

## Doubt: the robber of God's promises

*“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came towards Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”*

Matthew 14:28-31

Peter had the faith to walk on the water. He got out of the boat and trusted that he could do what Jesus said. As long as he had faith, everything went well, but then Peter focused on what he felt and saw. He took his eyes off God’s word and looked at the circumstances. He no longer saw Jesus but instead the storm and the waves. He became afraid and the fear drove the faith away. The miracle stopped and he began to sink.

The devil always wants to rob us of our faith. He brings adverse circumstances to make us doubt the word of God. The devil wants to distract us from God’s word and make us look at the problems and difficulties. If we do that, we have been defeated.

Jesus spoke of two people who each built a house. The storm came to both houses; one house withstood the storm and the other fell victim to the storm. That means that everyone is subject to trials and difficulties. Both people may have been Christians. One of them was a doer of the word, the other only a listener. One of them resists the devil with God’s word and comes out as a winner. The other doubts, asks himself: “Why is God allowing this?” and does nothing. He has never learned to use God’s word. Trials and temptations do not come from God but from Satan who wants to rob us of God’s word and thus of our faith.

The Bible says that we should resist the devil and he will flee from us (James 4:7). Trials and temptations make us weaker or stronger, depending on how we handle them. In temptation, our faith can stand the test and we come out of it better and stronger, without lacking anything (see James 1:4). Or we get annoyed, are moody and unstable, people without any roots, as Jesus says in Mark 4:17. These are people who have not taken time for the word to put down deep roots. As soon as difficulties come, they are disappointed and pack everything in.

God’s word gives you the ability to bounce back and not give up. Abraham became strong in faith and did not doubt the promise. He neither considered his own body that was too old nor Sarah’s body that was too old. Instead he believed that what God says is true, even if things do not look that way (Romans 4:19). We have the same faith.

“Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil (the day that the devil brings storms, trials and temptations) comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.” Ephesians 6:13

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