

ENCOUNTERING CHRIST
Dealing With Doubt
Matthew 14:22-33

Life is full of encounters. And every encounter leaves some form or impression. So it is when we encounter Christ Jesus. The Savior leaves His imprint on all who encounter Him. Throughout the scriptures we see how Jesus changed the lives of the people who encountered Him. As we look at the encounter Jesus had with His disciples during a powerful storm, let's allow the Holy Spirit to help us learn how to deal with the doubts of life. Here is how.

1. We discipline ourselves to know God!

“After He had dismissed them, He went up on a mountainside by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone...”

Matthew 14:23 (NIV)

“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed.”

Mark 1:35 (NIV)

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”

Colossians 4:2 (NIV)

“I want to know Christ...” **Philippians 3:10 (NIV)**

2. We must not fall for deception but recognize the truth!

“When the disciples saw Him walking on the lake, they were terrified. ‘It’s a ghost,’ they said, and cried out in fear.”

Matthew 14:26 (NIV)

“Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth.” **John 17:17**

“And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light” **2 Corinthians 11:14 (NIV)**

3. We develop obedience to the word of Jesus.

“‘Lord, if it’s you,’ Peter replied, ‘tell me to come to You on the water.’ ‘Come,’ He said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.” **Matthew 14:28-29 (NIV)**

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow your righteous laws.” **Psalms 119:105-106 (NIV)**

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” **Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)**

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow Me.”
John 10:27 (NIV)

4. We hold on to Jesus even if life seems to be falling apart!

“But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, ‘Lord, save me!’ Immediately Jesus reached out His hand and caught him. ‘You of little faith,’ he said, ‘why did you doubt?’” **Matthew 14:30-31 (NIV)**

*“You shall follow the Lord your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and **cling to Him.**”* **Deuteronomy 13:4 (NASB)**

“Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.” **Hebrews 10:23 (NIV)**

5. We get serious about being worshippers of Jesus!

“Then those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God.’” **Matthew 14:33 (NIV)**

“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.” **John 4:23-24 (NIV)**

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our ‘God is a consuming fire.’”
Hebrews 12:28-29 (NIV)

Jesus, today I hear you saying to me:
