

SERMON NOTES: SINKING PERSEVERANCE

Main Scripture: Matthew 14:22-32 (Peter walking on water)

Key Verse: "Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. 'You of little faith,' he said, 'why did you doubt?'" (Matthew 14:31)

Introduction:

- Have you felt spiritually drained despite doing all the "right things"?
- The Holy Spirit reveals this as "Sinking Perseverance"
- Not a sudden collapse but a gradual decline in spiritual strength
- Today: Learn to identify and repair sinking faith

I. WHAT IS SINKING PERSEVERANCE?

Characteristics:

- Praying feels mechanical, not powerful
- Believing God can help others but doubting He will help you
- Faith feels like duty rather than delight
- Saying "Let me try God" instead of "I trust God"

II. THREE REASONS PERSEVERANCE SINKS:

1. The Comparison Trap

- We compare our struggles with others' highlights
- "Many people we think are okay are not okay"
- External comparisons drain internal strength

2. Seeking Blessings Over God

- Using God as a vending machine rather than a relationship
- "We use faith to have positions but seek positions not God"
- When blessings delay, faith tied to them sinks

3. The Weight of Disappointment

- Unmet expectations become spiritual anchors
- Disappointment with God's timing leads to distance from God
- "People fall out when they don't see manifestation"

III. THREE SOLUTIONS TO RAISE YOUR FAITH:

1. Anchor in Belief

- Start with decision, not feeling
- "The first thing is we BELIEVE" (Mark 9:23)
- Choose faith before you see change

2. Seek the Giver, Not Gifts

- Reverse your focus from what God gives to Who God is
- "Seek positions TO God, not FROM God"
- Make relationship with God the primary goal

3. Pray for Perseverance Itself

- Ask specifically for endurance
- "Lord, strengthen my perseverance"
- God provides grace to withstand storms

Conclusion:

- Jesus reaches for sinking believers just as He reached for Peter
- Don't let slow leaks sink your faith
- Come for prayer: for belief, right focus, and divine endurance

Personal Application:

Where is my perseverance sinking today?

What "position" have I been seeking over God Himself?

I will pray for perseverance, not just deliverance

Prayer Focus:

"Lord, I believe! Help my unbelief. I seek You above all else. Strengthen my perseverance today. In Jesus' name, Amen."