

## **Session Five: Overcoming Obstacles**

**Statement...in this book, we are learning how to live by faith. One challenge to living out the faith is not GETTING STUCK. We get stuck in holding patterns and stop growing. We all have a mission, a higher purpose in this life, than just to look out for ourselves. Faith begins with our ACTING ON WHAT WE BELIEVE. Saying that we trust God isn't the same thing as taking steps without knowing the outcome in advance.**

**PETER'S FIRST STEP...Peter's first step is hard to imagine. Had the water been calm, would he have stayed in the boat? Within seconds, he goes from water walking to a near drowning victim. Having seen/felt the wind, he starts to sink fast. For him, the wind was a literal distraction. For us "wind" is a metaphor for "the obstacles" we face in living faithful lives.**

**What winds have blown you off course or threatened you? When things do not go as planned, our character gets revealed. Some people are more resilient than others. Ortberg uses Joseph as a case study; his life took more twists and turns than a West Virginia road. Our confidence isn't based on outward circumstances but on God's character**

**God was with Joseph...not preventing pain, or protecting him from Harm but supporting him THROUGH IT. Sometimes, God leads us; other times God supports us; most of time God simply is there.**

**THE WORLD OF FEAR...faith and fear wage war in our hearts; eventually one will win. Faith can't be borrowed, or created ON DEMAND in the heat of moment, amid a storm. It is only when we face our storms that we discover what lies inside us and before us. Our lives are a COLLECTION OF CHOICES-some LITTLE/LARGE CHOICES. Refusing to choose is a CHOICE.**

**DESTINY IS A MATTER OF CHOICE, NOT CHANCE.**

**Jesus calls us to have COURAGE, but it isn't a call to ignorance. To realize our destiny, we must overcome FEARS. Seeing the wind was what caused Peter to sink. The WIND now controlled the situation, not JESUS. Life's storms come to all people. The issue is:**

**Where do we focus in a storm: the obstacles or at Jesus?**

**FEAR'S MOST LETHAL BLOW...fear's most lethal blow: REGRET. Instead of living a life of "what-if's" we live a life "what-might-have-beens" It was Jesus' big concern: not just for Peter but for all of them. If they made a habit of giving in to their fears, they'd never reach their destiny and Christianity would die before it began.**