



## **Face the Future with Confidence | Doug Wekenman | 1.29.23**

### **Weekly Study**

#### **S H A R E**

This week Doug brought us week four of our series “The Future You”. The future you is not a question mark — it’s the result of all your decisions, thoughts and actions. The future you is not an accident, it will be evident. If we’re all honest we know too well what got us to where we currently are. He talked to us today about facing the future with confidence: living with a soul conviction about God’s goodness in your life and his intentions for your future. We want confidence more than we realize. You have every reason to face the future with confidence, because all of the plans and purposes he has for your life are His idea. God began a good work in you and will bring it to completion. God’s got you, so you’ve got this.

#### **Fasting Check-In**

- **How was the final week of your fast?**
- **Share the ways that the Lord brought you breakthrough and answered prayers over the last 21 days.**

#### **G R O W**

**Read Matthew 14:22-23.**

In this passage we find Jesus traveling up a mountain to pray while the disciples head out to the other side of the lake. A storm rolls in, the disciples are already a far way from the shore, and uncertainty and fear strikes the hearts of the men in the boat. Soon after we see Jesus walking toward them on the water

— they were understandably terrified, but Jesus makes his presence known with a simple sentence: “Take heart! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” Peter gets out of the boat at Jesus’ invitation to come walk on water with him, and it’s here that we get our first piece of wisdom that is applicable for each circumstance we find ourselves in: no matter what, keep your eyes fixed on Jesus. The minute Peter began to consider the intensity of the storm more than the presence of the water-walking, storm-calming God beside him, he began to sink in waves of anxiety and dread. If we are going to face the future with confidence, we have to stay focused on Jesus no matter what.

God doesn’t schedule the storms in your life, but he does expect them, know they’re coming and he uses them. Your diagnosis, breakup or layoff doesn’t surprise him. Your needs and fears and what you dread doesn’t surprise him. In the middle of the storm it feels as though it’s impossible to see God, but just because you can’t currently see him in your circumstance doesn’t mean that he can’t see you. When you’re in the darkness of a storm, God is always at work to cultivate a fourth-watch kind of faith that cares about you becoming the godliest, grittiest, most confident version of yourself.

- **What storm are you facing right now that is causing you to question whether God sees you?**
- **What parts of your life do you feel like you are easily able to give God the best of you, and which areas do you struggle to surrender and give him the best of you?**
- **What does God actually believe about you? Do you find it easy or difficult to believe that for yourself? What about for other people? Why is it so much easier to believe this for other people more than ourselves?**

## MOVE

**Read Matthew 14:28-30.**

The hardest person in the world to lead is yourself. The future you is a leader, and God already sees you as that leader. Peter probably didn’t feel confident at all as he stepped out of the boat, but Jesus called him anyway. No matter what role you play in your life, Christ followers are leaders.

The world is looking for inspiration from believers right now. We don’t have a safe God, but He is a good God. He loves when his kids do dangerous things carefully, like walking on lakes in storms. This passage outlines three ways to be a leader: lead your feet, lead your eyes and lead your heart to Jesus regardless of where He is. It’s easy to ask what will happen if you get out of the boat and start sinking — but we can

rest assured that God will immediately reach down and grab you. Move toward Jesus. Make some motion toward him. Peter chose the sovereignty of God over his own manmade security. You don't have anything to lose, because the safest place to be is within the will of God. Life is short, storms are real but so is heaven so lead your feet toward Jesus. The depths of God are calling out to the depths of a future you that knows you're not actually made to take the road most traveled — with God, his way is rarely the easy way, but He's got you, so You've got this.

- **Explain a time when you've felt like you're moving toward God, compared to a time when you were standing on a move of God. What feels different about those two things? How can you move toward God intentionally in 2023?**
- **What circumstance are you facing right now where you are tempted to look more at the storm than Jesus?**
- **Think about the godliest, most confident version of yourself. What decisions would that version of yourself make this week?**

## **P R A Y**

Take time to pray together asking God to cultivate the godliest, most confident version of yourselves. When in the midst of a storm, the enemy wants us to take our eyes off of Jesus and get distracted by the waves. Ask God to give you the courage to act like a leader, charge the storm and endure until you see the good plans He has for you.