



[Matthew 14:25-31](#)

(25) Now in *the* fourth watch of the night, Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. (26) And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled and said, "It is an apparition!" And they cried out in fear. (27) But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good courage; *it* is I. Do not be afraid." (28) Then Peter answered Him *and* said, "Lord, if it is You, bid me to come to You upon the waters." (29) And He said, "Come." And after climbing down from the ship, Peter walked upon the waters to go to Jesus. (30) But when he saw *how* strong the wind was, he became afraid; and *as he* was beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" (31) And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "O *you* of little faith, why did you doubt?"
A Faithful Version

We see that doubt causes fear, but we also see a hint of how we can combat that fear and get it under control. As long as Peter kept his focus on [Christ](#), he could do the impossible, but once he began walking by sight, fear gripped him. Under its control, he was no longer able to do the impossible. Even though fear is a natural human emotion, do we control it or does it control us (see [Genesis 4:7](#))?

[Hebrews 3:12](#) warns, "Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living [God](#)." We need to be on guard against unbelief. The author conjures up a picture of an enemy ready to pounce, advising us that we always need to be at the ready for its attack. We must face it and overcome it.

This verse is not talking about the normal unbelief and its fruit of fear that all people have, for fearfulness is a common human condition. As our Creator, God understands that doubts will creep in now and again. Rather, it speaks of a heart controlled by doubt, by unbelief, leading to fear that can cause us to cut and run from the living God. That kind of heart will drag a person down just as Peter's doubt dragged him down into the waters of Galilee.

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Matthew 14:25-31 (<http://www.theberean.org>)

The central peril of unbelief is that it breaks the trust that is the basis of our [relationship with God](#). We can see how this worked in [Satan](#). God created him perfect ([Ezekiel 28:15](#)), yet somewhere along the line he no longer believed that God was good and doubted that God had his best interests at heart. This doubt about God's [love](#) led to the fear that he would not get what he deserved. That fear, born of his unbelief and doubt, led to his rebellion and the most glaring example yet of departing from the living God.

Does God have *our* best interests at heart? [Jeremiah 29:11](#) says, Yes! "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of [peace](#) and not of evil, to give you a future and a [hope](#)." As the old saying goes, this is straight from the horse's mouth—from the highest Authority in the universe. The only question is do we believe it with every fiber of our beings?

— Pat Higgins

To learn more, see:
[The Sin of Fear \(Part One\)](#)

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