

2. Discussion

With regard to our subject we may say the following:

a. Faith Fails...when we forget the Lord's Presence with us.

As I have noted before, it is not the "faith" that is wrong, it is our apprehension of it. In reality the Lord never leaves His own but it is often easy for them to forget the reality of His presence. The sleeping Master in the boat was just as much in command of the situation as the awakened Lord would be. Neither He nor His own were about to drown in a tempest. But for a few moments he was no longer the Divine Master in their minds...just the leader of the group now asleep with peril on every side. If one reduces the Lord to such a place...the waves quicken and the difficulties increase. Faith quickly loses its grip on us when we forget the presence of the Lord in our struggles.

b. Faith Fails...when we boast in deeds more than in our Heavenly Lot.

The joy of the disciples, when finding that the demons were powerless before them, was a natural and overwhelming joy. But the caution of the Lord is not to rejoice in this given power but in the fact that their names were known in heaven. In other words, rejoice in the stand you have with God, not so much in what you can do on earth. The finest of earthly works may come to be of no consequence but the place we have with God is eternal. Thus if we take great prestige and credit in the earthly promotion, we may find our ground cut from under us...and it may seem that faith has failed. But if we rejoice in the spiritual realities, there is no possibility of being disappointed with God.