

## SERMON: Gracious Giving, Generous Living (Matthew 14:22-33)

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March 3, 2019

The Apostle Peter is known for “stepping out of the boat” on faith (Matthew 14:22-33). He was able to do that because it was Jesus who was calling Him out of his position of relative security to one of apparent danger. Our leaps of faith aren’t as risky if God is the One calling us to leap. Truthfully, Peter was never in danger because Jesus was right there with him. Likewise, God calls us to step out of our safe comfort zone, into the seemingly dangerous water of generous giving. May we, like Peter, trust God to allow us to do what we ourselves are unable to do – give graciously and live generously!

*“But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this **grace of giving**.” – 2 Corinthians 8:7*

**Stepping out** \_\_\_\_\_ ...

Matthew 14:22-33

**1. Requires** \_\_\_\_\_.

*When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "**Take courage!** It is I. **Don't be afraid.**" – Matthew 14:26-27*

**2. Requires** \_\_\_\_\_.

Matthew 14:28-29, 2 Corinthians 5:7

**Dependence on Jesus only** \_\_\_\_\_ ...

... **but dependence on ourselves, actually** \_\_\_\_\_.

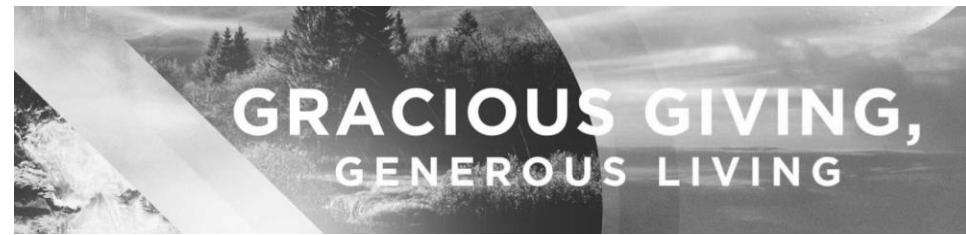
**3. Requires** \_\_\_\_\_.

Matthew 14:30-31

*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 14:30-31*

**Living Generously is** \_\_\_\_\_ !

2 Corinthians 8:1-7



Questions for individual or group reflection:

When has God ever called you to “step out of the boat?”

Do you see giving at church as a “got to” or a “get to?” Why?

Why do you think that people struggle with giving?

What does the word “generosity” mean to you?

If God graciously supplies all things to you, how does that affect your giving?

How might you interpret the terms “gracious giving” and “generous living?”

Read 2 Cor. 8:1-7. How did the Macedonians give graciously and live generously?

Considering the Apostle Peter’s walk on water ...

- How was it obedient?
- How was it courageous?
- How was it persistent?

What might God be calling you to be obediently courageous about?

What might be the wind and waves in your life, attempting to take your eyes off Jesus?

What are some ways that you might give graciously and live generously?

*Pray: Lord, forgive us for fear and discouragement caused by unbelief. Thank you that you have promised to be with us. May your presence with us give us strength and courage to do your will, and to excel in the grace of giving. Amen!*

**Do: Commit to gracious giving and generous living – especially through first-fruit, proportional giving at your church home.**

Taking it home / Memory Verse: “But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.”

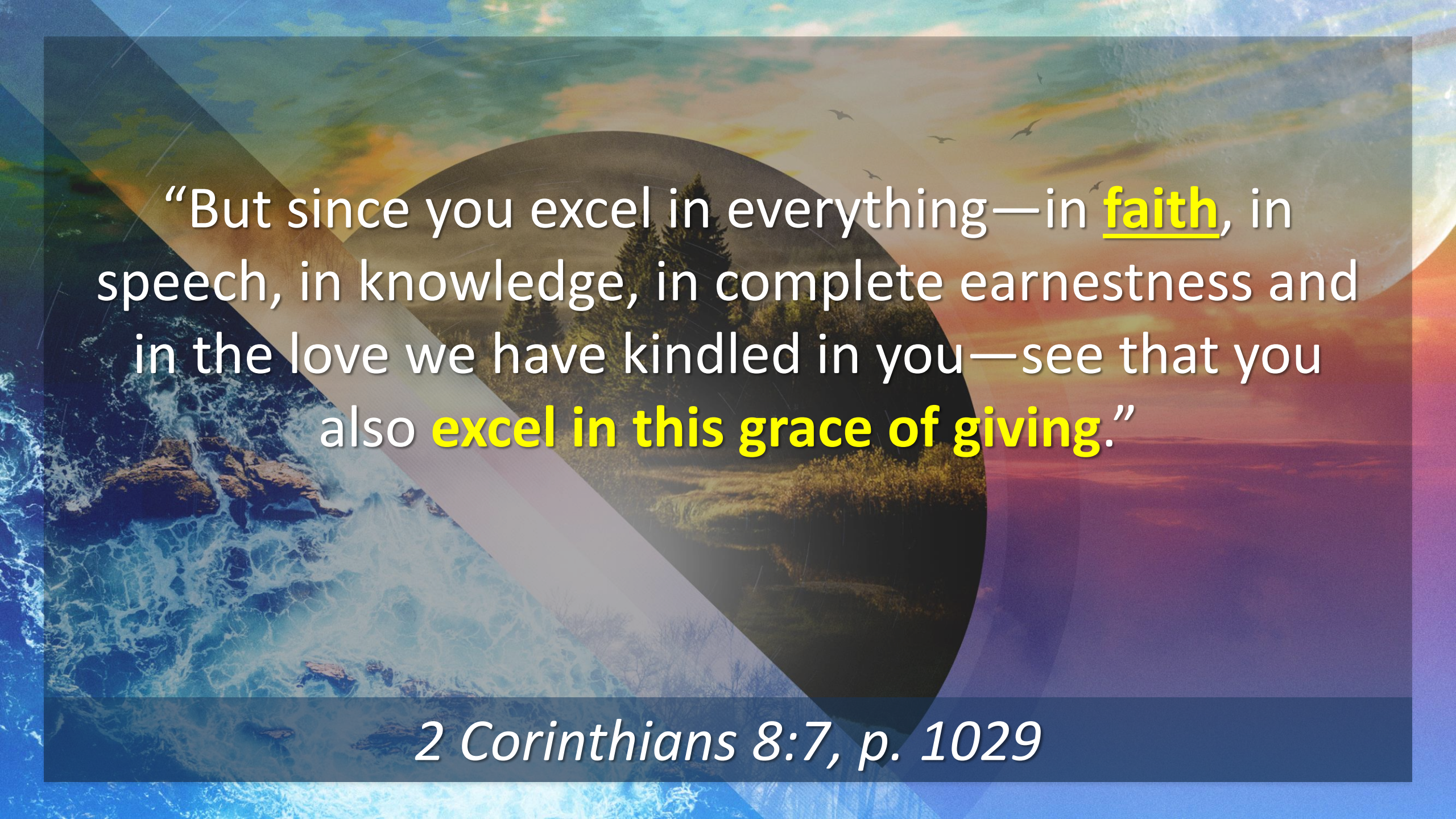
– 2 Corinthians 8:7

**GRACIOUS GIVING,  
GENEROUS LIVING**

2 CORINTHIANS 8:7







“But since you excel in everything—in **faith**, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also **excel in this grace of giving.**”

*2 Corinthians 8:7, p. 1029*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El\\_Capitan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Capitan)





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Stepping out **ON FAITH**





"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

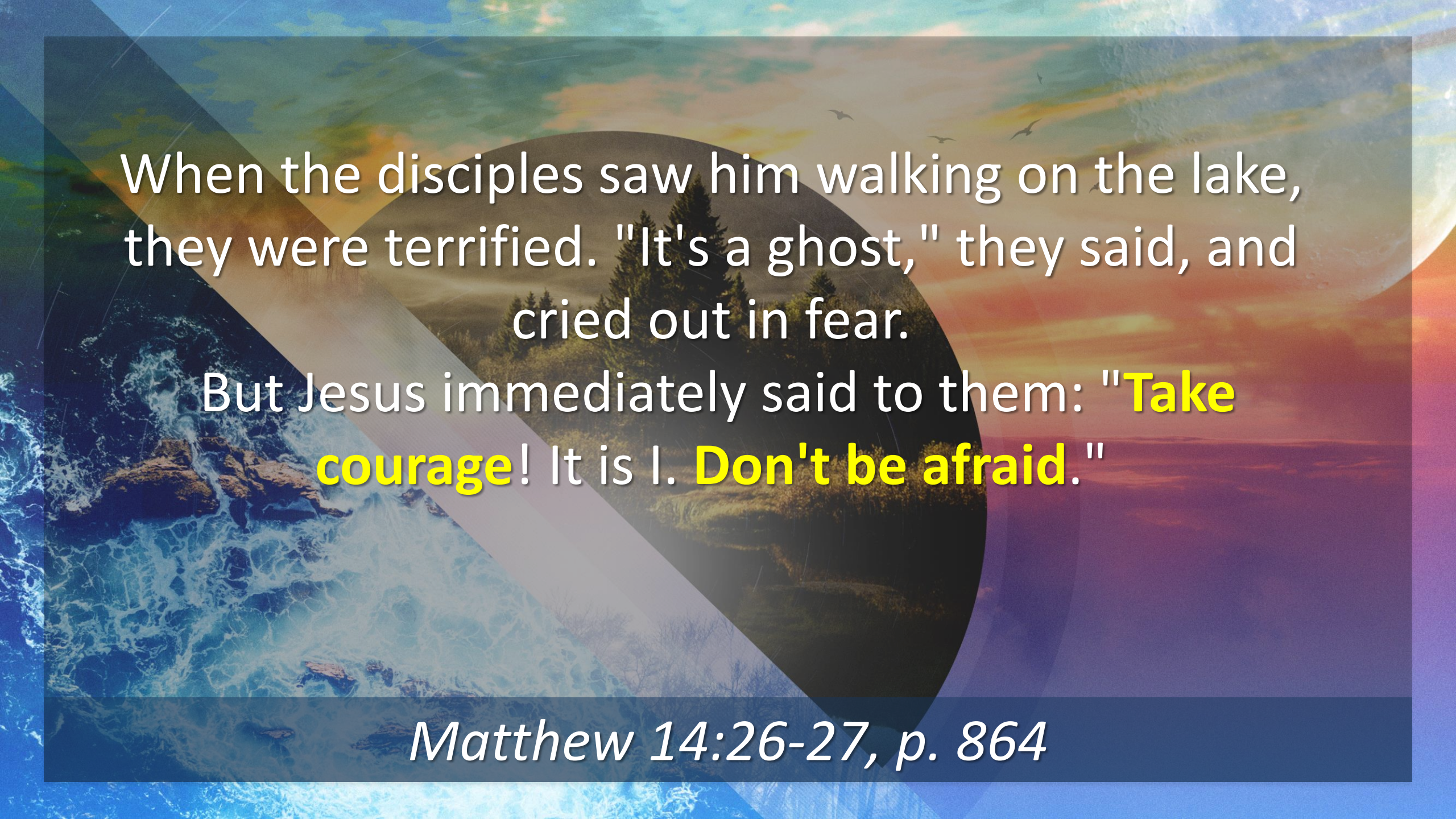
"Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, **walked on the water** and came toward Jesus.

*Matthew 14:28-29, p. 864*



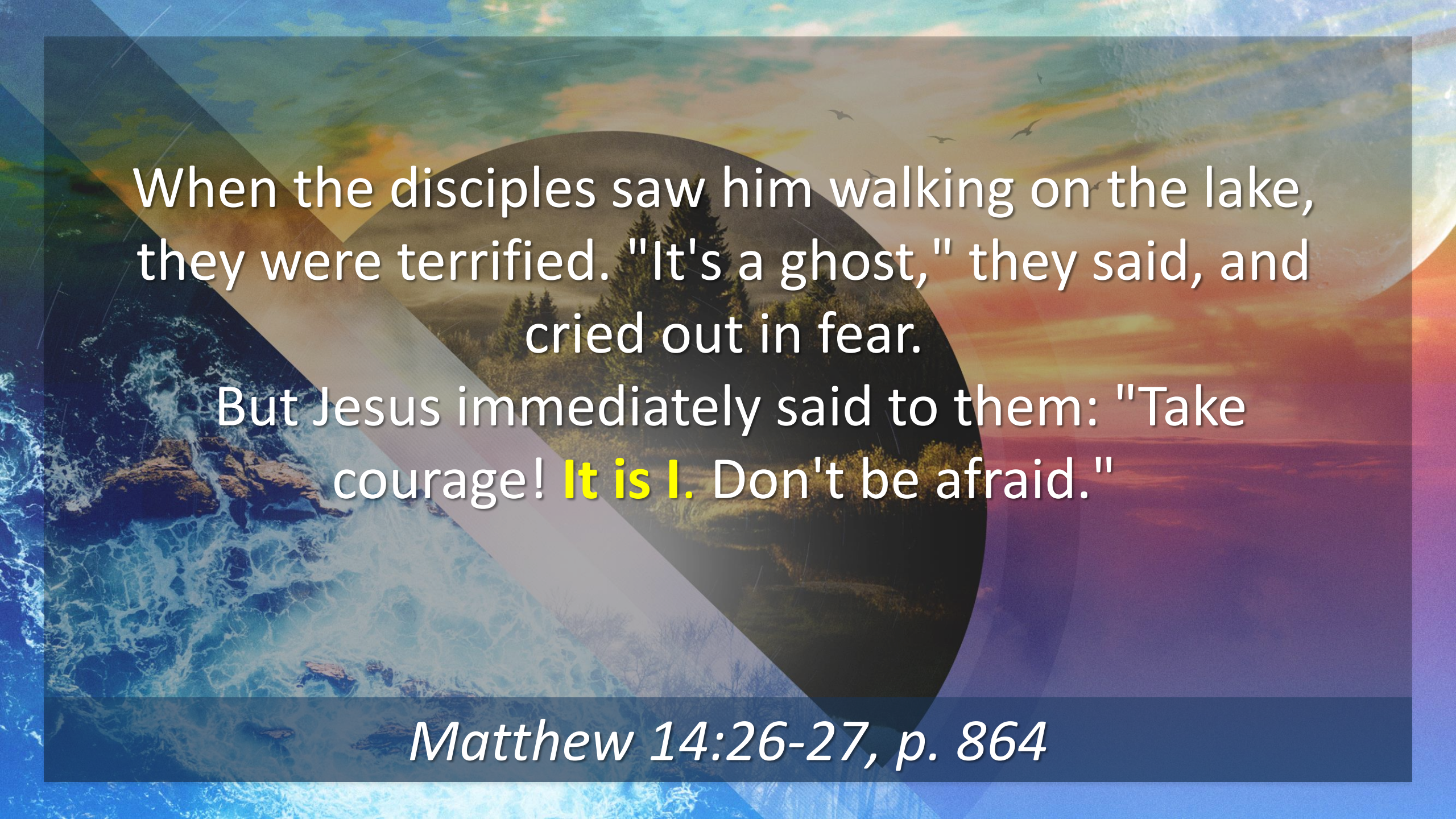
Taking the next  
step requires: **COURAGE**



When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

But Jesus immediately said to them: "**Take courage!** It is I. **Don't be afraid.**"

*Matthew 14:26-27, p. 864*



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Taking the next  
step requires: **OBEDIENCE**



"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 toward Jesus**.

*Matthew 14:28-29, p. 864*

Dependence on Jesus only  
*Appears RISKY.*

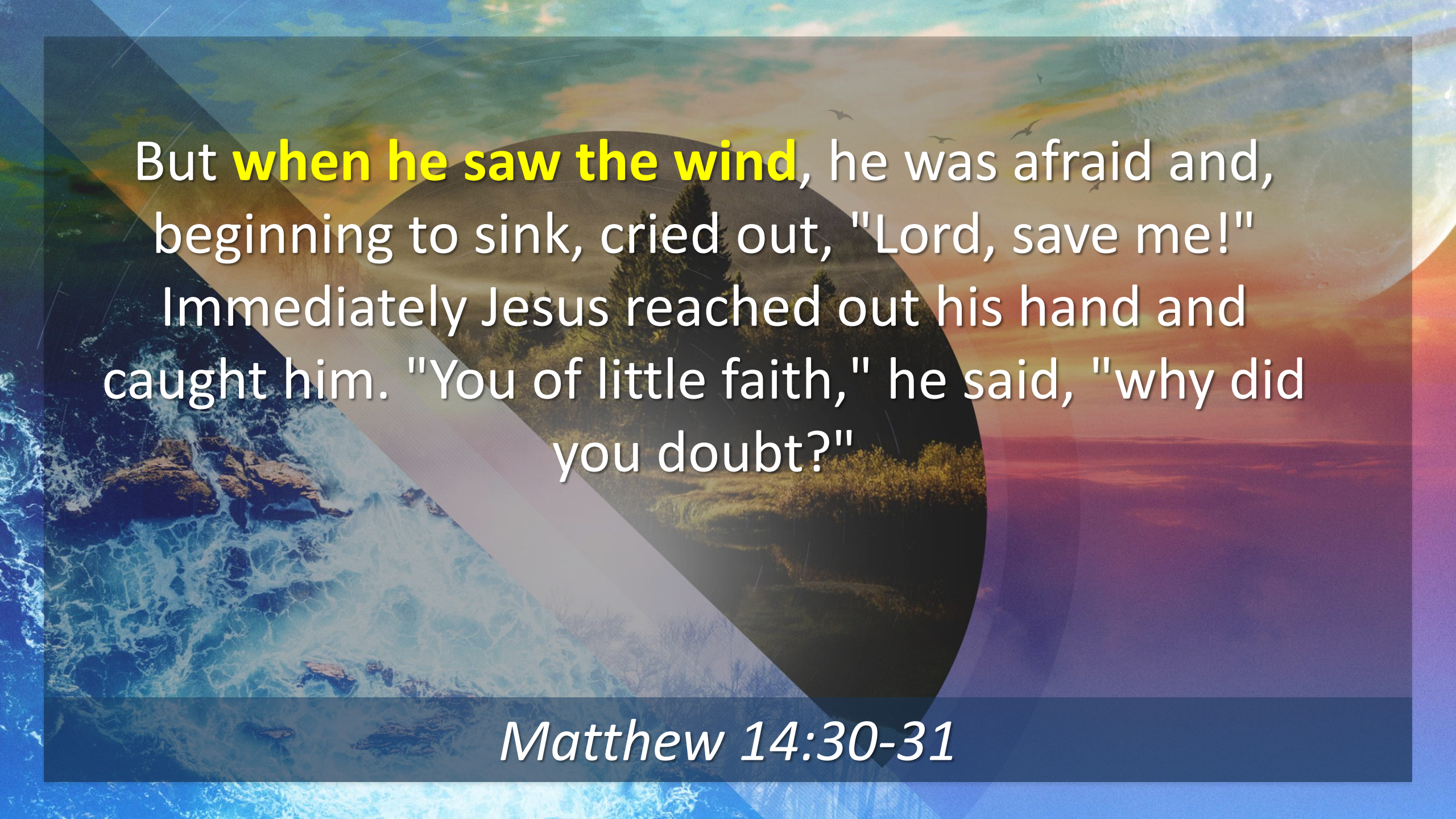


“we live faith, not by sight.”

*2 Corinthians 5:7*



Reality:  
Dependence on OURSELVES  
*Actually IS RISKY.*



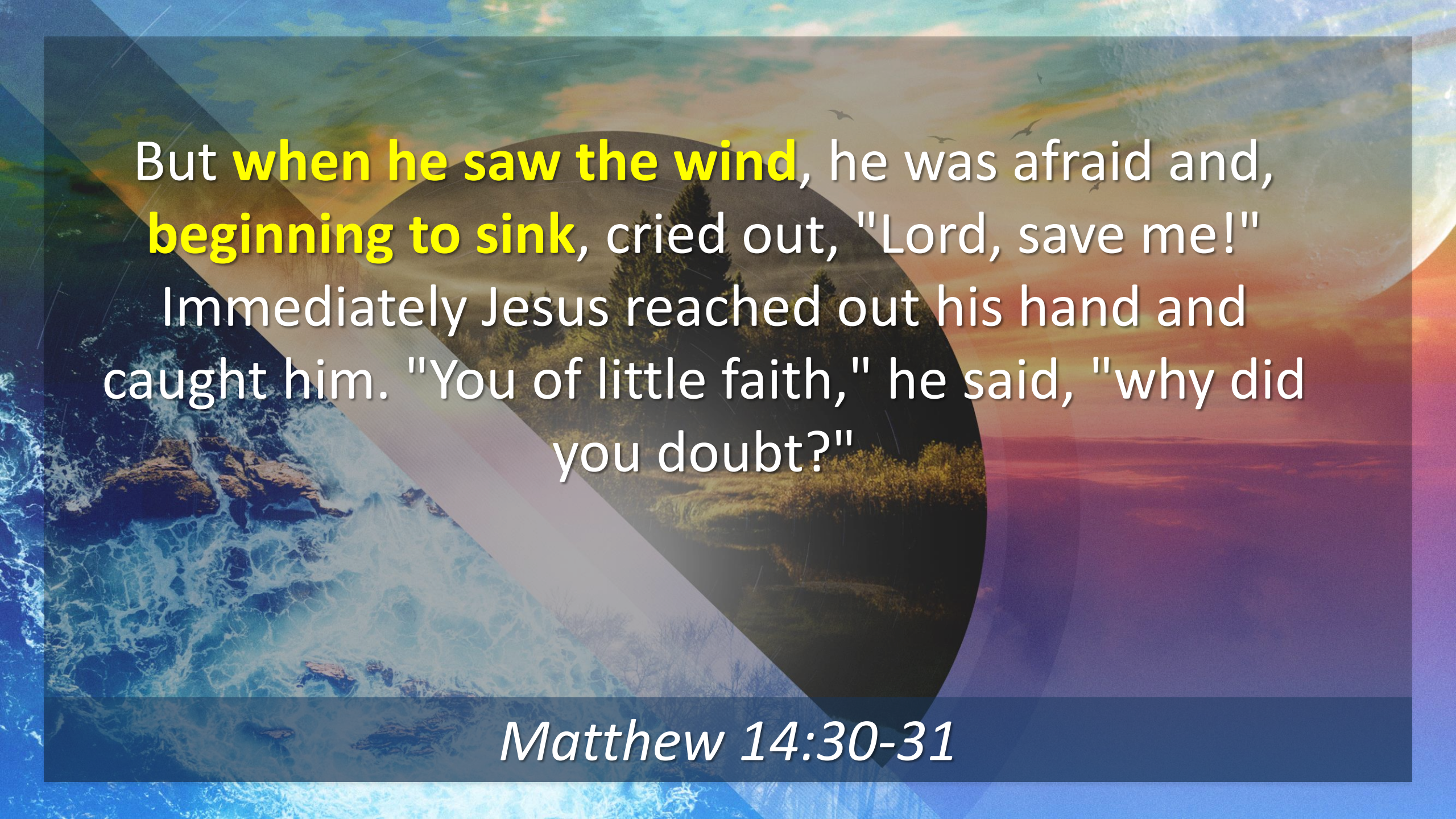
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*Matthew 14:30-31*



Taking the next step requires:

**PERSEVERENCE**

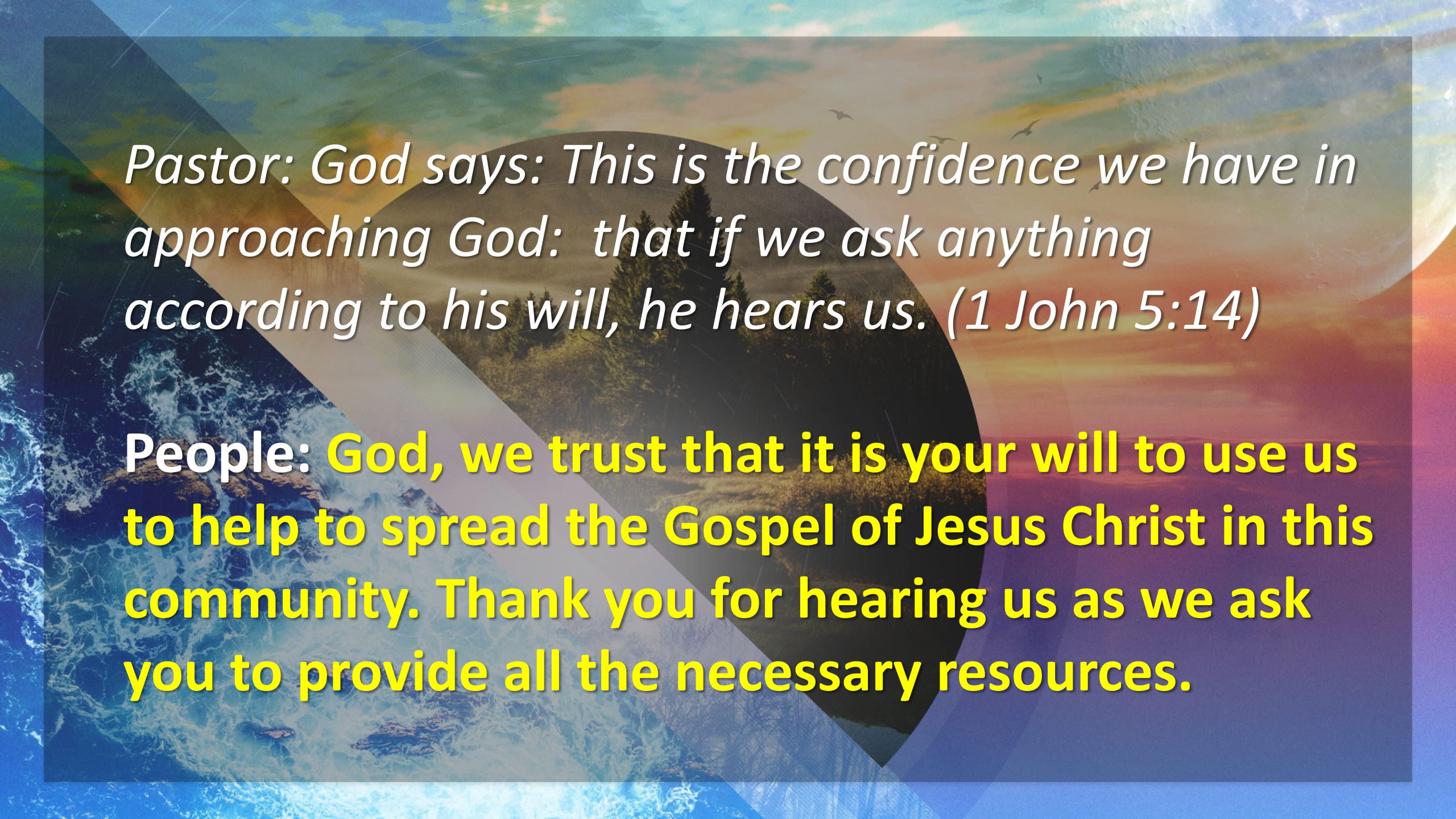


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Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

*Matthew 14:30-31*



Living Generously is a  
**WAY OF LIFE!**



*Pastor: God says: This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. (1 John 5:14)*

**People: God, we trust that it is your will to use us to help to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in this community. Thank you for hearing us as we ask you to provide all the necessary resources.**

*Pastor: God says: Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)*

**People: Lord, forgive us for fear and discouragement caused by unbelief. Thank you that you have promised to be with us. May your presence with us give us strength and courage to do your will, and to excel in the grace of giving. AMEN.**

