C. HOPE IS JOYFUL AND CONFIDENT EXPECTATION OF GOOD**

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1. **Hopes sees what our senses cannot yet perceive. If we can already see what we are hoping for, we do not need hope. The very nature of hope is that it is not yet seen.**

**Romans 8:24-25**

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*For we were saved in this hope, **but hope that is seen is not hope**; for why does one still hope for what he sees?<sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.*

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2. **To hope = to Wait = to Expect. Abraham was given a promise. Even though everything “proved” the contrary, Abraham believed, was fully convinced, that what God promised, He would do. His faith was counted to him as righteousness.**

**Romans 4:16-22 NASB**

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*For this reason it is by **faith**, in order that it may be in accordance with **grace**, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, <sup>17</sup> (as it is written, “A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE YOU”) in the presence of Him whom he believed, even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist. <sup>18</sup> **In hope, against hope he believed**, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, “SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE.” <sup>19</sup> **Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb; <sup>20</sup> yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, <sup>21</sup> and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. <sup>22</sup> Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.***

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**D. ILLUSTRATION OF NATURAL FAITH**

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Good news! You have air conditioning in this house. Just flip this switch, and enjoy!

**Possible Responses**

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- **I don’t believe it, and I refuse to flip that switch.** The good news is still true, you have AC, but the AC does not come on, so you don’t “have it”.
- **I believe it, but I’m afraid to flip the switch because it might not happen and then I’ll feel like a fool for flipping the switch.** The good news is still true, you have AC, but the AC does not come on, so you don’t “have it”.

## Lesson Two

- 105 • **I believe it but I don't need to flip the switch. If the electric company wants to**  
 106 **give me AC, then it can turn it on for me.** The good news is still true, the electric  
 107 company already gave you AC, and the only condition for having the AC is to flip the  
 108 switch, but the AC does not come on because you think it is up to the electric company  
 109 to flip the switch, so you don't "have it".
- 110 • **I have a friend who tried flipping the switch, but nothing happened. If it didn't**  
 111 **work for him, then it won't work for me.** What happened to your friend is upsetting,  
 112 and you might not understand it, but the good news is still true, you have AC, and the  
 113 AC will not come on unless you flip the switch.
- 114 • **I believe the good news that I HAVE AC. I will flip that switch.** The AC comes on.

115 **Natural Faith:** We hear the good news. We believe the good news. We act on that  
 116 good news. We are blessed by the good news.

117 **Supernatural Faith:** We hear the good news, but this good news is based on God's  
 118 faithfulness and promises, not man's, and we don't have to pay to receive the  
 119 promises. Faith comes to us supernaturally as a result of hearing good news. We  
 120 confess/act on the good news because we are fully convinced that what He promised  
 121 He will do. God brings what is unseen into reality: the miracle happens.

## II. FAITH PLEASES GOD

### 122 A. All Christians WANT to please God. What pleases Him? Faith.<sup>3</sup>

123 *John 6:28-29*

124 *Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"<sup>29</sup> Jesus*  
 125 *answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."*

126 *Hebrews 11:6*

127 *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He*  
 128 *is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

129 *The idea is, "Without faith it is impossible to please Him at all."-Wuest*

### 130 B. What this is also saying is that WITH FAITH it IS possible to please God.

#### 131 1. Believe that *He is*—that He exists.

- 132 • To believe that "He is" to believe that He, as God, IS ABLE to help you.

#### 133 2. Believe that He *REWARDS* those who diligently seek Him.

- 134 • To believe that "He rewards those who diligently seek Him" is to believe that He,  
 135 as a benevolent God, WILL help you.

136 The first verb "is" is the translation of **estin** which speaks of existence. The  
 137 second verb "is" is the translation of **ginomai**. The idea is not merely that God  
 138 *exists* as a rewarder, but that He will prove Himself to be a rewarder of that  
 139 person who diligently seeks Him. As Vincent puts it: "He who approaches God

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<sup>3</sup> Faith = Belief, to have faith = to believe. "Faith" is usually used as the verb form of *pistis*, and "believe" is usually used as the verb form of *pistis*. There is no difference between them more than one being a noun and one being a verb. They are interchangeable. This will help those who have a mental blockage when hearing the word "faith". They might be able to better relate to belief.

## Lesson Two

140 has, through faith, the assurance that his seeking God will result in good  
 141 to himself.”-Wuest

142 C. What does it mean to “diligently” seek Him?

- 143 1. For Christians, this cannot mean that we are trying to find Him. We already found  
 144 Him.  
 145 2. For many years we believed that “diligently seek” meant to prove our love for God  
 146 by fulfilling a long list of spiritual disciplines.

*This is the false list we were given with promise that God would reward us for “diligently” seeking Him. Our life of faith became a life of works and ended up estranging us from Christ and we fell from grace.*

*Love God with all your heart, soul, and strength, and your neighbor as yourself. Pray 1 hr. daily. Read at least 10 chapters from the Bible daily. Go to church whenever there are services. Get involved in ministry. Go to some sort of Bible school. Tithe. Give more. Attend additional services and prayer meetings. Evangelize everyone you meet. Abstain from anything that isn’t directly related to church. Don’t listen to any music that is not Christian. Be a good friend. Be a good wife or husband. Be a good parent. Be a good neighbor. Become a minister and be in full-time ministry. Do great things for God. Be a mighty man or woman of God. This is the list that has no end, it just goes on and on...*

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149 3. “Diligently seek” (ekzēteō) is one word, and has to do with not giving up because  
 150 you know God will give you that for which you are asking.

151 Thayer Definition:

- 152 1) to seek out, search for  
 153 2) to seek out, i.e. investigate, scrutinise  
 154 3) to seek out for one’s self, beg, crave  
 155 4) to demand back, require

156 4. What does Scripture actually teach us about “diligently seeking God”? Here are  
 157 some excellent examples.

158 a. **TO DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM IS TO SEEK HIM UNTIL THE ANSWER COMES AND NOT  
 159 GIVE UP.**

160 *Luke 18:1-8*

161 *Then He spoke a parable to them, that **men always ought to pray and not***  
 162 ***lose heart**, <sup>2</sup> saying: “There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor*  
 163 *regard man. <sup>3</sup> Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, ‘Get*  
 164 *justice for me from my adversary.’ <sup>4</sup> And he would not for a while; but afterward he*  
 165 *said within himself, ‘Though I do not fear God nor regard man, <sup>5</sup> yet because this widow*  
 166 *troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her **continual coming** she weary me.’”*

167 *<sup>6</sup> Then the Lord said, “Hear what the unjust judge said. <sup>7</sup> And shall God not avenge His*  
 168 *own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? <sup>8</sup> I tell*

## Lesson Two

169 you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, **will**  
 170 **He really find faith on the earth?"**

- 171 1) The parable has a purpose: we are to pray (which means to ask) and not give  
 172 up.  
 173 2) The widow knew her rights and insisted upon them.  
 174 3) Even an unjust judge will give in to make her stop asking.  
 175 4) **How much more will the Just Judge, our Father, avenge us (yes, avenge**  
 176 **us—make sure that what is right is done for us).**  
 177 5) It says that God avenges those who cry out to him day and night. This clearly  
 178 lends itself to the idea of continuing to believe that He will answer.  
 179 6) He will answer speedily.  
 180 7) Then the haunting question: When He returns will he find faith on the earth?  
 181 Faith pleases God. He wants us to have faith in Him—faith that He will return  
 182 for us, faith that He is who He says He is, faith that He will do what He says  
 183 He will do, AND faith that He will answer our prayers.

184 **b. TO DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM IS TO KEEP ASKING, SEEKING, AND KNOCKING.**

185 *Luke 11: 5-13*

186 *And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and*  
 187 *say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; <sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has come to me on his*  
 188 *journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; <sup>7</sup> and he will answer from within and say,*  
 189 *'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot*  
 190 *rise and give to you?' <sup>8</sup> I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is*  
 191 *his friend, **yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as***  
 192 ***many as he needs.***

193 <sup>9</sup> *"So I say to you, **ask**, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and*  
 194 *it will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> **For EVERYONE who asks receives, and he who***  
 195 ***seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.***

196 **c. TO DILIGENTLY SEEK IS TO BELIEVE (HAVE FAITH) AND NOT DOUBT (NOT**  
 197 **WAIVER, NOT BE TOSSED).**

198 *Mark 11:23*

199 *For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into*  
 200 *the sea,' and **DOES NOT DOUBT IN HIS HEART**, but believes that those things he says*  
 201 *will be done, he will have whatever he says.*

202 *James 1:5-8*

203 *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without*  
 204 *reproach, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup> **BUT LET HIM ASK IN FAITH, WITH NO***  
 205 ***DOUBTING**, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the*  
 206 *wind. <sup>7</sup> For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> he is a*  
 207 *double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

208 *1 John 5:14-15*

209 *Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that **IF WE ASK ANYTHING ACCORDING***  
 210 ***TO HIS WILL**, He hears us. <sup>15</sup> And if we know that He hears us, **whatever we ask**, we*  
 211 ***KNOW** that we **HAVE** the petitions that we have asked of Him.*

212 **d. TO DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM IS TO PRAY AND NOT FAINT.**

## Lesson Two

213 It PLEASES GOD when we continue to believe—when we have faith in the face of  
 214 opposition. We can KNOW that He REWARDS those who diligently seek Him. We  
 215 inherit the promises by faith and patience. Patience has to do with endurance.  
 216 Don't give up. Don't faint.

217 **Hebrews 6:11-12**

218 *And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope*  
 219 *until the end, <sup>12</sup> that you do not become sluggish<sup>4</sup>, but imitate those who through faith*  
 220 *and patience inherit the promises.*

221 **e. TO DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM MEANS TO LIVE IN THANKSGIVING AFTER WE HAVE**  
 222 **ASKED.**

223 **Philippians 4:6-7**

224 *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with*  
 225 *thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which*  
 226 *surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

227 **Colossians 4:2**

228 *Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it (watch over them) with thanksgiving*

229 **f. OTHER EXAMPLES OF DILIGENTLY SEEKING HIM**

- 230 1. The man whose friends took off a roof and lowered him down so that Jesus
- 231 could heal him.
- 232 2. The woman who pushed through the crowd to touch the hem of His garment.
- 233 3. The blind men who kept crying out for Jesus to heal them.
- 234 4. The persistent Canaanite woman who begged Him to deliver her child and
- 235 kept asking until he did.

236 **Matthew 15:21-28**

237 *Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> And*  
 238 *behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have*  
 239 *mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed."*

240 <sup>23</sup> *But He answered her not a word.*

241 *And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after*  
 242 *us."*

243 <sup>24</sup> *But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of*  
 244 *Israel."*

245 <sup>25</sup> *Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"*

246 <sup>26</sup> *But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and*  
 247 *throw it to the little dogs."*

248 <sup>27</sup> *And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from*  
 249 *their masters' table."*

250 <sup>28</sup> *Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let*  
 251 *it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from*  
 252 *that very hour.*

### III. LIVING IN FAITH UNTIL THE ANSWER COMES

253 **A. As Christians, we live a life on two planes: the natural and supernatural.**

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<sup>4</sup> Sluggish: *nōthros*, *sluggish*, that is, (literally) *lazy*, or (figuratively) *stupid*: - dull, slothful.

## Lesson Two

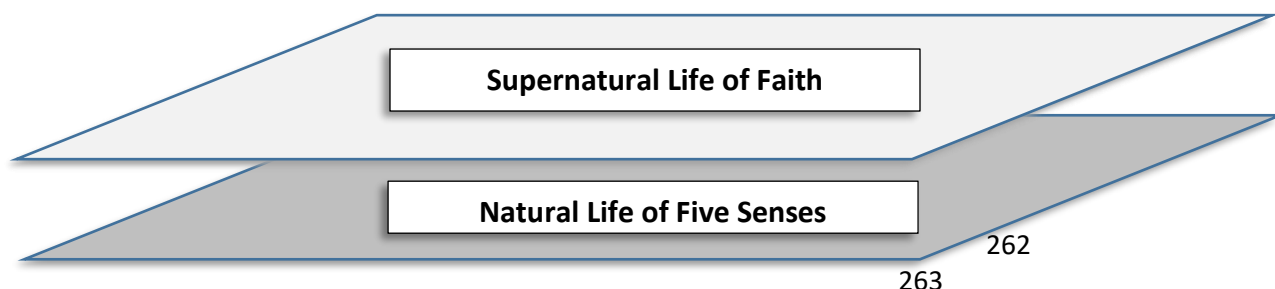
254 The natural plane is your situation as you perceive it with your senses. The supernatural  
 255 plane is your situation as seen through the eyes of faith.

256 **2 Corinthians 5:7**

257 *For we walk by faith, not by sight.*

258 **AMPLIFIED VERSION**

259 For we walk by faith [we regulate our lives and conduct ourselves by our conviction or  
 260 belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, with trust and holy fervor;  
 261 thus we walk] not by sight *or* appearance.



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- Both of these planes are true. Our overwhelming situation really does exist, and how well do we know it. But there is a higher truth in operation in the life of a believer. This is where God wants us to live. We obviously can't ignore the "natural", but we can live above it.
  - We live out this life by faith—our belief in the glad tidings of good things (God's goodness toward us, His provision, and His promises), and not by what we can perceive with our senses.

271 **B. God wants us to live a life of faith.**

272 *Faith pleases Him. He wants us to look up above the circumstances and crisis situations and simply trust Him to deliver us. Notice, I did not say "simply trust Him", but also "to deliver us".*

275 **In other words, we don't just believe that He exists**  
 276 **(that He is God and ABLE to help us),**  
 277 **but also that He will reward us who diligently seek Him**  
 278 **(that He is willing and WILL reward us with what we are asking).**

279 **C. In the natural life of "sight", it looks as if we are still not overcoming.**

280 *The "facts" haven't changed, or they are changing very slowly. Living by sight means we focus on the natural plane. We see only the problems. We are burdened down by them.*

282 **D. In the supernatural life of "faith" we are trusting in things we cannot see—hope that is not yet visible.**

284 *We can actually be living an overcoming life while the overcoming circumstances still exist—only they are no longer overcoming us, but we are overcoming them. Satan is*

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286 *under our feet. Our troubles are under our feet. We are fully persuaded that what God*  
 287 *has promised His is doing.*

## IV. WHILE WE WAIT

288 **A. Many of the overwhelming situations we face involve other people.**

289 *Sometimes, these situations take much longer to completely overcome because you can*  
 290 *only control how YOU will respond to God's grace, and not how others will respond. Keep*  
 291 *these guidelines in mind as you move forward.*

292 **1. RESPOND TO HIS GRACE TEACHING YOU, (RECEIVE HIS DISCIPLINE), and**  
 293 **CEASE trying to fix others.**

294 *You cannot control other people. You can only control yourself. Ask God to show YOU*  
 295 *what YOU can do to improve the situation.*

296 a. What are **YOU** believing that isn't true?

297 b. What are **YOU** doing that is making matters worse?

298 c. **CEASE** "*motivating*" and "*manipulating*" others.

299 *(Do good, get good. Do bad, be punished!) Law!*

**Hebrews 12:7-11**

*If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? <sup>8</sup> But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.<sup>9</sup> Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected<sup>5</sup> us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? <sup>10</sup> For they indeed for a few days chastened<sup>4</sup> us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. <sup>11</sup> Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*

It is not enjoyable to be corrected by God for what we believe or do, but we should thank God for correction because He does it for our profit, and after we respond to this grace, it will yield the "peaceable fruit of righteousness".

300 **2. RESPOND TO HIS SPIRIT LEADING YOU.**

301 a. You ARE being led by the Spirit of God because you are a son of God.

302 *Romans 8:9, 14*

303 <sup>9</sup> *You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells*  
 304 *in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.*

305 <sup>14</sup> *For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*

306 b. If you have asked God for wisdom, listen up.

307 *He will give it to you, sometimes the second you ask or even as you are asking. He*  
 308 *will show you things you didn't see before. As He prompts you, take little steps*  
 309 *of faith.*

310 *James 1:5-8*

311 *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach,*  
 312 *and it will be given him. <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who*  
 313 *doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For that person*

<sup>5</sup> Many have struggled with what it means to be "chastened" by the Lord. Clearly, in context, it means to be corrected.

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314 *must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> he is a double-minded*  
 315 *man, unstable in all his ways.*

### 3. RESPOND IN FAITH TO SUDDEN AND GREAT STORMS

- 317 a. **OFTEN**, when dealing with the overwhelming, something will suddenly happen  
 318 seemingly out of nowhere to challenge your faith. All was well. You were seeing  
 319 progress, even some major victories, but  
 320 then the wind and waves kick up all around  
 321 you, and instead of “looking” like you are  
 322 overcoming, it “looks” like you are  
 323 perishing.

324 **Matthew 7:23-27**

325 *Now when He got into a boat, His disciples*  
 326 *followed Him. <sup>24</sup> And suddenly a great*  
 327 *tempest arose on the sea, so that the*  
 328 *boat was covered with the waves. But He*  
 329 *was asleep. <sup>25</sup> Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, “Lord, save*  
 330 *us! We are perishing!”*

331 *<sup>26</sup> But He said to them, “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” Then He arose*  
 332 *and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. <sup>27</sup> So the men*  
 333 *marveled, saying, “Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”*

- 334 b. **Speak to Your Storms!**

335 Of course, sudden storms can be overwhelmingly horrifying, but we have a choice  
 336 when they come. Will we forget that HE IS and that HE IS A REWARDER OF THOSE  
 337 WHO DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM? Will we freak out and unjustly accuse God of being  
 338 asleep in our boat and of not caring that we are in distress, or will we express our  
 339 faith in Him and then SPEAK TO THE WIND AND WAVES TO BE STILL?

### 4. WALK ON WATER

341 If we focus on the storm, we will logically fear. Our senses are feeding us information,  
 342 our minds are translating this into emotions. The emotions are causing our bodies to  
 343 respond with panic. Everything will scream to us that all is lost, nothing is working,  
 344 The world tells us that “when the going gets tough, the tough get going,” but none of  
 345 our “going” is working. It even looks like God has turned his back on us. Now what?

The world says: Sink or swim!

God says: Look at Jesus, not the circumstances,

and walk by faith not by sight.

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352 **Matthew 14:22-29**

353 *Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He*  
 354 *sent the multitudes away. <sup>23</sup> And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain*  
 355 *by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. <sup>24</sup> But the boat was now in*  
 356 *the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.*

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357 <sup>25</sup> Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.  
 358 <sup>26</sup> And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying,  
 359 "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.  
 360 <sup>27</sup> But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "**Be of good cheer! It is I;  
 361 do not be afraid.**"  
 362 <sup>28</sup> And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is  
 363 You, command me to come to You on the water."  
 364 <sup>29</sup> So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come  
 365 down out of the boat, **he walked on the water**  
 366 **to go to Jesus.**

When sudden storms come, will you walk by sight and "sink or swim" or will you rather choose to keep your eyes on Jesus and walk on water?

5. LEARNING TO WALK ON WATER

a. So, you walked on water to Jesus. Wow! What a miracle! Then all of a sudden, you felt the water hit your face, you felt the cold wind, and you got afraid and stopped looking at Jesus and paid more attention to what you could see and feel. Make no mistake, you are in danger. This is real. You begin to sink. Now what will you do? CALL OUT TO JESUS, TAKE HIS HAND, AND WALK ON WATER AGAIN.<sup>6</sup>  
**Matthew 14:30-33**

**But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"**

<sup>31</sup> **And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"** <sup>32</sup> **And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.**

Your faith in God  
PLEASES Him.

<sup>33</sup> **Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."**

384 ANATOMY OF WALKING BY FAITH NOT BY SIGHT THROUGH

**SUDDEN STORMS**

A sudden storm happens.  
**Choice:** Will I have faith or fold?  
**Wrong Decision:** I will focus on what I can perceive with my senses.  
 How can I avoid it? It's right here right now in my face! I will fold and freak out because this is too much. God, why aren't you helping me? Don't you care that I'm sinking here?  
**Recovering from the Wrong Decision:** Oops, wrong decision. Now, I'm sinking. Jesus, help me! Thank-You, Jesus. Help me to learn to trust You.  
**Right Decision:** I will have faith in You, Jesus. I will not faint.  
 God, I trust You right now. I'm in a storm. You know that. You are right here with me in my boat. You are not asleep. You do care. I choose to trust You. I choose to walk by faith and not by my senses which are currently being overloaded by the wind and waves. Thank-You for being here. Thank-You for caring. I choose to walk on water to You in this situation (or for this person I'm dealing with). I

<sup>6</sup> "When I stumble, and my faith is small, I will call your name, great God who saves." From the song "Great God Who Saves" by Laura Story, © 2007 Laura Stories (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) New Spring (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.)

## Lesson Two

398 am keeping my eyes on You right now, Lord. In the name of Jesus I speak to this storm to be still! I  
 399 command any evil influencing this situation to be still. I know that my decision to have faith in You  
 400 right now in this storm pleases You. You are smiling at me right now in this situation. You are taking  
 401 this overwhelming situation. I cast this upon You knowing you care for me. Give me wisdom, Lord.  
 402 Guide my words. Guide my steps. I refuse to be anxious. I am letting my requests be made known to  
 403 You. You will bring peace. I praise You. I worship You. I will sing songs to You in my affliction because  
 404 I know You will deliver me.

**Psalm 27**

*The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
 Whom shall I fear?*

*The LORD is the strength of my life;  
 Of whom shall I be afraid?*

*<sup>2</sup> When the wicked came against me  
 To eat up my flesh,*

*My enemies and foes,  
 They stumbled and fell.*

*<sup>3</sup> Though an army  
 may encamp against me,*

*My heart shall not fear;  
 Though war may rise against me,*

*In this I will be confident.*

*<sup>4</sup> One thing I have desired of the LORD,  
 That will I seek:*

*That I may dwell*

*in the house of the LORD*

*All the days of my life,*

*To behold the beauty of the LORD,*

*And to inquire in His temple.*

*<sup>5</sup> For in the time of trouble*

*He shall hide me in His pavilion;*

*In the secret place of His tabernacle*

*He shall hide me;*

*He shall set me high upon a rock.*

*<sup>6</sup> And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies  
 all around me;*

*Therefore I will offer*

*sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle;*

*I will sing, yes, I will sing*

*praises to the LORD.*

**KEY POINTS OF THIS LESSON: Walking by FAITH and not by SIGHT**

- We cannot avoid or deny the “natural” life, but we are able to live a “supernatural life of faith.
- Faith pleases God. God is able (He exists), and He is willing, and He WILL reward those who diligently seek Him.
- To diligently seek God is to pray and not faith. He promises that whoever asks, receives.
- Whoever = You. Whatever = His Will: His provisions and His promises
- When sudden storms arise, we have a choice to have faith in God or to fold and freak out.
- When we walk by sight; that is, when we keep our eyes on the storm that is raging, we can “sink”, but when we keep our eyes on Jesus, when we walk by faith, we walk on water (live miraculously above the problem).
- Faith expresses itself in actions (words or deeds). Speak to the storms to be still. Command mountains to be removed.
- No matter how the storm in your life might rage, express your trust in God through speaking your confidence in Him and what He has provided and promised. Present your specific requests to Him with Thanksgiving.