

## FEAR AND FAILURE

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What would you guess to be the most common command in Scripture? It's not to love one another. It's not to live a holy life. It's not to be born again. Not that those things are not important, because they certainly are. But the thing that we are told more often than anything else is to FEAR NOT! The Bible tells us in more than 144 verses to fear not. That's not counting the number of times we are told to not be afraid, to be brave, strong, courageous, etc....

Henry David Thoreau said, "Nothing is so much to be feared as fear." Someone else said, "The only thing there is to fear is fear itself."

Why is it so important to God that we not live in fear? Because God wants us to live in faith. He wants us to trust Him. None of us know what tomorrow holds for any of us, but we do know who holds tomorrow and regardless of what comes or goes, God will still be in control and our lives are safe in His hand.

People who live in fear are scared to do what God tells them to do. Fear is the number one reason why people refuse to get out of the boat and leave their place of safety.

Matt 14:26-27 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

Upon hearing this, did all twelve disciples jump into the water? No, only one, Simon Peter, had enough courage, enough faith, enough trust, to leave the safety of the boat. But even Peter wasn't exempt from fear.

As he walked on the water toward Jesus, the Bible says, "But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me."

He took his eyes off of Jesus. That's always a mistake! Taking our eyes off of Jesus will cause us to sink!

Conquer your fears and leave your failures behind. Make your way to where Jesus is and be safe, even in the midst of the storm.