

“Rising Above the Storms” / Walking On Water

(by Pastor Wendell Kapena “Skip” Wright, Kapena Wright Ministries, 3-11-1999)

Back around March, 1999, I had several visions which God had given me by the Holy Spirit, each with a distinct message. This dream was the first of the three and the most personal.

I caught a glimpse of my son when he was about 2 years old, barely able to walk, but boy could he scamper about. You had to be quick to catch him. Well, the thing about my son is that if there's one thing he got from his dad that he didn't get from his mom was a real love for being in water. We lived in an apartment community where we had a swimming pool and every time we'd go to the pool he would be so excited about getting into the water with his dad. Just to be clear, I am not “bad-mouthing” my sons' mom, it was just that she wasn't a “water” lover. In fact, I'd been the one to teach her how to swim and she nearly drowned me in the process. ‘Nuff said.

Back to my son and me. That little guy loved being in the water and if I was in the water we had to keep an extra watch on him because if he saw me in the water he would be fixed on me and the water to the point where he would run from wherever he was, run right to where I was in the pool, even if it was the deep end, then without warning and often without any floatation device(s), would run right at me and off the deck into the pool with me. The reason we had to watch was because there were so many times when he would try to “surprise” you and not yell or say anything and merely jump at you. Of course I would catch him every time and even though he may begin to sink if I didn't catch him in time, I would always manage to pull him out of the water and every time I'd get the same reaction, even if he did begin to sink, he'd come out of the water laughing. There would be times when he'd have to catch his breath first, but, he would always end up with a huge smile on his face because he was with his Dad doing something and being some place he thoroughly enjoyed in, the water.

As I lay in the bed contemplating this picture in my heart and mind I could hear the voice of the Lord speaking so lovingly with me, remarking, “you like that picture don't you?”

I answered, “Yes Lord, I do, those are awesome memories. Memories I'll never forget.”

Then He spoke something to me that raised my curiosity and asked me, “Why do you like that memory? What does it remind you of?”

And the answers came very quickly as I responded, “I love that memory because it reminds me of our relationship and how much I love you and enjoy being with you. And, it also is a reminder that as with Peter as he began to sink in the water after walking off the boat and onto the water to Jesus, how You didn't hesitate, but helped him back up to the surface and then you both got back into the boat and You kept him safe, which is how I feel with you.”

It was his next response that floored me as the Lord spoke to me very softly and yet firmly, “As good as that memory is and as sweet a picture that is in your mind, that is NOT my picture that I want you to bear in mind nor the lesson I wish you to learn from it. I did NOT call you to ‘jump into the water’, but to ‘walk on it’.”

That was the Lord's final word to me at that point and I felt a conviction in my heart that led me to the scripture and received the confirmation of that word to my heart and where I received one of the, if not THE clearest and most personal pictures of the Word of God brought to life in a real way as I ever had,

have to this day, or have ever had in my life. And, the reason it was so personal was because it was a vision based on real events that I had actually experienced and lived through.

Please allow me to share the following:

Matthew 14:22-32 (New King James Version) / Jesus Walks on the Sea

(scripture taken from the New King James Version ®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.)

²² Immediately Jesus made (*strongly urged; invited*) His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. ²³ And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. ²⁴ But the boat was now in the middle of the sea (*many furlongs away from the land*), tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

²⁵ Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer (*take courage*)! It is I (*I am*); do not be afraid.”

²⁸ And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.”

²⁹ So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!”

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

You see where my son was unafraid to come into the deep water because he knew I wouldn't him sink and drown, Peter, once he recognized the voice and command invitation of the Lord to come to walk with Him on the water, Peter immediately got off the boat without fear and walked to Jesus because his gaze was fixed on the Lord and the Lord had responded to Peters question “if is You, then..”

It wasn't until he looked at the circumstances around him, the wind and the waves and how rough the waters were, that Peter lost his focus and began to doubt what he was actually doing and “*began to sink*”. Note, he did not sink, but only “*began to*” sink, and then cried out to Jesus to save him and then note that Jesus didn't delay, but “..immediately..stretched out His hand and caught him (Peter)..” Jesus didn't delay when Peter cried out for help. He “*immediately*” stretched His hand out to take hold of Peter to keep him from sinking any further and help him back on top of the water. Then, He encouraged Peter, not scolded him, when He said to him, “*O you of little faith, why did you doubt?*” I can just hear them talking on the way back towards the boat together, Jesus could have added, “you had it, you were doing good, until you looked away from me”, but I don't think He did otherwise I think it would be in the Book (Holy Bible). Food for thought.

Oh, and yes, they walked together on the water because it says very clearly, “*And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.*” Which tells me they walked together and got back into boat together. One other thin to notice is that the wind stopped once they got back into the boat.

So, here's a thought, just in case someone may be thinking of how to retort to what I just shared about that last part of the storm and Peter's focus on the 'storm' and not on Jesus. Did it matter that there was a storm? I mean, you're surely not thinking that it would have been simpler if the seas were “calm” and there was not storm are you? My thought is that God wants us to look past the storms of our life and focus

on His Word, Jesus, and as we do we can not only touch Him as only He could command and allow us, but, when we get through that walk of faith, those storms come to a close because what we just went through and Jesus delivered us from and what we did with Him makes everything else fade away. Until the next storm.

As my son had faith in his natural father to keep him from harm, we need to have that same faith and trust God in Jesus Christ that He does not want us to wallow or wade in the troubles that come in our lives, but, that if we would reach out to Him in faith, He will help us walk above them in hope and His promises and not sink as the world and the enemy would hope we will. Amen!

E Holomua I IESU Kristo (Moving Forward & UPWARD In JESUS Christ)..

E Holomua I Ke AKUA (Moving forward & UPWARD In GOD, our ABBA)..

Amen..and Shalom!