**GOING OVER - NOT UNDER!**

The Miracles of Jesus were not only designed to show that He was the Son of God but also to teach us principles of SPIRITUAL LIFE.

Jesus Walking on the Water (John 6:17-21):

“They got into the boat, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was already dark, and Jesus had not come to them. Then the sea arose because a great wind was blowing. So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the water and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid. But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and 

immediately the boat was at the land where they were going."

1. Jesus demonstrated the walk of faith.

In the natural he would GO UNDER (because of the force of gravity) but by faith he WENT OVER, being upheld by God’s invisible power. The key to this was that he had received a Word from God to GO OVER the water. He was not actually walking on the water (it was not made hard under his feet) but he was walking on the Word. As he acted by faith in God’s Word, the invisible power in the Word was released and held him up so he did not go under. Our walk of faith depends on an invisible support (the power of God in the Word). We walk on the word over our circumstances (the water). We do not walk on (trust in) our circumstances (what we see) but on the Word. The forces in the world try to pull us UNDER but by faith God’s power supports us and we GO OVER.

2. Here we also have a picture of salvation. Jesus sees us struggling on our own, unable to make it to the other side (eternal life) so he draws near to us. But it’s up to us to receive him. Had they yielded to their fears he would have passed them by: “He saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them. Now about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the
sea, and would have passed them by” (Mark 6:48).
Your miracle can pass you by. God has moved towards you but you must reach out in faith and willingly invite (receive) Him and His power into your life. When we receive Jesus he comes into our boats and we immediately cross over to the other side (we are translated into God’s Kingdom, and possess eternal life). The struggle is over for by faith we enter into the rest of God.

3. Rebuking the Wind and Waves (Mark4:35-5:1):
“On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us GO OVER to the other side"(v35).
This was ‘on the same day’ as the Parable of the Sower (Mark 4) when Jesus gave the key to spiritual fruitfulness and power is how we receive the WORD (the quality of the soil). The Word is like SEED-if we let it be planted in our hearts and put down strong roots it will produce results. But if it is not planted well then when the storms of affliction and opposition come it will fail to produce.

Now it is the test-time for the disciples! It is not what you know but what you do with what you know that counts. Jesus gives them a word which will soon be opposed by satan: "Let US GO OVER to the other side."

Notice the characteristics of God’s Word:
1. **The Word of God is always sent for purpose,** to accomplish something, to help us reach a destination: ‘the other side’:
God had a job for them to do on the other side - to break a key stronghold of satan there (the demon-possessed man - see Mark 5).

2. **God’s Word always has the US factor:**
He does not just say ‘Go over’ but ‘Let us go over.’
He says: ‘I will go with you, we are going to the other side together.’ “He Himself said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you. So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear" (Hebrews 13:5,6). This makes all the difference when we hit
trouble. It was God with and around Jesus that enabled him to walk through a murderous crowd at Nazareth. He went OVER not UNDER because of God with Him.

3. God’s word has the spirit of victory.
It is not: “Let’s try to go over.”
It is: “God has spoken - GO OVER to the other side.”
That settles the matter, there is no room for doubt.
We are going OVER not UNDER. God speaks the end result and it came to pass (5:1) but not without problem. Satan, knowing what Jesus would do resisted the word - suddenly a storm arose:

“When they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat.. and a great WINDSTORM arose, and the WAVES beat into the boat, so that it was already filling”(v36,37).

God’s Word to you will be opposed, for satan tries to get you to think: ‘you are going UNDER, not OVER’, but if you hold onto the Word of going OVER, you will find God is more powerful than any storm.

Notice spiritual attack works on two levels:
“(1) a great WINDSTORM arose, and as a result
(2) the WAVES beat into the boat.”

Yes, there are the visible WAVES (circumstances) that we tend to think are our problems. But the real cause of the stormy waves was the gusty WIND. This represents invisible spiritual forces.
‘Wind’ is the same word as ‘spirit’ and God’s Spirit is compared to the powerful refreshing wind (John 3:8). There are also evil winds, the working of evil powers especially through false doctrines (Ephesians 4:14). This storm is described as ‘a STORM of WIND’ and the WAVES were the result and symptom of invisible action.
Of course, many problems are purely natural but a spiritual attack must be dealt with as such. The Lord will reveal the cause if you ask (James 1:5). If as in this case the attack comes to try and stop you
trusting and obeying God’s Word (‘you are going over’) it doesn’t take a genius to discern a spiritual dimension.

The disciples show us the wrong way to react (little faith). They saw it just as a natural problem, desperately trying to bail out the water. They attacked it in their own strength without reference to Jesus and his word. But they failed because they were not getting to the real cause. Focusing on the natural problem rather than the Presence of Christ with them and the Word he had given them caused them to move into unbelief and then panic:

“But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow.. they awoke Him saying, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" (v38). They showed little faith (at least they called on Jesus and He did answer) but they disappointed Him because they forgot His word: “But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" (v40).

A higher level of faith would have been to pray the Word, to return the Word to Him (Isaiah55:11): “Jesus, you told us we were to go over, we call on you and trust you now to perform your Word.”

The highest level of faith would have been to do what Jesus did and operate in the authority of the believer and command the storm to cease: “Then He arose and (1) rebuked the WIND, and (2) said to the SEA, "Peace, be still!" and (1) the WIND ceased and (2) there was a great calm” (v39)

1. First, identify and deal with the spiritual cause (the WIND). In the Name of Jesus, you bind (break the power of) the negative powers, commanding them to cease in their operation.

2. Then, speak (release) the positive power of God: ‘Peace’ into the natural situation(the WAVES). Whatever spirit satan is trying to impose, you move in the opposite spirit, to restore circumstances to God’s will. This is easy when you have first broken satan’s
power. We deal with both the wind and the waves in the order Jesus did. Those who only do (1) get too focused on satan. Those who react against an overemphasis on satan and only do (2) are only putting a sticky-plaster on the problem without really dealing with it. Had Jesus just spoken peace to the waves, leaving the wind alone, then the wind would soon have stirred the waves again.

**The faith that God wants to see in us (as shown in Jesus):**

1. The Faith-Rest that comes from the implanted word (he slept in the storm). The word was enough. Because he had peace within he could produce it without.

2. Faith that does not waver in the storm but continues to believe the Word: “Jesus said we are going over not under, so we trust in him to bring his word to pass.”

3. Faith that does not deny the problem. Faith does not say: ‘there is no storm’, it but confronts it and speaks the word to it: “We are going over, not under - now shut-up and get out of my way!” The disciples had not seen this kind of faith so: “they feared exceedingly and said to one another, "What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

Then they came to the other side of the sea” (v41).

The answer is: the second Adam, the head of a new race in his image. We are now that manner of man, we can operate in the same spirit of faith and victory doing God’s will, overcoming the wind and waves of life saying: “With Jesus I’m going over, not under!” (1John 4:4;5:4,5, Romans 8:37).

We may think: “It would have been great to live with Jesus. They had Jesus with them in their boat and the Word from His lips.” But so do you! You have Jesus is with you in your circumstances and His word. Stand up and speak to the storm!