

## Faith Series: A Word from God - A Word from Us

*(Luke 5:1-11 NKJV) “So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, {2} and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. {3} Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. {4} When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” {5} But Simon answered and said to Him, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing;*

*...nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.”*

*{6} And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. {7} So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. {8} When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” {9} For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; {10} and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.”*

*{11} So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.”*

One word from God can change our lives. It changed these simple Galilean fishermen forever. Everything became new.

### Jesus Spoke Two Words

#### The First Word (Verse 4a)

*“When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, “Launch out into the deep...”*

*“But Simon answered and said to Him, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing...””*

(Note: Peter did not stop here. He would have more to say.)

It is tempting to argue with God. It is also easy to accept our own failures as something we cannot do anything about. We look at our present circumstances and accept limitations that are not from God.

- How often do we determine, from within our frail human understanding, that God is not able?
- How often does unbelief keep us in the shallow waters... or worse yet, we never get away from the dock!

Luke 5:5 tells us that Peter was determined to obey Jesus regardless, of his experience the previous night. Peter said (paraphrase), *“We have been out there fishing all night and caught nothing... but **because you have asked me to do it...** I am responding to your word and I am heading out into deep waters!”*

There are times and seasons when God wants us to launch out into deep waters. Why deep waters? He knows that deep waters are not as secure and familiar as shallow waters.

- **Deep waters can be unsettling or uncomfortable. They force us to look beyond ourselves for security.**
- **Deep waters are places where storms can arise.**  
Life is full of storms. It is tempting to allow an unwillingness to risk our present comfort, or fear of the unknown, or discouragement and doubt to keep us at the dock.
- **Deep waters are the places where most of the fish swim. Therefore, though they are places of potential risk, they are also places of potential abundance! They are the places where nets are filled.**

Jesus would not fill Peter's nets in shallow waters. Peter had to launch out into the deep! Likewise, we will never fill our nets in the shallows of life. It's very possible that we will only become entangled in them. God has deeper things for us. He has deep and great challenges that will bring deep and great experiences! They await us in the places that have both risk and reward - the deep waters.

Peter made a choice. He embraced the command from the Lord to launch out into the deep. That is where the miracle would happen!

God speaks to us in many different ways, which all carry the same implication - Launch out into the deep and experience the

miraculous hand of the Lord. Our miracles await and they will open the door to our destinies! We have to set sail for the promise. We will find the promise in the deep things of God, in the deepness of our relationships with Him, and...

- **In the deepness of our commitment to Him.**
- **In the deepness of our obedience to Him.**
- **In the deepness of His response to us.**

**POINT 1: Our complete trust and full obedience to what He speaks will release the increase!**

A word from God is only the beginning of the great potential it carries. It can grow far beyond our initial expectations.

### **The Second Word (Verse 4b)**

*“...He said to Simon, **“Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.”**”*

God spoke and even though Peter heard and received what Jesus said... **he underestimated the person and the power of the one who spoke. He only partially obeyed.**

Jesus said, *“Let down your ?”*

**Listen to what Peter said - in response to what Jesus said.**

*“But Simon answered and said to Him, **“Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; ...nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.”**”*

### **Peter's Failure**

Peter and his friends must have been tired from the previous night's fishing. However, Peter refused to give up - to resign himself to failure - or the limitations either his experience or his understanding of the lake might have placed upon him. Peter was willing to obey the Lord. **Obedience was not Peter's problem. A lack of expectation concerning the God He served was his problem.**

We are often like Peter - not willfully disobedient. But, how many times do we underestimate the ability of God to fulfill His Word? How often do we fail to anticipate the greatness of God? Jesus said, "**Let down your nets.**" Peter should have said, "**I will let down my nets.**" Instead, he said, "**I will let down my net.**" (Singular) If Peter heard Jesus correctly, and understood what God is able to do, he would have had a dozen boats out there with a hundred nets!

**When we get a word from God, it is a minimum, not the maximum. It's only the crack in an opening door. It is just a glimpse of the great potential that word carries. It can grow far beyond our present expectations.**

**POINT 2: When we get a word from God, it is a minimum, not the maximum!**

When we get a word from God, we need to consider carefully what we say in response to that word.

- **Be sure that what you say is said in faith.**
- **Be sure that what you say agrees with what God said.**
- **Be sure you expect His Word will bring forth a great demonstration of His power and faithfulness!**

Peter was prepared to let down only one net. He failed to anticipate the inevitable, supernatural intervention of God. He failed to anticipate the beauty of God's miraculous care and concern for him and his friends.

God is calling us to a place of great faith. He wants us to believe that He is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we would ask or think according to the power at work within us.

*(Ephesians 3:20 NKJV) "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us..."*

*(John 14:12-14 NKJV) "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. {13} And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son..."*

***{14} If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”***

How will we respond to this promises Jesus gives us? Will we believe without limitations? Will we ask, expecting abundant grace in His answers to our prayers, or will we limit ourselves?

***(Mark 11:23-24 NKJV) “For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. {24} Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.”***

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### **Peter’s Great Transformation**

***(Acts 3:1-10 NKJV) “Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. {2} And a certain man lame from his mother’s womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; {3} who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. {4} And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, “Look at us.” {5} So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. {6} Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk” {7} And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. {8} So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them; walking, leaping, and praising God. {9} And all the people saw him walking and praising God. {10} Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.”***

**Now Peter expected the maximum!** He spoke in the name of Jesus. He took hold of the lame man, and lifted him up!

Peter had no doubts! He knew his words carried the power of God, and he spoke in faith. As he lifted up this man who had never walked, **he expected the maximum response.** He had an expectation for a miraculous, maximum healing. Listen to Peter’s words. They are full of expectation.

***“Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you...”***

Peter knew what he had. He knew if he gave it away, it would accomplish what God said it would, the man would be made whole! And so, Peter never considered it a risk to grab this lame man's hand and pull him to his feet. Peter knew the man would begin walking, and leaping and praising God!

Peter's words revealed his faith, a heart of compassion and a giving attitude. Peter was single-minded. He spoke and then backed his words up with action. His attitude removed any potential limitations. What a great contrast! The old Peter had let down only one net, and later denied Jesus three times. Here in the Book of Acts, we read that the new Peter had faith that knew no boundaries and could not be challenged. What a different man Peter was! He did not say, "Try to walk," or "See if you can stand up," or "I hope this works." He simply said, "Walk." He did not wait to see if the man could walk. He just lifted him up and sent him on his way!

**POINT 3: When we respond to what God has said, we must expect the maximum, not the minimum!**

### **Conclusion**

A word from God requires an immediate, faith-filled, maximum response. Our words are to be powered by faith. We must say and do what faith demands! We must believe that a maximum response on our parts brings a maximum response on His part.

**What will you say when you get a word from God?**

### **Our Three Points**

**POINT 1: Our complete trust and full obedience to what He speaks will release the increase!**

**POINT 2: When we get a word from God, it is a minimum, not the maximum!**

**POINT 3: When we respond to what God has said, we must expect the maximum, not the minimum!**