

The logo for "Pointes to Ponder" features a central silhouette of a person's head with a glowing brain. Four lines radiate from the head to four circular icons: a heart, a hand, a gear, and a person. The text "Pointes to Ponder" is written in a white, sans-serif font across the green background.

Pointes to Ponder

And Jesus said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. Matthew 14:29

Many Christians are "pew potatoes;" they sit in their pews on Sunday mornings (when there is no virus) with little active faith. For the disciples in Matthew 14, they were "boat potatoes" – except Peter. With the call to "Come!" Peter really believed it was Jesus out on that water. He believed this so completely that he stepped out of the boat and walked on the water. If Jesus can calm the water, walk on the water, turn water into wine, and give us living water, surely, He can keep us from the waters that threaten to rock our boats.

Believe 1 Peter 1:6-9

Jesus' disciples were often men of little faith (Mt 6:30, 8:24, 16:5, 17:19), and Peter is often criticized for doubting in the very presence of Jesus. But his critics fail to realize that it was safer to be with Jesus on the water than to be without Him in the boat. Jesus is training disciples who will not just simply parrot his Word but will have the faith to demonstrate His power in practice. While Jesus was disappointed with Peter's little faith, Peter had acted in greater faith than the other disciples – he was learning. Faith grows out of a relationship of belief in Jesus, especially during stormy trials.

Obey Joshua 1:8

Obedience is the foundation of true worship. "If you want to walk on water, you've got to get out of the boat," John Ortberg writes. If we want to experience the power of God in our lives, we've got to take steps of faith, and that often involves risky obedience. No matter what we are called by our Lord to do, faith simply means saying, "Yes" to that summons and showing strong courage in the face of adversity to obey anyway.

Acknowledge Psalm 91:14-16

We are often storm-tossed, perplexed, or in despair. The Savior seems far away. But all the time He is protecting us. When the night seems darkest, He is near at hand, and yet we often mistake Him even then and push the panic button. Then we hear His comforting voice and remember that the waves that caused us to fear are under His feet. By simply acknowledging and loving Him, we are blessed.

Trust Isaiah 30:15

Faith cannot be worked up by formulas or emotion, but it grows through various tests as we continue to trust our Lord and He continues to teach us. The Christian life, like walking on water, is humanly impossible. It can only be lived by the power of the Holy Spirit. There is not a true missionary overseas or true mission worker at home that hasn't realized the supernatural sovereign hand of God that builds trust beyond reason. Let's not be "boat potatoes." If we would truly serve Jesus, we must walk on the waves; for we walk by faith, not by sight.