

Faith and Function

*Peter said, "Master, if it's really you, call me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." **Jumping out** of the boat, **Peter walked on the water** to Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he was afraid and started to sink down in the water. He cried, "Master, save me!" Jesus didn't hesitate. He reached down and grabbed his hand. "You have so little faith." When Jesus and Peter got into the boat, the wind died down. The eleven in the boat worshiped Jesus and said, "**You really are the Son of God!**" (Matthew 14:28-34)*

The contrast couldn't be more striking! Peter acted—*jumped out and walked*. Yes, he had "so little faith." The eleven sat and *paid lip service*. Their faith is not mentioned. The point is obvious: **faith functions**. It operates. It acts. It moves. It works. It empowers. The great Faith Chapter, Hebrews 11, provides evidence.

- *By an act of faith, Abel **brought** a better sacrifice to God ...*
- *By an act of faith, Enoch **skipped** death completely ...*
- *By an act of faith, Noah **built** a ship in the middle of dry land ...*
- *By an act of faith, Abraham **traveled** to an unknown place ...*
- *By an act of faith Abraham **offered** Isaac back to God ...*
- *By an act of faith, Moses' parents **hid him away** for three months...*
- *By an act of faith, Moses **chose** a hard life with God's people ...*
- *By an act of faith, Israel **walked** through the Red Sea on dry ground ...*
- *By an act of faith, Rahab, the Jericho harlot, **welcomed** the spies ...*

*"Dear friends, do you think you'll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything? Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? Isn't it obvious that **God-talk** without **God-acts** is **outrageous nonsense**?" (James 2:16-17)*