

Matthew 14:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

Analysis

And he said, Come (ὁ δὲ εἶπεν, Ἐλθέ, ho de eipen, Elthe)—Christ's one-word invitation empowered the impossible. The same creative word that spoke worlds into existence (Genesis 1:3) now enabled Peter to defy gravity. **When Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water** (καὶ καταβὰς ἀπὸ τοῦ πλοίου ὁ Πέτρος περιεπάτησεν ἐπὶ τὰ ὕδατα, kai katabas apo tou ploiou ho Petros periepatēsen epi ta hydata)—the aorist tense indicates Peter actually accomplished this miracle, however briefly.

For several steps, Peter experienced what only Christ could do naturally—mastery over creation. This walking on water wasn't mere levitation but participation in Christ's divine power through faith. The miracle demonstrates that Christ's word alone ('Come') transforms impossibility into reality. Faith activates divine power, enabling believers to accomplish what contradicts natural law when called by Christ.

Historical Context

In Jewish thought, walking on water demonstrated sovereignty over chaos and creation—attributes belonging to God alone (Job 9:8, Psalm 77:19). Only the Creator could command the waters. By calling Peter to walk on water, Jesus shared his divine prerogative, giving his disciple temporary participation in a miracle that testified to his deity. This event uniquely demonstrates Christ empowering a human to share in a divine work.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What 'impossible' obedience is Christ calling you to, where his word 'Come' is the only power that can enable your steps?
2. How does Peter's actual success in walking on water (even temporarily) encourage you that Christ-empowered faith can accomplish what seems impossible?
3. Why is Christ's single word 'Come' sufficient to enable miracles, and how does this truth apply to your daily walk of faith?

Interlinear Text

ὁ δὲ εἶπεν ἐλθεῖν καὶ καταβὰς ἀπὸ τοῦ πλοίου
G3588 **And** **he said** **Come** **And** **was come down** **out of** G3588 **the ship**
G1161 G2036 G2064 G2532 G2597 G575 G4143

ὁ Πέτρος περιεπάτησεν ἐπὶ τὰ ὕδατα ἐλθεῖν πρὸς
G3588 **when Peter** **he walked** **on** G3588 **the water** **Come** **to**
G4074 G4043 G1909 G5204 G2064 G4314

τὸν Ἰησοῦν
G3588 **Jesus**
G2424

Additional Cross-References

Philippians 4:13 (Parallel theme): I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Mark 9:23 (References Jesus): Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.

Acts 3:16 (Parallel theme): And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

Luke 17:6 (Parallel theme): And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.

Romans 4:19 (Parallel theme): And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:

Matthew 21:21 (References Jesus): Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.